



The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S 230, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

February 16, 2017

Dear Senator McConnell,

Common Cause and our more than 4,000 supporters in Kentucky and 700,000 members across all 50 states urge you to delay a Senate vote on Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's nomination to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Attorney General Pruitt has stonewalled action on several state law Open Records Act requests for information from his office that are pertinent to his nomination. Each nominee faces one threshold question: Can the American people trust this person will work on behalf of the people and our public interest, or will the nominee turn an agency created to protect the environment for all of us into an auxiliary office of the very industries seeking permission to pollute more?

Specifically, Mr. Pruitt is preventing access to thousands of emails by ignoring Oklahoma Open Records Act requests to his office for more than two years. These emails potentially contain vital information detailing Mr. Pruitt's communications with representatives from the fossil fuel industry, an industry he would regulate if confirmed. Information obtained from media and other sources provide a troubling but, without Mr. Pruitt's cooperation, incomplete picture of his record. It would be a dereliction of duty if the Senate acts on incomplete information and misleads voters about the job they've done vetting this nominee.

Fortunately, the emails are expected to be released soon under Oklahoma's Open Records Act. A state court in Oklahoma held a hearing on the matter today, February 16, 2017. Common Cause therefore urges you to delay voting on Mr. Pruitt's nomination to be EPA Administrator until these emails have been released and the Senate has time to thoroughly review this new information.

Sincerely,

Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

cc: Senator Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader