



January 17, 2017

Honorable Robert Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Family businesses play an important role in Pennsylvania's communities, but over the past eight years, many family-owned businesses have struggled to stay afloat or have simply closed their doors in the face of increasingly costly regulations. When local businesses leave, the little league baseball team loses a new sponsor, storefronts downtown close, and the overall feeling of community is diminished. I write to you on behalf of our family business members to encourage you to not block Scott Pruitt's nomination as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

President-elect Trump has promised to aggressively push back on the flurry of regulations that family businesses are currently forced to grapple with. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, the EPA's overzealous ozone rule will cost Pennsylvania over 100,000 jobs, increasing Pennsylvania's unemployment rate by 1.5 percent. One thing family businesses are waiting to see is how quickly Mr. Trump's nominees can peel back harmful regulations to ease the burden on job creators.

Tomorrow marks a possible turning point for family businesses as Scott Pruitt faces his confirmation hearing to become Administrator of the EPA. Many family businesses depend on affordable energy to power their operations. As energy prices and costs from regulations increase, businesses must tighten their belts and absorb the losses, delaying investment and growth. In order to put America back to work, small businesses must be encouraged to succeed.

Mr. Pruitt has the potential to reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses while fulfilling the mandate of the EPA to "protect human health and environment – air, water and land." Environmental stewardship and economic growth should not be mutually exclusive. But the current EPA has erected barriers to growth under the false banner of environmental protection. One of the most egregious acts of the current EPA is the use of "sue and settle" lawsuits by environmental organizations including a pre-negotiated lawsuit targeting Pennsylvania's clean air permits. This "sue and settle" tactic was used to create over 100 new regulations between 2009 and 2012. Mr. Pruitt will put a stop to this behind-closed-doors coordination to ensure the EPA follows the law and ends these conspiring lawsuits.

Small businesses are trusting Scott Pruitt to revamp and modernize the EPA and put an end to outrageous cases like this. After being nominated to lead the EPA, Mr. Pruitt said “The American people are tired of seeing billions of dollars drained from our economy due to unnecessary EPA regulations, and I intend to run this agency in a way that fosters both responsible protection of the environment and freedom for American businesses.” Mr. Pruitt’s reforms will help small businesses and the economy to grow while protecting the environment.

Family businesses deserve relief and protection from the overreach of federal agencies. For these reasons, Family Businesses for Affordable energy is encouraging you to not block Mr. Pruitt’s nomination to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Now is the time to focus on enforcing reasonable protections for the environment while unleashing small businesses to do what they do best – create jobs and strengthen the communities that they are a part of.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Palmer Schoening". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Palmer Schoening
Chairman,
Family Businesses for Affordable Energy