

To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
Cc: cbarnett@healthyschools.org[cbarnett@healthyschools.org]
From: Claire Barnett
Sent: Mon 3/27/2017 5:41:56 PM
Subject: Ltr requesting mtg with Admin Pruitt re President's call for Infrastructure
CHS-EPA- Pruitt- mtg rqst Mar 2017.pdf

Coalition for Healthier Schools

March 27, 2017- via email

Scott Pruitt, Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, HQ Mail 1101A

Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We are writing on behalf of our hundreds of coalition members and colleagues from education, health, environment, and parent organizations, to congratulate you on your appointment. We also would like to request a meeting with you to formally introduce the coalition and discuss our interests in working with you and your team on EPA policy issues to support children's health and learning. Attached is our policy whitepaper that we sent to the President-Elect's transition team in December, which outlines some of our ideas.

Given the President's repeated calls to address America's infrastructure, including schools, and a recent report from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) that graded our national school infrastructure a D+ (barely ahead of its D rating in 2013), we want to apprise you of our work to address decaying schools. We also want to highlight the EPA's unique leadership in addressing this issue and in supporting children's environmental health at school and in child care facilities.

See attached full letter and link to policy paper shared with the Trump Transition Team.

Thank you

Claire Barnett



Claire L. Barnett, MBA, Founder and Executive Director

Healthy Schools Network, Inc.

(w) 518-462-0632

(m) 202-543-7555

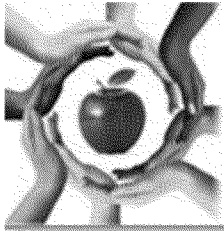
Coordinator, National Coalition for Healthier Schools

...providing the platform and the forum for environmental health at school ... since 2001

HealthySchools.org – for children, health, environment, education and communities since 1995

NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org – Join us for the 15th Annual Day on Tuesday, April 4, 2017

CleaningforHealthySchools.org – green & healthy products for schools



Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

*...providing the national platform and
the forum for environmental health at school, since 2001...*

Coordinated by Healthy Schools Network

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Given the President's repeated calls to address America's infrastructure, including schools, and a recent report from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) that graded our national school infrastructure a D+ (barely ahead of its D rating in 2013), we want to apprise you of our work to address decaying schools. We also want to highlight the **EPA's unique leadership** in addressing this issue and in **supporting children's environmental health at school and in child care facilities**.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental stresses, such as lead and polluted air (indoor and outdoor). They breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, and they are still developing.

Today there are some 55 million children in 130,000 public and private PK–12 schools in the U.S. Repeated reports (like ASCE's) have revealed that school building maintenance and repair have been neglected for decades. Poor facilities often have problems with indoor air, lighting, acoustics, ventilation, growing molds, and other problems including lead in paint and drinking water, PCBs, and poor chemical management, to name a few, all of which can impair the health of those 55 million children.

At the same time, there is robust literature and local successes where schools and districts have promoted attendance and improved test scores by improving their facilities, following EPA voluntary guidance.

Importantly, EPA dollars are not used to buy light bulbs or build local schools, but the agency has produced successful voluntary guidance documents to help schools better manage their properties, schools, such as facility design, siting, cleaning, chemicals management, molds, renovations, and other useful topics.

EPA has also helped educate and train school personnel with voluntary grants to an array of constituencies including states and Tribal Nations, and hosted annual symposia that brought hundreds of local school personnel to Washington, D.C., to learn, to discuss and to **share best practices with the EPA's** headquarters and regional staff.

In view of the President's interest in school infrastructure, we believe the EPA could play a big role in implementing his vision of world-class schools.

We look forward to meeting with you soon to further discuss these issues and ideas for promoting federal-state-NGO partnerships to prevent environmental problems in our schools and boost children's health.

Sincerely,

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)

Children's Environmental Health Network

Collaborative for High Performance Schools

Healthy Schools Network

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition

Parents for Students Safety (TN)

Project Green Schools (MA)

Enc. **CALL FOR PRESIDENT'S CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE:**
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AT SCHOOL
Caring for Our Future – 61 Million Children in School and Child Care
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9EfybapSpQ6MjZEazdLZFG1STQ/view>

Contact:

Claire L. Barnett, Executive Director, Healthy Schools Network, (w) 518 -462-0632, (m) 202 -543-7555, cbarnett@healthyschools.org