

Dean Cathann Kress,

As members of the Ohio State Sierra Student Coalition and students in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences, we are concerned by the appointment of Clint Woods to the position of Director of Strategic Partnerships. This issue was brought to our attention by members of The Central Ohio Sierra Club and the research director of Public Citizen's Corporate Presidency Project, who personally reached out to our student-led club of environmental advocates. We consider it problematic that Woods, the former deputy assistant administrator of the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, a position integral in the Trump administration's environmental regulation rollbacks, will be assuming a position of power in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences. The OSU Sierra Club Student Coalition believes that Clint Woods does not personify the CFAES mission to transform CFAES into a college that values "Sustainability, One Health, Rural-Urban Interface, and Leadership"

As current students, we ask that CFAES strives to constantly engage in sustainability through partnerships, new initiatives, and community engagement. We ask that the College be held accountable and transparent with the actions and intents of its directors. We are concerned because Woods:

- Has been sued by environmental organizations in connection to Illinois EPA's flip-flop on smog regulation where there was "no air-quality justification for the change, instead referencing unspecified and outside-the-record 'discussions' between [U.S.] EPA and Illinois EPA<sup>1</sup>."
- Along with EPA Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson, under pressure from the chemical industry, delayed release of a study detailing cancer risks from formaldehyde by refusing to give his permission to initiate the agency review process for the assessment and refusing offers from EPA scientists to brief him on it<sup>2</sup>.
- Held position as the Executive Director of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA), which was formed by members of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) who felt that the NACAA was "taking positions in favor of climate regulations against the consensus of its members<sup>3</sup>."
- Directed the energy, environment, and agriculture task force at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), an organization that, on the "Environmental Stewardship" section of its homepage, says, in regard to concern about the current state of America's environmental health, that, "The reality of the situation, however, is that it is an amazing time to be living in the U.S. and environmental quality has hardly ever been better than it is today<sup>3</sup>."

According to the CFAES mission, the College will "engage communities in relationships, decisions, policies, and practices with staff, grantees, community members, alumni and partners." As stakeholders in the College, we are requesting more information on the decision to hire Clint Woods into a crucial leadership position. This includes a more detailed description of the role the Director of Strategic Partnerships, especially regarding their responsibilities to "generate opportunities to integrate needs from external partners," and a description of the interests of Nationwide Mutual Insurance, Co. in the appointment of Woods to this position.

Thank you for allowing the OSU Sierra Student Coalition and students of CFAES to voice these serious concerns.

Respectfully,

Luke Bobay  
Callia Tellez  
Brian Bush

Ohio State Sierra Student Coalition

1. Reilly, S. (2019). Emails link flip-flop on Illinois smog to Pruitt deputy. Retrieved from <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060344547/>.
2. Volcovici, V. (2018). Pressured by industry, U.S. EPA slows formaldehyde study release: documents. Retrieved from [reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-formaldehyde/pressured-by-industry-u-sepa-slows-formaldehyde-study-release-documents-idUSKCN1IP3EX](https://reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-formaldehyde/pressured-by-industry-u-sepa-slows-formaldehyde-study-release-documents-idUSKCN1IP3EX).
3. Peterka, A. (2015). Renegade regulators group takes aim at EPA advisers, regs. Retrieved from <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060011652>.