



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

November 8, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose nomination of William Wehrum as EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation

Dear Senator,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national, state and local priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

We urge you to oppose the nomination of William Wehrum for Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency. During his tenure at the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation from 2001 to 2007, Mr. Wehrum led efforts to weaken safeguards to reduce mercury emissions from coal fired power plants, and other safeguards intended to reduce lead, fine particulate pollution, and ozone smog pollution. While Mr. Wehrum was at the EPA, the agency lost 27 cases due to violation of laws meant to safeguard clean air, water, and public health. In case after case, the courts found that the EPA had violated the "plain language" of the Clean Air Act, and in one case even said the EPA's arguments "deploy[ed] the logic of the Queen of Hearts, substituting EPA's desires for the plain text of" the law.

Mr. Wehrum has a long history in private practice at corporate law firms representing utilities, energy companies, and other major polluters in their efforts to roll back safeguards issued under the Clean Air Act. In the middle of Mr. Wehrum's tenure in the EPA air office, it was discovered that industry attorneys from Mr. Wehrum's former law firm had drafted language that the EPA had included verbatim that was intended to let polluters off the hook for clean air protections, demonstrating little regard for public health concerns in the face of his former clients' preferences. Mr. Wehrum has spent his career trying to undermine EPA clean air protections, both from within and outside of the agency. His dangerous track record underscores he is not fit to serve as EPA's top clean air official.

For these reasons, LCV strongly urges you to oppose the nomination of William Wehrum for Assistant Administrator for the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. We will consider including this confirmation vote in the 2017 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call my office at (202) 785-8683 and ask to speak with a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President