

## **THE FAILED REPUBLICAN RECORD: THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **BUSH-CHENEY ROLL BACK PROTECTIONS FOR FORESTS, CLEAN WATER**

Shortly after taking office, President issued a 90-day moratorium on all new Federal rules, including those that would protect nearly 60 million acres of national forests from logging and road building; and reduce arsenic in drinking water by 80 percent.

### **BUSH-CHENEY REJECT EFFORTS TO REVERSE GLOBAL WARMING**

The Administration unilaterally rejected the Kyoto Global Warming Treaty, rather than working with other nations to fix it, in spite of ten years of peer-reviewed research that proves that global warming poses a significant threat to the United States.

### **BUSH-CHENEY SUPPORT INDUSTRY-DRIVEN ENERGY PLAN**

Promoted the Cheney Energy Task Force report, an industry-driven plan that calls for despoiling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and emphasizes an increased reliance on oil, coal, and nuclear power.

### **BUSH-CHENEY FUNDING CUTS PUT CLEAN WATER IN JEOPARDY**

Although water quality has improved significantly over the past decade, America's water and sewer infrastructure is aging – much of it more than 30 years old and portions in cities now more than 100 years old or older. In spite of an estimated a shortfall of roughly \$300 billion for water and sewer infrastructure projects, President Bush has proposed to cut funding this year by one-third for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and to completely eliminate grants targeted to over 500 individual communities for critical water and sewer infrastructure improvements. In total, the President has slashed assistance for local communities for clean and safe water in this area by \$910 million.

### **NEW BUSH-CHENEY REGULATIONS UNDERMINE CLEAN WATER**

The Bush-Cheney Administration has weakened clean water protections through a series of regulatory decisions. Examples include more lenient standards for dumping sewage into waterways during storms, permission to pump wastewater into underground wells, which can seep into the aquifers, and exemptions for energy companies from rules regarding polluted runoff from refinery operations.

### **AIR POLLUTIONS REMAINS A SERIOUS THREAT**

While the United States has made great progress in addressing air pollution, soot and toxic substances in the air we breathe still pose a significant threat to millions of Americans. In April, the EPA announced that 159 million people live in counties that fail to meet our health-based smog standard. Smog has been linked to a variety of pulmonary disorders, including asthma. Soot pollution is also a serious problem in many parts of the country and has been linked to a broad range of health issues, including cardio-vascular diseases and various forms of cancer.

### **BUSH-CHENEY “CLEAR SKIES” SLOWS PROGRESS ON CLEAN AIR**

The centerpiece of the Bush-Cheney Administration’s clean air program is its “Clear Skies” plan. Clear Skies does less to reduce pollution than the current law and grants longer terms for compliance than enforcing our current law because it repeals or delays protections under the existing Clean Air Act. Clear Skies fails to address carbon dioxide pollution from power plants, the major cause of global warming, breaking another of Candidate Bush’s 2000 campaign promises.

### **BUSH-CHENEY “NEW SOURCE” RULES ALLOW PLANTS TO POLLUTE MORE**

The Administration is weakening “New Source Review” program requirements that are supposed to ensure that older factories do more to control keep the air clean if they increase the amount of pollutants they put into the air. The Administration has opened a loophole that allows utility companies to rebuild old power plants without installing current technology to protect public health. In effect, exempted old power plants become new again – but avoid complying with the stronger clean air standards that apply to new plants.

### **NEW MERCURY REGULATION LEAVES PREGNANT WOMEN, CHILDREN AT-RISK**

The Administration is attempting to weaken laws that protect children from mercury and other hazardous chemicals from power plants, which represent the largest source of mercury pollution in the country. Mercury affects childhood development, and according to the EPA, 630,000 children in the United States are in danger of neurological damage because of mercury levels in their mother’s blood. EPA’s own data shows that the Bush administration's new mercury rule would allow power plants to emit three times more mercury pollution than the current law requires – for a decade longer.

### **BUSH-CHENEY SUPERFUND MAKES PUBLIC, NOT POLLUTERS, PAY FOR CLEANUPS**

The original Superfund mandated that clean-up costs were to be financed by a tax on large chemical companies. When the Superfund tax expired in 1995, the new Republican Majority in Congress refused to renew it, and the Bush Administration now backs them up. As a result, the trust fund for cleaning up sites has been steadily depleted and 100 percent of the cleanup cost now falls on consumers – cost that for 20 years was considered the responsibility of big chemical companies.

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