

## Indivisible – Guardians of Democracy -- Meeting 2/12/2017

### Notes from the Environmental Interest Group Meeting

Members of this committee:

Mary McClelland     Joe Beeson     Bonniesue Wadleigh     George Wadleigh     Bob Schroyer

Communication Liaison:     Blair Alexander

Chair: Evelyn Malone

We took turns introducing ourselves & discussing environmental issues that concern us, especially in light of the new Trump Administration.

We listed several significant concerns, including:

- The changes already imposed on the US EPA and the dangers associated with the nominee for Director of that Agency – Pruitt
- The possibility of approval of the XL Keystone Pipeline (Canada to New Orleans) and the DAPL Pipeline (North Dakota to Illinois)
- Threat of the Federal Government turning public lands over to States for whatever they decide to do with them
- The steps already taken to eliminate many Federal Regulations because of their impact on businesses, regardless of the risks to our environment
- The biggest and most significant concern is the denial of global climate change by the President himself, his advisors and the nominees he has proposed to lead the US EPA and other related Federal Agencies.

We discussed the need for us to do more research on these issues to better understand the implications and how we need to address our concerns.

- To our surprise and appreciation, we later learned that Blair Alexander will serve as our liaison to the Research Team, and will assist in the research needed here.

We also discussed the need for our new Website to provide a way to alert members of action that is needed on short notice and to keep all of us aware of actions that other Teams are planning – so that we can all support each other in the various activities/actions that are needed.

- We were pleased to learn that the Communications Team is way ahead of us on how the website will provide a lot more support in this regard than we imagined

We also discussed how we need to be looking for progressive candidates that can run for local offices in our communities.

The **two priority actions** that we propose from the Environmental Team are:

- 1) Work to get our US Representative, Randy Hultgren to hold a public meeting where he meets with his constituents and answers our questions regarding his positions on

important concerns we have. We think that holding such a public meeting at McHenry County College would be a good location. We also discussed the possibility of having the County College invite him here for such a meeting. He will be out of DC and into his District the week of Feb 20-24, 2017.

Contact Info for requesting a meeting with Randy:

<https://hultgren.house.gov/contact/invite-randy-to-speak>

If we can get this meeting to happen, we would need to have a pre-meeting to prepare our Indivisible Members with questions to ask him. We would want to get the Press to cover this meeting and report on how he answers our questions. We might also want to video tape the meeting to hold him accountable for what he says.

We learned that **Margie Brunner** works at the MCC and might be able to help us get the College involved in sponsoring this meeting.

- 2) We need to get our Members and friends to contact their US Senators regarding the nomination of Scott Pruitt for the Director of the US EPA, He has been the AG for the State of Oklahoma and been a strong supporter of the petroleum industry. He has filed many law suits against the EPA – challenging environmental regulations that are not to their liking. The Senate will be meeting this week - Feb. 14-18, 2017 to consider his approval. **We need to get the Alert out to our members to call our US Senators this week.**