

Comparing Pruitt's confirmation hearing to Perry's

Editor, The Transcript:

Kery Murakami described Scott Pruitt's confirmation hearings. A comparison of Rick Perry's hearings to Pruitt's is instructive. Perry, nominated to run the department of energy, had to convince questioners that he was wrong to proclaim during campaigning that he'd abolish DOE.

Perry met Obama's DOE secretary, Ernest Moniz, listened and learned job details. Perry followed up several times with Moniz. Perry told senators that he regrets promising to abolish DOE, and he'll protect "all of the science." Perry earned Moniz's endorsement. Pruitt had to convince questioners that he won't gut the EPA, after spending years suing the EPA to stop protections. Under oath, Pruitt carefully asserted that climate change isn't a hoax.

When asked about human causation, he refused comment. When pushed to recuse himself from EPA lawsuits that he initiated, he refused. He made statements wrongly implying that environmentalists oppose energy and economy.

Environmentalists worked with Georgia Tea party members to help Georgians get the right to choose their energy sources — previously a utility monopoly prevented choice. Massachusetts environmentalists helped a natural gas plant get permits — despite public opposition — by negotiating declining plant emissions and plant closing in 2050.

In Florida, environmentalists — liberals and conservatives — defeated a constitutional amendment to restrict solar.

Bloomberg Business reported globally that renewable electricity is cheaper than from coal or gas. States, as different

as North Carolina and Massachusetts, reported clean energy sectors increase employment at double-digit rates, faster than their economies as a whole.

Obama's EPA director Gina McCarthy, asked about Pruitt, said (Guardian 1/20/17), "She had sought to reach out to Pruitt but had so far had no response. 'Climate change is real, it's happening, it's a challenge and I want to talk to him about that.'" Not responding to McCarthy speaks volumes about Pruitt.

Christie Whitman, EPA director for Bush, said (Star Ledger 12/13/16), Pruitt is "disdainful of the agency and the science behind what the agency does." A surprise occurred during confirmation hearings: Trump plans steep budget cuts, based on proposals from the Heartland Foundation (extremist climate change denying lobby).

Plans include (The Hill 1/19/17): "eliminate the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and scrap the Office of Fossil Energy, which focuses on technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions." Perry, surprised, assured senators that his management experience prepared him to defend budgets (NY Times, 1/19/17).

Readers should urge Sens. John McCain, Marco Rubio, Lamar Alexander and Susan Collins to oppose Pruitt's appointment. He would serve lobbyists, not the American people.

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