



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Nomination of Scott Pruitt to head EPA

President-Elect Trump signals return to states' rights and EPA as enforcement agency

(Sturgis, Michigan) “We look forward to working with Mr. Pruitt in his future role as head of EPA” explained Rob Sisson, President of ConservAmerica.

Mr. Sisson stated that “While ConservAmerica disagrees with Mr. Pruitt on the science behind climate change, we did not believe the Clean Power Plan was the appropriate approach, and we are hopeful that Mr. Pruitt will be open to new, market-realistic approaches to reducing emissions and climate change.”

In particular, ConservAmerica praised Mr. Pruitt’s commitment to the reality that states have different situations: “Every state has dramatically different issues and electric generation fleets,” explained Mr. Sisson. “In several states, for example, the wind production tax credit – which has fueled the expansion of a valuable zero emissions resource – has inadvertently imperiled the continuing operation of nuclear plants, America’s only zero emissions source of baseload power.”

Mr. Sisson stated that ConservAmerica believes that “to successfully reduce emissions and address climate change, we have to have solutions that don’t throw the market into chaos – Mr. Pruitt’s record indicates that he understands the need to enforce the law without jeopardizing people’s utility rates and without pitting one zero emissions resource against another.”

ConservAmerica believes that the nomination of Mr. Pruitt signals a return to the original mission of the EPA – as America’s federal enforcement agency on environmental laws – and a pivot away from the EPA as a policy making tool of the Executive Branch.

“We continue to work with Republicans in the U.S. Senate and House on market-based solutions to the challenge of climate change.” Mr. Sisson explained, “That is where policy should be debated, developed, and adopted and we believe President-Elect Trump has clearly signaled a return to that approach. On the other hand, the Obama Administration chose not to work with Congress, and the Clean Power Plan created a massive amount of disruption and concern at the state level.”

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“The Clean Power Plan is certain to hit a wall under the new administration,” according to Mr. Sisson. “But the reality is that we still have a Supreme Court decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA* (549 U.S. 497 (2007)) that found that carbon dioxide is a pollutant. So the federal government needs to develop an approach to carbon dioxide – and we look forward to working with Congress as it fulfills its Constitutional duty to write environmental laws.”

According to Mr. Sisson, “the EPA will be able to achieve far better results in protecting America’s air and water quality if it works with state utility commissions, affected industries, and stakeholders than it has achieved by developing controversial and unworkable rules.”

About ConservAmerica: ConservAmerica is a 501(c)4 organization whose mission is public outreach and education on land, energy, and water issues. Formerly known as Republicans for Environmental Protection, ConservAmerica has been active on these issues for over 21 years. Its work is focused on Congressional outreach, public education, and active engagement with state public utility commissions.

To learn more, visit: www.conservamerica.org.

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