

# IMPEACH SCOTT PRUITT

## Why Impeachment?



EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has consistently violated the trust of the American people and abused the power of his office for personal gain. President Trump has given no indication that he intends to remove Pruitt, so it is time for Congress to take control. **It is time for Congress to impeach Scott Pruitt.**

Impeachment wouldn't be necessary in ordinary times. Unfortunately, so long as Pruitt continues to do the bidding of Big Polluters, Trump is unlikely to fire him. Faced with a lawless EPA administrator and a feckless President, the only rational option is to demand that Congress fulfill its constitutional duty and remove Pruitt.

The Constitution gives Congress the authority to fire the president, federal judges, and cabinet-level officials for "high crimes and misdemeanors." That phrase lacks a single, simple definition. But it is well settled that "high crimes and misdemeanors" includes actions like lying to Congress, misusing the office for personal gain, abusing power, violating the public trust, and conduct at odds with the purpose of the office. In short, it includes the types of behavior that have defined Pruitt's tenure at the EPA.

## Administrator Pruitt is Guilty of High Crimes and Misdemeanors

### Abuse of Power and Violation of Public Trust

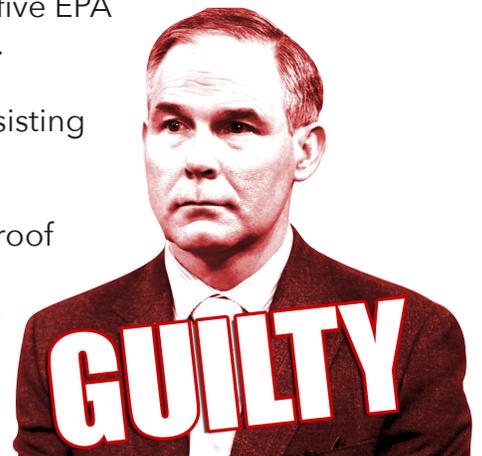
Pruitt has abused his power and violated the public trust by engaging in extensive luxury travel in violation of common sense federal rules designed to safeguard taxpayer money.

Pruitt has:

- Insisted on first class travel accommodations, including luxury hotel stays and airfare. These expenses violate federal requirements ensuring that government employees use the most affordable options when spending taxpayer dollars.
- Spent \$120,000 on a four-day trip to Rome for the G8 summit, even though he left the conference after only one day.
- Took a \$100,000 trip to Morocco brokered by a lobbyist friend to promote exports of liquefied natural gas, an area over which the EPA has no jurisdiction.
- Spent \$45,000 in taxpayer money for aides to travel to Australia to prepare for a meeting that never happened.
- Took multiple first-class flights back to Oklahoma for events near his home city, Tulsa, then stayed for the weekend.
- Retaliated with demotions and reassignments when at least five EPA staff raised objections to his spending and security requests.

Pruitt has also abused his power and violated the public trust by insisting on absurd security measures and misusing security resources. He has:

- Used taxpayer dollars to bankroll an illegal \$43,000 soundproof telephone booth.
- Requested a security detail three times the size of his predecessor's that stays with him at all times, even when he is not working.



Pruitt has also abused his power and violated the public trust by using his position to benefit himself and his friends. He has:

- Used his connections with lobbyists to rent a Capitol Hill condo for \$50 per night, and on at least one occasion met with clients represented by the husband of his landlord .
- Abused the Safe Drinking Water Act to give large pay raises to staffers he brought with him from Oklahoma.
- Given his personal banker, who was fined \$125,000 and barred for life from banking by the FDIC, and who has no environmental experience, a high-level EPA job running a Superfund task force.

### **Behavior Inconsistent with the Purpose of His Office**

Pruitt has engaged in extensive conduct incompatible with the purpose of his office. The founding document of the EPA declares that the purpose of the agency is coordinate the government's defense against, "...the pollutants which debase the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land that grows our food." Yet Pruitt has repeatedly ignored or undermined these foundations in EPA decision making.

- Pruitt refuses to acknowledge the overwhelming body of science showing that carbon dioxide is a major contributor to climate change.
- Over the objection of EPA scientists, Administrator Pruitt's political staff overturned a ban on chlorpyrifos, a pesticide known to cause learning disabilities in children.
- EPA staff were required to write the perfluorooctanoic acid rule by copying industry input word for word.
- EPA staff were required to reverse the conclusion of their prior analysis on the "waters of the United States" rule, which involved ignoring \$400 million worth of benefits of the previous rule.
- Against the wishes of 11 state attorneys general, Administrator Pruitt reversed a rule directing oil and gas operators to collect information on methane leaks.
- Administrator Pruitt's push to limit the role of peer-reviewed science in rulemakings is completely incompatible with the mission and responsibilities of EPA.

### **Behavior Inconsistent with His Role as an Officer of the United States**

Pruitt has engaged in behavior incompatible with his role as an officer of the United States by lying to Congress on multiple occasions.

- Pruitt lied to the Senate during his confirmation hearings, claiming that he used only his official email to conduct business as the Attorney General of Oklahoma. Soon after his confirmation, evidence was released documenting that he used personal email addresses as well.
- Pruitt lied to the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on the environment when asked about retaliation against staff who raised objections to his spending habits.

**Support the EPA by endorsing the impeachment of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.**

