



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFGE COUNCIL 238 RESPONDS TO ACTING ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW WHEELER'S JULY 11 SPEECH

Washington, DC (July 11, 2018) – In response to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler's speech to EPA employees today, Denise D. Morrison, Acting President, AFGE National Council of EPA Locals #238 issued this statement:

“Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler will be more disciplined than his predecessor. However, today's monolog is simply a superficial attempt to plug the leaks and quell the dissent. A successful coal lobbyist doesn't change his stripes. He will continue to champion deregulation and permit big polluters to evade compliance altogether.

With Wheeler at the helm, we can expect EPA's enforcement pendulum to shift from exaggerated overreach to something dangerous that they call “enforcement discretion.” Plain and simple, this “regulatory certainty” is the new unregulated capitalism.

Quietly, Wheeler has replaced EPA's mandate to defend public health with political appointees who apply arbitrary science to protect industry, and put the kibosh on laws preventing air pollution, water contamination and toxic lands remediation.

AFGE Council #238 doesn't expect anything to change in this EPA, whose toothless enforcement represents a bar that is now too low to even trip over.”

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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 from further 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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