

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro
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Subject: GOP tells Pruitt he will get bigger budget than requested

By Alex Guillén

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Republican lawmakers made it clear today that EPA is not going to get the budget it asked for — it's going to get a whole lot more.

Multiple GOP members of the Appropriations committee overseeing EPA said they will not come close to enacting the administration's proposed 31 percent cut.

"I can assure you you're going to be the first EPA administrator that's come before this committee in eight years that actually gets more money than they asked for," Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) told EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "That doesn't mean you'll get as much as you've had, but you'll do better than you asked for."

Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) noted that Congress has already cut EPA's budget by more than \$2 billion since 2010. "No one's standing on the rooftops begging for dirty air and dirty water," he said in calling for no more than moderate spending reductions.

Other Republicans on the panel made sure to defend specific programs they favor.

House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J) told Pruitt that his state is home to more than 100 of the nation's 1,300 Superfund sites. "I think it's good to move with precaution before you take too many dramatic steps," he warned about EPA's 31 percent cut to that program.

Subcommittee chairman Ken Calvert (R-Calif.) criticized steep cuts to a popular diesel engine refit program and lamented the complete deletion of targeted air shed grants.

And Rep. Dave Joyce (R-Ohio) criticized the budget for killing the \$300 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

WHAT'S NEXT: Appropriators will write EPA's spending bill for next year, expected to be released later this summer.

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