

January 4, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6176

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The American Farm Bureau Federation strongly supports the nomination of Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and urges you to vote in favor of his confirmation.

Scott Pruitt is an ideal nominee for EPA Administrator for many reasons, but his nomination should command respect from Senators for one reason above all: he has profound respect for the laws written by Congress. In contesting EPA's 'waters of the US' (WOTUS) rule, Mr. Pruitt is in fact defending the bipartisan view of Congress that the agency has illegally overstepped its bounds and ignored the U.S. Supreme Court. Similarly, in the stance he has taken on the Clean Power Plan, he is defending Congress: in 2009, the Senate failed even to take up for debate the cap-and-trade plan narrowly approved by the House. Mr. Pruitt very soundly takes the view that Congress has not authorized the sweeping attempt by EPA to coerce action by the states.

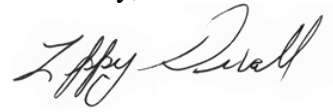
No one cares more about the responsible stewardship of our land, air, and water than American farmers and ranchers. Our livelihoods depend on it. In recent years, farmers and ranchers have suffered under burdensome, unnecessary and, too often, unlawful federal regulations promulgated by the EPA. We desperately need an administrator who understands the challenges our farmers and ranchers face in producing safe, wholesome and affordable food for our nation and the world.

Some activists are attempting to characterize this as a debate over environmental goals. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is about respect for the law and for an agency that will live within the statutory programs Congress has authorized. AFBF supports Scott Pruitt for EPA administrator because he will restore respect for the law and enforce it fairly. Further, he understands how and when federal power should be exercised. We support him because he has

demonstrated a keen understanding of the devastating economic implications of federal overreach.

Scott Pruitt will put the EPA back on track and ensure that federal decisions are based on sound science, not politics. He will produce a fair regulatory environment that respects the rule of law. We urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zippy Duvall", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Zippy Duvall  
President

cc: The United States Senate