



# Eyes on Texas & Washington

A publication of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers  
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## Eyes Special Report: Senate Confirms Scott Pruitt As EPA Administrator

By Alex Mills, President, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt survived an incredible assault by environmental zealots on Friday, February 17, and was confirmed as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency by a vote of 52-46. Pruitt's confirmation will be one of the most important events of the new Trump Administration as far as the oil and gas industry is concerned.

Pruitt has said he will protect states' rights by returning more authority to state regulators.

The Alliance strongly supports less federal intervention in the oil and gas industry.

The Alliance has formed a special committee, called the Federal Regulatory Energy Delegation (FRED) Committee, designed to direct federal programs and funding to state authorities the oversee the oil and gas industry.

There are a multitude of changes the Alliance is working on in Washington. Below is a list of priorities we have developed. If you have any further suggestions, please send them to me at [alexm@texasalliance.org](mailto:alexm@texasalliance.org).

### Priorities To Be Achieved Through Executive Order Of The President

- ✓ Recognize the supremacy of states in regulating the oil and gas industry, i.e. seismicity.
- ✓ Accept as final the EPA study of hydraulic fracturing impacts on ground water.
- ✓ Halt EPA Information Collection Request (ICR) for methane regulation for existing sources of oil and gas.
- ✓ Direct EPA to vigorously defend RCRA exemption classifying oil and gas waste as hazardous materials.
- ✓ Amend federal environmental laws to decrease frequency of review requirements or only require review when scientifically-based circumstance dictates (e.g., NAAQS).
- ✓ Terminate EPA National Enforcement Initiative against domestic oil and gas production.
- ✓ Terminate EPA/DOJ enforcement initiative (the so-called "Worker Endangerment Initiative").

- ✓ Overturn executive orders, executive memoranda, and agency guidance and policy documents requiring agencies to consider climate change in all decisions.
- ✓ Direct EPA to enter settlement negotiations in pending cases challenging Quad Oa and Waters of the US rules and agree the rules exceed EPA authority.
- ✓ Unwind Paris Climate Treaty.
- ✓ Overturn EPA Environmental Justice Initiative.
- ✓ Prevent OSHA attempts to mandate Process Safety Management (PSM) in E&P sector.

### Priorities To Be Achieve Through Administrative Action By The President

- ✓ Cut EPA's budget and staff by approximately 50% and redirect EPA priorities to address water (Flint) and wastewater infrastructure projects.
- ✓ Reduce or eliminate U.S. Department of Energy.
- ✓ SEC 5-year reserve reporting rule and Dodd-Frank.
- ✓ CAFE standards and Renewable Fuel Standards, including ethanol mandate.
- ✓ Cut subsidies for wind, solar, renewable fuels and electric cars.
- ✓ Streamline NEPA review process.

### Priorities To Be Achieved By The U.S. Congress

- ✓ Pass the Regulatory Accountability Act. *(Passed House, waiting for Senate action.)*
- ✓ Pass the Regulations in Need of Scrutiny Act. *(Passed House, waiting for Senate action.)*
- ✓ Pass the Midnight Rules Relief Act. *(Passed House, waiting for Senate action.)*
- ✓ Tax Blueprint legislation simplifying tax code for individuals and business.
- ✓ Revise/repeal the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare).

**TEXAS ENERGY DAY**  
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Please join us March 22 as we head to the Capitol to engage with our state Senators and Representatives for Texas Energy Day! Additional information and online registration available at: [www.texasenergyday.com](http://www.texasenergyday.com)

## Mark Your Calendars!

Below are the dates of our future meetings and hearings. For more info, visit:

[www.TexasAlliance.org](http://www.TexasAlliance.org)

- ✓ February 24, 2017: Next Alliance Webinar - Ad Valorem Taxes. Check back later for more information!
- ✓ March 2, 2017 @ 5:00 PM: [Annual Alliance BBQ Cook-Off](#) at the Houston Rodeo. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!
- ✓ March 22, 2017 – Texas Energy Day, Texas State Capitol. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!
- ✓ March 30, 2017, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Houston Wildcatters honors Cody Campbell & John Sellers, co-founders of Double Eagle Development. Held at the Houston Petroleum Club. Check back later for registration information!
- ✓ April 25-26, 2017: [Alliance Expo & Annual Meeting](#). Held at the Kay Yeager Coliseum, Wichita Falls. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!
- ✓ May 15, 2017, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Houston Wildcatters honors Thomas Jorden, CEO of Cimarex. Held at the Houston Petroleum Club. Check back later for registration information!
- ✓ August 23, 2017, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Houston Wildcatters honors Bryan Sheffield, CEO of Parsley Energy. Held at the Houston Petroleum Club. Check back later for registration information!
- ✓ October 5, 2017, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Houston Wildcatters honors Tommy Nusz, CEO of Oasis Petroleum. Held at the Houston Petroleum Club. Check back later for registration information!

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