



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT PRUITT TO FURTHER RESTRICT SCIENCE AT THE U.S. EPA:
RESPONSE FROM AFGE COUNCIL #238 PRESIDENT, JOHN O'GRADY**

Chicago, IL (March 19, 2018) – According to [E&E News](#), “in a closed-door meeting at the Heritage Foundation on March 12, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt told a group of conservatives that he has plans for additional science reform at the agency.”

In response, [John J. O'Grady](#), president of [AFGE National Council #238](#) and chief spokesperson for [Save the U.S. EPA](#), issued this response.

“I have read that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is expected to restrict the Agency's use of science in rule-makings,” O'Grady said. “I am sure that this initiative will be hailed by the climate science deniers in Congress, one of whom, during a March 2009 hearing of the House Energy Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, quoted Genesis 8:21-22 as proof that we do not need to worry about the impacts of climate change, such as rising oceans.

“Other high-ranking members apparently want to believe that federal climate scientists are engaged in a massive conspiracy to falsify climate data,” O'Grady added. “The only real conspiracy going on in Washington is the one that is funded by big oil and coal, to prop up their dying corporations, and continue to line their pockets of with gold.”

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2001 Synthesis Report](#) stated: “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen. Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.”

(more)

“Science aims to explain and understand the world we live in – the reality of it all; faith tries to explain the human relationship with God and others,” O’Grady explained. “Science and faith can be mutually compatible, enriching, and complementary once their proper domains are understood and respected.

“Sadly, religious fundamentalism wants to take over the realm of science in this country, and subject it to their fundamentalist views. In doing so, they are committing intellectual dishonesty, basing their interpretation of science on their incorrect and false interpretation of Sacred Scriptures,” O’Grady added.

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ABOUT AFGE COUNCIL 238

[AFGE Council 238](#) represents over 8,000 U.S. EPA employees nationwide, including environmental protection specialists, engineers, scientists and support staff nationwide through locals at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC, Research Triangle Park in NC, ten regional offices, the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in Corvallis and Newport, OR, National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor MI, and the Robert S. Kerr Research Laboratory in Ada, OK.

ABOUT SAVE THE U.S. EPA

[Save the U.S. EPA](#) is a national campaign being conducted by AFGE Council 238 and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) in an effort to stop the Trump Administration and EPA Administrator Pruitt from passing a budget that will virtually decimate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by drastically cutting or eliminating jobs and programs that are vital to the health and safety of America’s air, water, land and endangered species.

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