Environmental Policy in the Pruitt EPA

a discussion with Catherine J. LaCroix J.D.

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February 16, 2018 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Dampeer Room, 2nd Floor of Kelvin Smith Library
11201 Euclid Ave

During his election campaign, President Trump promised to eliminate the "Department of Environmental Protection." "We're going to have little tidbits left," he explained, "but we're going to get most of it out." The 2016 Republican platform proposed responsibility for environmental regulation be shifted to the states, and regulation of CO2 levels forbidden. Trump's transition team advisor for environmental issues, Myron Ebell, described the environmental movement as "the greatest threat to freedom in the modern world," but said abolition was only "an aspirational goal." President Trump's first budget proposed a 31% cut to EPA resources.

Presidents, however, don't implement policy directly – and often know little about the details. So EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has the most influence on environmental policy, for as long as he serves. While Pruitt has claimed EPA does "very important work" on water and air pollution issues that cross state lines, he has long accused the agency of overreach, violating the rule of law and principles of federalism. As Administrator he has begun rolling back regulations, such as the Clean Power rule; but perhaps more importantly he has shaped EPA's enforcement, or non-enforcement of existing rules.

What, then, is the record of the Pruitt EPA? Is it as anti-environment as environmentalists claim? Can he accomplish what they fear? Catherine LaCroix has taught environmental law at CWRU for two decades, and joins us to discuss what is being done and what might be done.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/