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## People's Task Force on the Future of Superfund Voices from Contaminated Communities Across the Country

The Trump Administration and newly-appointed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt claim to desire to return Superfund cleanups “to their rightful place at the center of the EPA’s core mission”<sup>1</sup>, however their actions speak differently: their proposed budget includes a 30% cut in funding to the Superfund. Last month, he assembled a Task Force to provide recommendations for the future of Superfund<sup>2</sup>, however his memo raises major concerns about decreasing cleanup oversight, privileging corporate interests over public health, and a lack of community involvement.

We aren’t going to let him get away with this. We will not allow our voices to be drowned out by corporate interests. Local Superfund organizers from sites around the country have come together to create the People’s Task Force to advocate our recommendations on the future of Superfund, based on our years of on-the-ground experience. Representatives of over 20 Superfund sites and 70 environmental organizations have signed on to the People’s Task Force, which is being released to local and national media outlets today.

*“We need a strong EPA with strong enforcement authority to ensure our Superfund Alternative Site cleanup will be protective of our health and our environment. Now is not the time to cut either EPA’s enforcement authority or community involvement in ensuring the best possible cleanup.”*

-Marilyn Welker, People for Safe Water

Attached to this email are the People’s Task Force recommendations and the original EPA Memo.

So far, the Pruitt Administration has been markedly secretive: unlike previous administrators, he has never made his schedule publicly available, ignores Freedom of Information Act requests, and has imposed silence upon the Administrative Office’s phone line<sup>3</sup>. His Task Force has been similarly opaque: he has not disclosed who staffs the Task Force aside from Albert Kelly, a prior bank chairman with no environmental experience. Furthermore, despite the fact that the 30-day timeframe has expired, he has not released the Task Force recommendations or comments. Superfund cannot be led like a business -- decisions that affect the health of thousands of communities cannot be made behind closed doors by financially motivated industry stakeholders. This is why we have come together to publicly release our recommendations, and we urge Pruitt to act with integrity and do the same.

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[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/05/11/epa-head-says-he-wants-to-prioritize-superfund-cleanups/?utm\\_term=.6a7ed4254adc](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/05/11/epa-head-says-he-wants-to-prioritize-superfund-cleanups/?utm_term=.6a7ed4254adc)

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-superfund-task-force>

<https://newrepublic.com/article/142785/scott-pruitt-hiding>