



National Federation of Democratic Women Resolution #2 To Prevent Gutting the Environmental Protection Agency

WHEREAS, from day one of the Trump Administration, there has been a systematic effort to dismantle the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). Regardless of data that demonstrate dirty air and polluted water and soil trigger asthma and other respiratory ailments as well as various cancers, the President's agenda favors gutting regulations over maintaining protections. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he has halted rules mandated by the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts; and

WHEREAS, *The New York Times* reported a study by Harvard Law School and Columbia Law School and other resources that specifies more than 60 environmental rules and regulations that have been officially reversed, revoked, or otherwise rolled under by the Trump Administration (*NYT* May 6, 2020). Some of the changes include scaling back pollution protections for certain tributaries and wetlands that were regulated by the Clean Water Act from the Obama administration. A rule was revoked that prevented coal companies from dumping mining debris into local streams; and a proposed rule was withdrawn that would have reduced pollutants, including air pollution, at sewage treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, an additional 34 rollbacks are still in progress, including exempting certain types of power plants from parts of an EPA rule limiting toxic discharge into public waters. Trump has even attempted to weaken federal rules regulating the disposal and storage of coal ash waste from power plants, but a court stopped this rollback because it was too dangerous. Trump has also proposed weakening a portion of the Clean Water Act to make it easier for the EPA to issue permits for federal projects over state objections if the projects don't meet local water quality standards, including those for pipelines and other fossil fuel facilities. Another detrimental action eliminates rules that would cut carbon emissions by 32 percent by 2030, further weakening Obama-era fuel economy rules.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Federation of Democratic Women exhorts all NFDW members to demand that Congress take a stand in opposition to the Trump Administration's attacks on the environment and specifically the EPA. Furthermore, we call upon Congress to recognize the urgency of climate science, focusing on the health of people and the planet as a major issue during the 2020 election.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee and the Legislative Committee

Adopted by the NFDW Members at the 49th National Convention on June 13, 2020