

Foxes in Charge of the Chicken Coop

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The lives of our children and our children's children are now in the hands of a man who denies the scientific evidence regarding climate change, something widely understood in the science community.

Scott Pruitt, the man Trump put in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency never thought there should be an EPA at all. He showed his feeling while Attorney General of Oklahoma by bringing many lawsuits against the office he now runs.

President Trump also clearly doesn't like being bothered by the EPA. He has used executive orders to roll back protections instituted under President Obama.

Big Oil is happy about this. Big profits will come their way. The United States now turns its back on the worldwide agreement at the Paris conference, where we agreed, along with other nations, to pollution-cutting provisions. No doubt some other countries seeing that we are backing out of our commitment will do the same. The future is now more dangerous than ever.

The rules established by President Obama recognized the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, causing the global warming now happening in the world. Extreme weather events continue to occur. The Arctic sea ice is at a record low and the Great Barrier coral reef is dying. These occurrences disrupt animal habitats and we are only one level above the animals and it will eventually destroy our own habitat. President Obama, along with other world leaders, recognized our need to rescue our planet. President Trump seems to understand none of this, and he put in charge a man who shares his level of ignorance.

I'd like to bring this a little closer by giving an example of what the President and the new master of the EPA have done. Last November the EPA announced that the insecticide "chlorpyrifos" poses a risk to humans. This is an insecticide which is no longer registered for household use but is widely used in agriculture. A Columbia University study reported that even a moderate level of exposure to chlorpyrifos during pregnancy can affect brain development in the child. The study was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health grant. The EPA considered it an unacceptable risk to humans, especially children, when its residue is found in fruits and vegetables. Mr. Pruitt, however, is in possession of "Alternate Facts", a familiar concept in the Trump Administration, and rejected a ban on the substance.

I don't really like writing scary articles, but I think it necessary to fight for our safety and for what the EPA should be..

