

To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 10/17/2017 10:19:21 PM
Subject: "Administrator Pruitt Is Cleaning Up The EPA By Ending This Insider Game"

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

"Administrator Pruitt Is Cleaning Up The EPA By Ending This Insider Game"

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23) "Sue and settle is a completely illegitimate way for radical special interests to circumvent the regulatory process and impose new rules. Administrator Pruitt is cleaning up the EPA by ending this insider game that lets the well-connected get special treatment at the expense of everyone else. The EPA should focus on keeping the environment clean, which is why I couldn't support Administrator Pruitt's decision more."
([Congressional Western Caucus](#), 10/16/17)

U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), Chairman Of The Senate Committee On Environment And Public Works "EPA Administrator Pruitt's directive will increase transparency so that the agency makes policies that are fair and informed. The Environmental Protection Agency should not make regulations by settling lawsuits behind closed doors. Under the last administration, the EPA advanced its political agenda by abusing its authority and leaving states and Congress in the dark. The public deserves to know how its government is operating." ([Senate Environment & Public Works Committee](#), 10/16/17)

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) "The announcement from the EPA to end 'sue and settle' practices in the EPA is a major victory for millions of hardworking Texas landowners. For far too long, the EPA has colluded with special interest groups, resolving litigation through consent decrees and settlement agreements behind closed doors. I commend Administrator Pruitt for his leadership on this issue and ending the practice of regulation through litigation. I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to pass the *Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act*, to codify this policy into law, providing lasting transparency and accountability to the agency." ([Office of Senator Ted Cruz](#), 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Doug Collins (GA-9) "No government agency should collude with special interest groups to redefine its priorities through covert consent decrees. The EPA's decision to crack down on this practice will give Americans back their right to know about and respond to federal rulemaking, and I applaud Secretary Pruitt for taking this step today. I will continue working to snuff out back-room litigation that unfairly impacts our citizens. The EPA's directive reflects the principles outlined in the *Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act*, which would ensure that the sue-and-settle mischief we witnessed during the last administration would never again take hold in a federal agency." ([Congressional Western Caucus](#), 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Jason Smith (MO-8) "It's wrong for Washington to leave the 'sue and settle' loophole open and waste Missourians hard-earned money paying attorney fees for radical environmentalist groups and other radical, left wing organizations. I'm proud that my legislation to fix this problem was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and that the EPA is following suit

with closing this harmful loophole.” (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Blake Farenthold (TX-27) “I agree with Administrator Pruitt’s decision designed to end the abusive practice of sue and settle agreements. The process creates an unfair system where special interest groups win, and taxpayers lose. For years, we have warned that abuse of consent decrees circumvents the legislative process. It is time to restore an open process that allows input from the American people.” (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Paul Gosar (AZ-4) “EPA Administrator Pruitt and President Trump deserve our sincere thanks for taking bold action to end the fraudulent ‘sue and settle’ practices within the EPA. For years, extremist special-interest groups have milked taxpayers for millions that they turned around and used to fund anti-business measures that killed jobs. Shamefully, the EPA often colluded with these groups and folded like a cheap suit. It is a breath of fresh air to see an administration with a backbone end this abuse.” (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce (NM-2) “For years, the EPA has prioritized special interest groups over the interests of Americans. The sue-and-settle process denies Americans transparency and allows decisions to be made behind closed doors. Ending this practice will allow U.S. citizens to have a say in major agency actions as it should be. It is encouraging to see Secretary Pruitt act on his commitment to hold the agency to a higher standard, cutting government red tape that ensures transparency and accountability for the EPA.” (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-4) “I commend Administrator Pruitt’s decision to end the egregious practice of ‘sue and settle.’ Through ‘sue and settle,’ the previous administration effectively removed the voice of the American people in environmental regulatory issues and replaced it with the opinion of special interest groups. I’m glad to see that the EPA will no longer allow themselves to be dictated to by threat of lawsuit.” (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Kevin Cramer (ND-AL) "The Obama Administration was a breeding ground for extreme environmental groups suing the federal government only to get behind closed doors and reach a friendly settlement agreement. Not only did these settlements circumvent the transparent rulemaking process and prioritize agency obligations to environmentalists' liking, but it enriched the environmental group lawyers in the process at the expense of the taxpayer. I'm pleased to see the Trump Administrator stomp out this practice mirroring many of the reforms put forward by House Republicans." (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

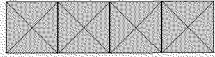
U.S. Congresswoman Liz Cheney (WY-AL) "I strongly support EPA Administrator Pruitt's directive to end the practice of 'Sue & Settle.' For far too long the Obama-era EPA worked hand-in-hand with far-left environmental organizations to promote their extreme agenda at the expense of hard working men and women in Wyoming. This directive starts a necessary path for the EPA to correct and restore the transparency that was often lacking during the Obama Administration and prevent Wyoming taxpayer dollars from being used to feed an endless cycle of frivolous lawsuits." (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-2) "I support Administrator Pruitt's directive to end the 'sue and settle' practices at the EPA. This practice of settling lawsuits behind closed doors lacks the transparency that the American people deserve and circumvents Congress' role of passing smart and effective regulations. This directive will hold the EPA accountable and deliver a more transparent regulatory process." (Congressional Western Caucus, 10/16/17)

U.S. Congressman Greg Gianforte (MT-AL) "I am pleased by Administrator Pruitt's announcement that the EPA will terminate its sue-and-settle practice. The previous administration used sue-and-settle as an end run to do what they could not get done legislatively. I have worked with my

colleagues for a legislative fix to prevent environmental special interests from getting paid through sue-and-settle. Administrator Pruitt's decision is a promising first step, and I hope more is done to end this practice." ([Congressional Western Caucus](#), 10/16/17)

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