

It's The Environment, Mr. President-Elect!

Several cabinet level nominations, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have made public statements and articulated positions that favor weakening environmental regulation and protections. Weakening and undermining environmental protections and regulations will impair health, threaten natural resources, cost jobs and weaken the economy. In the next few weeks, we will examine some of the details of each of these points, with reference to documents to support each of these statements. At ESC, we will continue to rely on facts, hard data and scientific analysis.

But a few words and examples of some benefits of environmental protection are worth noting here. Health measures show improvement as a result of clean air and water, reducing fish contamination and managing waste properly. A simple example is that reducing air pollution results in lower rates of asthma, heart attacks and stroke.

Protecting water quality has reduced bacterial disease, reduced contaminants in surface water and drinking waters. Improved water quality has been part of successful habitat restoration and restoration of natural resource such as bald eagles, fish, oysters and frogs.

Numerous scientific and economic analyses have addressed the relationship between the economy, jobs, and environmental protection. Every measure and every analysis has demonstrated that a healthy environment drives a healthy economy and job growth. Economic growth and environmental quality are directly related; it's not a choice between the two.

Finally, the incoming administration is replete with climate change/global warming naysayers, some of whom are reportedly intent on dismantling current efforts and programs. Such dismantling will be a mistake of monumental proportions. In Hampton, Virginia; Bayonne, New Jersey; New Orleans, Louisiana and other coastal areas, global warming contributing to sea level rise is wreaking havoc. We ignore global warming at our peril.

The next few years will require a great deal of hard work on the environment.

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13 Dec 2016