

Scott Pruitt

Red Flags

As Attorney General, Pruitt Sent A Letter To The EPA Written By Lawyers For One Of Oklahoma's Biggest Oil And Gas Companies Accusing Regulators Of Overestimating Pollution Caused By Natural Gas Drilling. "The letter to the Environmental Protection Agency from Attorney General Scott Pruitt of Oklahoma carried a blunt accusation: Federal regulators were grossly overestimating the amount of air pollution caused by energy companies drilling new natural gas wells in his state. But Mr. Pruitt left out one critical point. The three-page letter was written by lawyers for Devon Energy, one of Oklahoma's biggest oil and gas companies, and was delivered to him by Devon's chief of lobbying. 'Outstanding!' William F. Whitsitt, who at the time directed government relations at the company, said in a note to Mr. Pruitt's office. The attorney general's staff had taken Devon's draft, copied it onto state government stationery with only a few word changes, and sent it to Washington with the attorney general's signature. 'The timing of the letter is great, given our meeting this Friday with both E.P.A. and the White House.' Mr. Whitsitt then added, 'Please pass along Devon's thanks to Attorney General Pruitt.' The email exchange from October 2011, obtained through an open-records request, offers a hint of the unprecedented, secretive alliance that Mr. Pruitt and other Republican attorneys general have formed with some of the nation's top energy producers to push back against the Obama regulatory agenda, an investigation by The New York Times has found. Attorneys general in at least a dozen states are working with energy companies and other corporate interests, which in turn are providing them with record amounts of money for their political campaigns, including at least \$16 million this year." (Eric Lipton, "Energy And Regulators On One Team," *The New York Times*, 12/7/14)

- **Pruitt's Office Copied The Letter From The Energy Company And Almost Word-For-Word Pasted It Onto Oklahoma Government Stationary And Sent It To DC With Pruitt's Signature.** "The attorney general's staff had taken Devon's draft, copied it onto state government stationery with only a few word changes, and sent it to Washington with the attorney general's signature." (Eric Lipton, "Energy And Regulators On One Team," *The New York Times*, 12/7/14)
- ***The New York Times* Called This Collaboration "A Hint Of The Unprecedented, Secretive Alliance That Mr. Pruitt And Other Attorneys General Have Formed With Some Of The Nation's Top Energy Producers To Push Back On The Obama Regulatory Agenda..."** "The email exchange from October 2011, obtained through an open-records request, offers a hint of the unprecedented, secretive alliance that Mr. Pruitt and other Republican attorneys general have formed with some of the nation's top energy producers to push back against the Obama regulatory agenda, an investigation by The New York Times has found." (Eric Lipton, "Energy And Regulators On One Team," *The New York Times*, 12/7/14)

BACKGROUND

Education

Georgetown College

Georgetown, KY 40324

AND

University Of Tulsa College Of Law

Tulsa, OK 74104 ([LinkedIn](#), Accessed 11/28/16)

Work Experience

January 2011 – Present: State Of Oklahoma Attorney General

2003 – 2010: Oklahoma City Redhawks Triple-A Baseball Team Co-Owner And Managing General Partner

1998 – 2006: Oklahoma State Senate State Senator

1993 – 1998: Private Practice Attorney ([LinkedIn](#), Accessed 11/28/16)

QUESTIONS FOR SCOTT PRUITT

Political Vulnerabilities

Relationships with Energy Companies while OK AG

Background: During his time as Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt was accused of collaborating with oil and gas companies when he sent a letter to the EPA complaining that they were overestimating pollution levels and unfairly burdening activity in the Oklahoma energy sector.

- **Is there anything the President-elect's team should be aware of regarding accusations of collaboration between your office and private energy companies?**
- **Are there any other scenarios that could surface and create public relations turbulence should you join the administration?**

Outstanding Lawsuits/Cases as OK AG

Background: Pruitt has filed a number of lawsuits against the federal government, including challenging many key policy pillars of the Obama administration. Some of these lawsuits are currently outstanding and would be passed along to Pruitt's replacement should he leave his current post.

- **Are you willing to refrain from public comment on any outstanding Attorney General work that could be settled after you accept a potential job in the administration?**
- **Would you be willing to fully support the President-elect's agenda and policy positions even if they conflicted with some of your actions as Oklahoma Attorney General?**

Policy Questions

Critic of Regulations and the EPA

Background: Pruitt has sued or challenged the EPA on multiple fronts during his time as Oklahoma Attorney General.

- **Through your work as Attorney General, you have publicly battled with the EPA on multiple issue fronts. How would you adjust the EPA's current role in environmental regulation?**
- **In regards to specific regulations and rules, where would you prioritize reform?**
- **What, if any, current environmental regulations do you find necessary and what new ones might you suggest to the President-elect?**

General Environmental Protection Agency Policy

- **Do you have a strong opinion on Obama's 'Clean Power Plan' and would you advise the President to halt implementation of this plan?**
 - **If you would advise against further implementation, what new agenda would you pursue?**

- Where do you stand philosophically on the impact of ‘climate change’ and how would value American jobs vs. ‘safer/cleaner energy’?
- What responsibilities do you believe the EPA should have and over what jurisdiction?
- As head of the EPA what would your main focus be and what new steps would you take to enact either new initiatives or major reforms?

COMMENTS ON TRUMP-PENCE

Trump

Pruitt Attended A Trump Fundraiser In Oklahoma Wearing A Trump Sticker. “A few Trump supporters made their way through the crowd after leaving the fundraiser including Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt.” (Brian Hardzinski, “Dozens Protest Trump’s Norman Fundraiser Before Heavy Rain Sets In,” [KGOU](#), 9/18/16)



Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt leaves Donald Trump’s fundraiser in Norman on Saturday.
CREDIT BRIAN HARDZINSKI / KGOU

Pruitt Said Trump “Understands Our Issues...” “Although some conservatives continue to express skepticism about the Republican nominee’s commitment to federalism and the constitutional separation of powers, Mr. Trump’s release of a list of conservative judges he might appoint to the Supreme Court, and his selection of Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate, have been positive signs, Oklahoma state Attorney General Scott Pruitt said in an interview. ‘When I look at the judges he says he will appoint, yes, it is reassuring to me that Donald Trump understands our issues,’ Mr. Pruitt said. ‘And Mike Pence is a governor and a solid conservative choice who understands the issues of federalism at a very personal level.’” (David R. Sands, “Trump Pick In Pence, List Of Justices Eases AG’s Worries,” [The Washington Times](#), 7/19/16)

Pence

Pruitt Called Mike Pence A “Solid Conservative” And Said He “Understands The Issues Of Federalism At A Very Personal Level.” “Although some conservatives continue to express skepticism about the Republican nominee’s commitment to federalism and the constitutional separation of powers, Mr. Trump’s release of a list of conservative judges he might appoint to the Supreme Court, and his selection of Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate, have been positive signs, Oklahoma state Attorney General Scott Pruitt said in an interview. ‘When I look at the judges he says he will appoint, yes, it is reassuring to me that Donald Trump understands our issues,’ Mr. Pruitt said. ‘And Mike Pence is a

governor and a solid conservative choice who understands the issues of federalism at a very personal level.” (David R. Sands, “Trump Pick In Pence, List Of Justices Eases AG’s Worries,” [The Washington Times](#), 7/19/16)

GENERAL CONTROVERSY

Criminal Filings

No Records Found.

CONTROVERSIAL POLICY STANCES/STATEMENTS

EPA-Related Record As Oklahoma Attorney General

Suing Volkswagen

In 2015, As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt Sued Volkswagen Saying The “Company Knowingly Skirted Federal Emissions Standards To The Detriment Of Oklahoma Consumers.” “Oklahoma’s attorney general has filed suit against the Volkswagen Group, alleging the automobile company knowingly skirted federal emissions standards to the detriment of Oklahoma consumers. In a lawsuit filed last week in Oklahoma County District Court, Attorney General Scott Pruitt accuses the company of designing ‘clean diesel’ engines with a mechanism to alter their fuel efficiency during emissions testing. As a result, authorities say vehicles with this engine operated far above their tested emissions levels on normal roadways.” (“Oklahoma AG Sues Volkswagen Over Emissions Scandal,” *The Associated Press*, 6/21/16)

Challenging Obama’s Clean Power Plan

In 2016, As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt Challenged The Obama Administration’s Clean Power Plan In The D.C. Court Of Appeals. “Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt spent Tuesday in court in Washington, D.C. ‘We started at 9:30 this morning, and we’ll probably go into the early evening,’ Pruitt said by phone while taking a break late Tuesday afternoon. Pruitt was among several state legal officers involved in oral arguments before the D.C. Court of Appeals for *West Virginia v. EPA*, a lawsuit challenging the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan. West Virginia Solicitor General Elbert Lin is the lead litigator for the plaintiffs, but Pruitt and his office have been involved in preparing a considerable part of the case. ‘We’ve devoted substantial resources to the constitutional questions,’ Pruitt said. ‘That doesn’t mean we haven’t been involved in the rest of it, but we have focused on the that particular part.’ *West Virginia v. EPA* consolidates several lawsuits seeking to block an Environmental Protection Agency initiative to reduce power plant carbon dioxide emissions 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.” (Randy Krebiel, “Attorney General Scott Pruitt Adds Voice To Clean Power Plan Argument,” *Tulsa World*, 9/28/16)

Suggesting That Emissions Regulations Should Be Made On A State-By-State Basis

As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt “Introduced A Plan To Implement Emissions Reductions Using A Unit-By-Unit, ‘Inside The Fence,’ Approach That Accounts For The Differences In Air Quality Effects Among The States.” “Last week, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt made a presentation at the Federalist Society in Washington outlining his plan for more state flexibility in implementing EPA rules. The society advocates for judicial restraint, and its membership includes four conservative Supreme Court justices. Pruitt, a Republican who has clashed several times with the Obama administration’s EPA, said the agency has moved away from the idea of ‘cooperative federalism’ with the states for the Clean Air Act and other environmental laws. He introduced a plan to implement emissions reductions using a unit-by-unit, ‘inside the fence’ approach that accounts for the differences in air-quality effects among the states. ‘This approach preserves state primacy and does not turn over management of local power generation fleets to the EPA,’ Pruitt said in a news release. ‘The Oklahoma attorney general’s plan keeps resource planning in the hands of state regulators with specialized expertise and a focus on ratepayer impacts and the protection of the public interest.’ Legal questions In a legal analysis, Pruitt questioned whether the EPA has the authority to issue standards on carbon dioxide emissions from new

and existing power plants. He said Congress would need to modify the Clean Air Act before the EPA can issue those regulations.” (Paul Monies, “Renewable Energy Advocates, Politicians Get Ready For Upcoming Carbon Dioxide Rules For Power Plants,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, 5/28/14)

Challenging EPA’s Haze Rules

In 2014, As Attorney General, Pruitt Challenged The EPA’s Plan For Regional Haze. “Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co., Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers are fighting the EPA’s plan for regional haze for OG&E. They have appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court to review an appellate court decision that went against them last year.” (Paul Monies, “Agency Approves PSO Plan For Regional Haze,” *Bartlesville Examiner Enterprise*, 2/11/14)

Support Of The Keystone XL Pipeline

In 2013, As Attorney General, Pruitt Voiced His Support For The Keystone XL Pipeline And Called On President Obama To “Stop The Political Maneuvering And Approve The Permit...” “Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt wants the White House to stop the political maneuvering and approve the permit TransCanada needs to build a pipeline from Canada to Cushing. In August, Pruitt joined attorneys general from 20 other states asking Secretary of State John Kerry to push President Barack Obama to approve the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from western Canada’s oil sands to Cushing. Pruitt joined Associate Editor Chris Day in the NewsPress studio for a webisode of the paper’s “Conversations With ...” public affairs program. Pruitt discussed Oklahoma’s legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act and U.S. appellate court’s ruling about the Environmental Protection Agency’s powerplant emissions decision as well as his re-election campaign, the Open Meetings and Open Records Acts and the attorney general’s work to fight fraud in the state. ‘Cushing is a very important factor in the analysis of the Keystone Pipeline,’ Pruitt said. The attorney general’s office filed comments on the Environmental Impact Statement when former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Oklahoma in 2010.” (Chris Day, “Policing The Policies Oklahoma Attorney General Goes To Court To Make Obama Administration Follow Statues,” *Stillwater News Press*, 8/31/13)

Allegations Of Coziness With Big Energy Companies

As Attorney General, Pruitt Sent A Letter To The EPA Written By Lawyers For One Of Oklahoma’s Biggest Oil And Gas Companies Accusing Regulators Of Overestimating Pollution Caused By Natural Gas Drilling. “The letter to the Environmental Protection Agency from Attorney General Scott Pruitt of Oklahoma carried a blunt accusation: Federal regulators were grossly overestimating the amount of air pollution caused by energy companies drilling new natural gas wells in his state. But Mr. Pruitt left out one critical point. The three-page letter was written by lawyers for Devon Energy, one of Oklahoma’s biggest oil and gas companies, and was delivered to him by Devon’s chief of lobbying. ‘Outstanding!’ William F. Whitsitt, who at the time directed government relations at the company, said in a note to Mr. Pruitt’s office. The attorney general’s staff had taken Devon’s draft, copied it onto state government stationery with only a few word changes, and sent it to Washington with the attorney general’s signature. ‘The timing of the letter is great, given our meeting this Friday with both E.P.A. and the White House.’ Mr. Whitsitt then added, ‘Please pass along Devon’s thanks to Attorney General Pruitt.’ The email exchange from October 2011, obtained through an open-records request, offers a hint of the unprecedented, secretive alliance that Mr. Pruitt and other Republican attorneys general have formed with some of the nation’s top energy producers to push back against the Obama regulatory agenda, an investigation by The New York Times has found. Attorneys general in at least a dozen states are working with energy companies and other corporate interests, which in turn are providing them with record amounts of money for their political campaigns, including at least \$16 million this year.” (Eric Lipton, “Energy And Regulators On One Team,” *The New York Times*, 12/7/14)

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Pruitt’s Other Notable Oklahoma Attorney General Cases And Stances

Public Display Of Religious Symbols

In 2015, When The Supreme Court Ruled That A Granite Monument Of The 10 Commandments That Sat On The State Capitol Had To Be Removed Because Of Its “Obviously Religious Nature” Pruitt Objected Their Decision. “On Tuesday, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that a 6-foot Ten Commandments granite monument had to be removed, calling it ‘obviously religious in nature.’ State officials have said that the monument is historical and similar to one in Texas that was ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court. ‘Quite simply, the Oklahoma Supreme Court got it wrong,’ Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt said in a statement. ‘The court completely ignored the profound historical impact of the Ten Commandments on the foundation of Western law.’ The controversial monument was installed in 2012 and funded by a Republican representative, who donated it to the state. The monument has been the subject of numerous debates over the separation of church and state in Oklahoma. Other religions, including the Satanic Temple, have argued that monuments symbolizing their faiths should be included as well.” (Josh Sanburn, “The Fight Over Oklahoma’s Ten Commandments Monument Rages On,” *Time*, 7/2/15)

Advocacy Of Federalism

Following His Win In 2010 In The State’s AG Race, Pruitt “Quickly Gained A National Reputation For His...Advocacy Of Federalism And Relentless Efforts To Challenge Any Federal Law Or Action That He Sees As An Infringement On Individual Liberties Or States’ Rights.” “Pruitt Has Quickly Gained “Elected as just the second Republican attorney general in state history in November 2010, Pruitt has quickly gained a national reputation for his Don Quixote-like advocacy of federalism and relentless efforts to challenge any federal law or action that he sees as an infringement on individual liberties or states' rights.” (Randy Ellis, “Pruitt Says His Job Is To Fight For State’s Rights,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, 10/7/12)

As Attorney General Pruitt Set Up A “Federalism Unit” To Fight “Unwarranted Regulation And Systematic Overreach By Federal Agencies.” “He threatened to sue over costs incurred because of illegal immigration and set up a federalism unit to fight ‘unwarranted regulation and systematic overreach by federal agencies, boards and offices.’ ‘As important as health care is, as important as these energy/EPA matters are, what's more important is something more fundamental, and that's the rule of law,’ Pruitt said.” (Rick Green, “Oklahoma Attorney General Awaits A Decision On His Obamacare Lawsuit,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, 8/31/14)

Threatening To Challenge Federal Government On Costs Incurred Because Of Illegal Immigration

As Attorney General, Pruitt Threatened To Sue Over Costs Incurred Because Of Illegal Immigration. “He threatened to sue over costs incurred because of illegal immigration and set up a federalism unit to fight ‘unwarranted regulation and systematic overreach by federal agencies, boards and offices.’ ‘As important as health care is, as important as these energy/EPA matters are, what's more

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Challenging Colorado's Marijuana Legalization

In 2014, As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt Filed A Lawsuit Asking The Supreme Court To Strike Down Colorado's Marijuana Legalization Laws. "Earlier this week Oklahoma and Nebraska filed a lawsuit with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the justices to strike down Colorado's marijuana legalization laws. Now, thousands of people are petitioning Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, asking them to withdraw the lawsuit." (Dallas Franklin, "New Petition Asks Oklahoma Attorney General To Withdraw Lawsuit Against Colorado," *NBC 4KFOR*, 12/20/14)

Challenging ObamaCare

In 2014, As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt Filed A Lawsuit Against ObamaCare, Challenging The Legality Of Tax Credits Given To Those Who Buy Coverage On The Health Care Exchanges. "Attorney General Scott Pruitt expects a decision any day now on a lawsuit he filed against Obamacare. But he doesn't call it that. 'I don't refer to the Affordable Care Act as Obamacare,' he said in an interview in his office Wednesday. 'I don't do that, because it's not personal. I try to do all that I can to de-politicize these cases.' The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Muskogee, challenges the legality of tax credits given to people who purchase health insurance on federal health care exchanges. It contends that under the act, such subsidies should be given only to people who buy insurance on state-based exchanges. Most states have not set up their own exchanges. Two similar lawsuits filed in other states have resulted in conflicting rulings in appellate courts, and the issue may end up before the U.S. Supreme Court." (Rick Green, "Oklahoma Attorney General Awaits A Decision On His Obamacare Lawsuit," *The Daily Oklahoman*, 8/31/14)

In 2013, As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt Said That ObamaCare Wasn't Constitutional Because The Government Was Forcing People To Buy Health Insurance. "According to a press release from Pruitt's office, he challenged the health care act's constitutionality under the Commerce Clause, specifically whether the federal government had the power to mandate individuals to buy health insurance." (James Neal, "State Attorney General Talks On Federalism, Death Penalty," *Enid News And Eagle*, 3/15/13)

Challenging Dodd-Frank

As Attorney General, Pruitt Challenged Dodd-Frank Saying It "Gives Regulators Unprecedented And Unchecked Authority To Make Significant Decisions..." "Last September Pruitt joined, along with several other attorneys general, a lawsuit originally filed by the National Bank of Big Spring (Texas) in June 2012. That lawsuit, which is pending, challenges the authority of federal regulators to close and liquidate financial institutions with little notice to the bank's investors. 'Dodd-Frank gives regulators unprecedented and unchecked authority to make significant decisions that affect Oklahoma families and businesses with little, if any, meaningful ability for our state pensions and community banks to recover,' Pruitt said in a September 2012 press release after joining the lawsuit. 'We must challenge Dodd-Frank to protect Oklahoma taxpayers and our financial stability. The law puts at risk the pension contributions and tax dollars that the people have entrusted us to protect.'" (James Neal, "State Attorney General Talks On Federalism, Death Penalty," *Enid News And Eagle*, 3/15/13)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Challenging The Construction Of An Oklahoma Casino

In 2012, As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt Filed A Lawsuit To Halt The Construction Of A Casino In Oklahoma. “U.S. Rep. John Sullivan said Saturday that Broken Arrow is at ‘ground zero’ of a controversy that will have a nationwide impact. Speaking at the Tulsa County Republican Convention, Sullivan said the Kialegee casino being built at the southwest corner of Olive Avenue (129th East Avenue) and Florence Street (111th Street) over the objections of many in the community is a ‘precedent-setting’ issue whose outcome will be noticed far outside the borders of Broken Arrow. ‘It effects all of us,’ Sullivan said. ‘It could happen in your backyard, too.’ Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has filed a pending federal lawsuit meant to halt the project. A May 2 hearing has been set in Tulsa federal court to consider Pruitt’s request for a preliminary injunction to stop construction. Sullivan said Saturday there are ‘a lot of eyeballs on this’ because he said opening a casino in such an area could open the door in Oklahoma and elsewhere for other such gaming developments in residential areas.” (David Harper, “Sullivan Speaks On Issues,” *Tulsa World*, 3/25/12)

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Republican Attorney’s General Association

Pruitt Served Two Terms As The President Of The Republican Attorneys General Association. “He is a national leader in the cause to restore the proper balance of power between the states and federal government, having served two terms as president of the Republican Attorneys General Association.” (“About The Attorney General,” [Oklahoma Office Of The Attorney General](#), Accessed 11/28/16)

Political Affiliation

According To GOP Data Center, Scott Pruitt Is Listed As A Registered Republican Voter In Tulsa, OK. According To Nexis, Scott Pruitt Is Listed As A Registered Republican Voter In Tulsa, OK. (GOP Data Center and Nexis, Accessed 11/28/16)

DEMOCRAT DONATIONS

No Records Found.

BUSINESSES/ASSOCIATIONS

Board Memberships

Scott Pruitt Is A Member Of The Board Of Trustees For The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. “Among those directing the future of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on the board of trustees are two men who also influence the direction of their states: Philip Gunn, speaker of the House of Representatives of Mississippi, and Scott Pruitt, attorney general of Oklahoma.” (“Southern Seminary Trustees Gunn, Pruitt Defending Religious Freedoms In Government,” [Southern News](#) 10/16/15)

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary’s President, Albert Mohler, Has Criticized Donald Trump Saying “He Believes Trump’s Reputation As A Casino-Owning Playboy Sets His Worldview In Direct Opposition To Traditional Christian Beliefs.” “A month out from the presidential election, R. Albert Mohler Jr. thrust himself into the middle of one of the most harrowing and venomous election cycles in American history. In a Washington Post column titled ‘Donald Trump has created an excruciating moment for evangelicals,’ Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, articulately outlined why he believes Trump’s reputation as a casino-owning playboy sets his worldview in direct opposition to traditional Christian beliefs. He simultaneously panned Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton as a disastrous choice for evangelicals based on her left-leaning views on issues such as abortion. ‘How could family values voters support a man who had, among other

things, stated openly that no man's wife was safe with him in the room? A casino titan who posed for the cover of Playboy magazine? A man who boasted that he did not repent of his (well-documented) sins and would not?' Mohler asks in the column." (Martin Finley, "Seminary Leader Mohler Likes Shaking Things Up In The National Political Spotlight," [Louisville Business First](#) 11/2/16)

Lobbying

No Records Found.

Search Results

No lobbying income or spending found.

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