



Scott Pruitt, Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC, 20460

**Comment on Executive Order 13777: The path to fewer regulations lies through reducing fossil fuel burning**

Docket ID: EPA HQ-OA-2017-0190

I work as the clean energy manager for the Partnership for Policy Integrity. I am professionally and personally aghast at the Trump Administration's efforts to reduce regulations across the board. Protecting human health, especially those at most risk of environmental harm from pollution – the very young and the medically fragile – is the primary role of the Environmental Protection Agency, not helping businesses make more money no matter what the environmental costs might be.

As a life-long resident of Pennsylvania, I was upset to see the American Lung Association's most recent annual report on how the states are doing on air pollution. ALA's "State of the Air 2017" yet again had bad news about the quality of the air that most Pennsylvanians breathe: About 75 percent of the state's population lives within an area that failed to get an "A" on the report. ALA reports annually on how each state is doing on for two major air pollutants:

- Ozone (smog) levels, and
- Fine particulate matter (soot) levels.

The report boils down an enormous number of observed data points collected county by county to generate an overall grade (A through F) for each county's air quality in terms of high ozone days and high particle pollution days (in each case, "high" indicates poor quality, and a low grade.) ALA collects the data on a rolling 3-year average, with their most recent report showing how each county did in the period from 2013 through 2015.

Montgomery County, where I live, is one of nine counties in Pennsylvania that received a failing grade ("F") for High Ozone Days in these three years (2013-2015). Montgomery County was only slightly better for High Particle Pollution Days over the same period, where we got a grade of "C." Neither is acceptable.

Since the electricity and transportation sectors produce an enormous amount of the air pollution this comment addresses, it only makes sense that the EPA and the Trump Administration should be doing all they can do to move our economy away from dirty fuels and towards clean energy like solar and wind power and energy efficiency.

Mr. Pruitt, if you truly want to be able to eliminate regulations, try this approach: Let's get off fossil fuels as quickly as possible. You'd be delighted with how many regulations we would no longer need. I personally get my electricity from solar panels installed on my property. Once they were successfully installed and passed inspection by local authorities, they will now operate for many years with the need for NO regulation. (And the payback period will be only six to seven years, after which I'll be making money every year.)

This shift away from dirty energy and to clean energy would also result in very significant increases in job growth in Pennsylvania. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's report this year ([energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report](http://energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report)) Pennsylvania now has twice as many energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs (69,568) as fossil fuel jobs (34,231).

If we as a nation care about human health and a growing economy, there's only one logical solution: move away from burning fuels for electricity and transport as quickly as possible, instead meeting our energy needs with wind, solar and geothermal power, and reducing our overall energy needs through energy efficiency.

Thank you for taking my comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Bergey  
Partnership for Policy Integrity