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Subject: Wehrum clears cloture hurdle

By Anthony Adragna

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The Senate invoked cloture on William Wehrum's nomination to run EPA's air office, leaving just one final vote until Administrator Scott Pruitt lands his first lieutenant.

The vote was 49-46 along party lines.

It's been an arduous process for Wehrum, a veteran of the George W. Bush Office of Air and Radiation in EPA. A vote in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee was briefly delayed due to Republican concerns over the agency's plans for the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Democrats and environmental groups oppose his selection. During his confirmation hearing, Wehrum said the degree that human activity drives climate change remains an "open question," contradicting mainstream science.

What's next: A final vote on the nomination is likely sometime on Thursday.

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