

For Immediate Release

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Pennsylvanians Say No to Corbett's Climate Change-Denying DEP Chief Choice

Kutztown, PA – Pennsylvanians sent a strong message to their state senators this week, telling them that the Department of Environmental Protection should not be led by someone who denies the realities of climate change. More than 10,000 petition signatures, emails, and calls flooded senate offices since Abruzzo told the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee he doesn't think climate change is a matter of great concern.

"Pennsylvanians are outraged to learn that a climate change denier was not just nominated, but approved 10 – 1 by the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then confirmed by the full senate to head the agency tasked with protecting our environment. Mr. Abruzzo does not understand the reality of climate change, much less the urgency in addressing it. His lack of credentials made him a questionable candidate; his views on climate change made him an absolutely unacceptable candidate," said Karen Feridun, founder of Berks Gas Truth.

"We are disappointed with DEP Secretary Nominee Abruzzo's position on climate change," said Steve Hvozdoch, Marcellus Shale Coordinator, Clean Water Action. "The affects of climate change are a big deal for Pennsylvania. We need leadership at DEP that will strongly advocate for continued solutions to this issue as well as others like natural gas drilling water contamination that threaten our Commonwealth."

"The science on climate change is clear: More extreme weather like Superstorm Sandy that impacted millions of Americans and more droughts that are devastating crops in the Midwest," said Adam Garber, Field Director for PennEnvironment. "We are running out of time to prevent even worse impacts from climate change. Pennsylvanians deserve somebody who is ready to tackle the biggest environmental threat of our generation from day one."

"Pennsylvania needs an environmental agency head who is cognizant of the dangers of climate change but instead the Governor and Legislature opted for a throwback who denies any harm from this century's most far-reaching environmental threat. Chris Abruzzo is the wrong person in the wrong job at the wrong time and public health and the environment will pay the price," said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

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