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From: EPA Press Office
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Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 06/16/17

The EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

Between G-7 meetings in Italy, testifying before Congress about President Trump's budget that protects the environment, putting the brakes on Obama's methane rule, responding to 386 of the 416 letters from Congress and cleaning-up brownfield sites across the country, it was a results-driven week at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NATIONAL NEWS ...

Administrator Pruitt was in Italy at the G-7 where he talked about the new priorities of the Trump Administration. "Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue," said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Need to Know News reports that Scott Pruitt testified before the House of Representatives and said that the EPA is focused on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his vision for his agency at a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Thursday, saying the EPA will focus on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. He expressed confidence that the EPA can accomplish these goals on a 'trimmed budget.' 'We're reversing an attitude and approach that one can simply reimagine authority under statutes passed by this body,' Pruitt said."

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The editorial board at the Wall Street Journal reports that unlike the Obama Administration, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to cleaning up Superfunds sites. "One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program. In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work."

The Hill reports that the EPA has put the brakes on the Obama Administration's methane rule. "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed pausing an Obama administration oil

and gas pollution rule for two years while it reconsiders the regulation.”

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to requests from the Senate EPW Committee. “The Environmental Protection Agency has responded to half of a Senate oversight committee's information requests, undermining a top Democrat's claim that he is blocking nominees because the agency has not answered his letters.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to Congress and responded to 386 out of 416 letters sent to the agency. “The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't think the numbers add up on the complaints raised by Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware over unanswered letters. ‘We've responded to 386 of the 416 letters received from Congress, including 11 of the 20 letters received from’ Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox, citing EPA's latest tally conducted Tuesday.”

The EPA released a [new web video](#) highlighting that our farmers are true environmentalists. “‘Farmers are the true environmentalists...the stewards of the land’ – Kim, on an American Agri-Women visit to EPA.”

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TO THE STATES ...

In Michigan, the [Detroit News](#) reports that Pruitt said that the closing of regional EPA offices is pure legend. “The administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that reports that its Great Lakes regional office in Chicago would permanently close are ‘pure legend.’ ‘There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another. I'm not sure where that came from,’ Administrator Scott Pruitt told a House Appropriations subcommittee.”

In Ohio, the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) reports that Pruitt wants to clean-up the Great Lakes. “*Pruitt told Joyce the EPA will acknowledge priorities that Congress had outlined in past legislation, and will work ‘as partners and stakeholders’ with states on environmental concerns. ‘We recognize the importance of the Great Lakes,’ said Pruitt. ‘We will work with Congress to ensure that those objectives are attained.’*”

Additionally, the [Plain Dealer](#) reports that Pruitt reaffirmed the EPA's commitment to cleaning up the Black River in Lorain. “[Pruitt] assured [Rep. Kaptur] that budget cuts the agency requested would not affect existing contracts for cleanup along the Black River in Lorain.”

In New York, the [Buffalo News](#) reports that Pruitt and the EPA are making progress at cleaning-up chemicals that are stockpiled at Tonawanda warehouse. “Seven months ago, state and federal authorities seized control of a Town of Tonawanda chemical supplier allegedly stockpiling thousands of tons of chemicals. Tuesday, the scene was safe enough for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer reporters a safety-vest and hard-hat behind-the-scenes peek of the cleanup.”

In Kansas, the [High Plains Journal](#) reports that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council supports the nomination of Susan Bodine. “The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council recently sent a letter to U.S. Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Thomas Carper (D-DE) urging them to support the nomination of Susan Bodine to be the

Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. ... 'Bodine has impeccable credentials with 29 years of environmental law and policy experience garnered from leadership positions in the federal government and private sector,' said NCBA President Craig Uden and PLC President David Eliason in the joint letter."

In Wisconsin, WBAY-TV reports that Pruitt and the EPA are cleaning-up Green Bay. "Green Bay's redevelopment efforts are getting a big boost with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency."

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