

To: Andrew R. Wheeler[andrew.wheeler@FaegreBD.com]
From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Wed 11/29/2017 5:33:38 PM
Subject: FW: The Hill: Senate panel advances controversial environmental nominee, 11/29/17

I guess this means you're not a controversial nominee. Congratulations.

From: Sorokin, Nicholas
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 12:02 PM
To: AO OPA OMR CLIPS <AO_OPA_OMR_CLIPS@epa.gov>
Subject: The Hill: Senate panel advances controversial environmental nominee, 11/29/17

The Hill

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/362328-senate-panel-advances-controversial-environmental-nominee>

Senate panel advances controversial environmental nominee

By Devin Henry, 11/29/17

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee on Wednesday advanced one of President Trump's environmental nominees who has been criticized for her disbelief in the science behind climate change and other issues.

Senators voted 11-10 to send the nomination of Kathleen Hartnett White to serve on the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) to the Senate floor. Members also advanced Andrew Wheeler, Trump's nominee to be deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on another party-line vote.

Hartnett White is a think tank official and former Texas environmental regulator with a reputation as a climate change skeptic who dismisses the science behind the influence of carbon emissions and other pollutants on the Earth's warming trend.

At CEQ, Hartnett White would advise the president on environmental issues and coordinate federal environmental reviews.

Democrats slammed Hartnett White on Wednesday for her positions on environmental science, and attacked Trump and Republicans for supporting both nominees.

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) called the nomination process “morally bankrupt” while Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) said the Hartnett White nomination was a “disservice.”

Sen. Tom Carper said Hartnett White is a nominee “whose views are extreme, whose words are staggeringly inappropriate, and who shows remarkable disrespect for science, the environmental laws on the books and the federal government.”

“A nominee who can’t follow the thread from carbon pollution to ocean warming to sea level rise, who imagines science that is not there and ignores science that is there, is a preposterous nominee,” Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) said.

At a free-for-all nomination hearing either this month, members of both parties lambasted Hartnett White. Democrats raised concerns about her past statements on science. She has called belief in climate change “paganism,” said renewable energy is “parasitic,” and questioned the health risks of pollutants like ozone.

Republicans from agriculture-heavy states questioned her commitment to the Renewable Fuel Standard ethanol mandate.

No Republicans voted against Hartnett White on Wednesday, but few spoke in favor of her.

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), the chair of the EPW committee, noted endorsements from the Chamber of Commerce and a former Obama administration Energy Department official.

He said that Hartnett White's "experience with environmental matters is broad," and that she will "bring her extensive experience to her job at CEQ."

"We've had a lot of name-calling here and I'm sure that makes everybody on the left feel better," Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said. "We have people out there who are singing her praises, and you don't need to get down to the mud and name-call on these things."

Wheeler, a former EPA official, EPW committee Republican staffer and fossil fuel industry lobbyist, was also approved on an 11-10 vote. Democrats raised concerns about his work lobbying for Murray Energy, a major coal producer and supporter of the EPA's deregulatory effort.

But Republicans broadly supported his nomination, with Inhofe, the committee's former chairman, highlighting his work on legislative efforts.

"I totally relied on Andrew Wheeler for the background, the knowledge, the expertise that he has demonstrated year after year and year on a very bipartisan basis," he said.

"We've had some successes in this committee, and a lot of the successes we've had are due to one employee in particular, and that was Andrew Wheeler."

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