

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



2323 Carey Avenue
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

May 31, 2017

Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (1101A)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

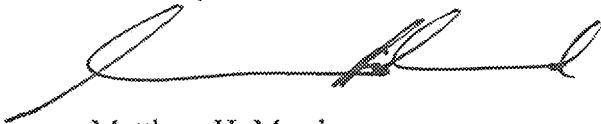
Thank you and your staff for your important work. A collaborative partnership between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and States is critical.

I have been concerned with EPA's lack of commitment in previous years to meaningful opportunities for consultation with the States. The Agency's implementation of Executive Order 13132 during the prior Administration was inconsistent with its goal of collaborative and respectful partnerships with states and other governmental entities. Consultation should not be a formality. Late completion, minimal effort and delegating communication to non-decision makers illustrate a lack of commitment. Governors should be at the table early in processes that affect states. Their involvement should be solicited in drafting rules and guidance.

On April 28th, my Policy Advisor Nephi Cole visited with Layne Bangerter and Andrew Hansen at EPA National Headquarters. He shared some of my thoughts on this topic with them. Your team committed to a new level of outreach and cooperation – working with States individually and collectively, early and often. Thank you for your leadership again and this commitment. Agency actions on Waters of the United States (WOTUS), a significant topic for Wyoming and all states, is a great starting point to change the current paradigm.

I look forward to working with you on many important topics in the time ahead.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

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