



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

PROTECTING EMPLOYEES WHO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

No Soap for EPA Employees

Dear Supporter,

Just when EPA employees thought things couldn't get any worse...

In June, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt [took away free gym memberships](#) and fitness benefits for all employees, declaring them a waste of funds.

As of December 1, the EPA Headquarters fitness center in the Reagan Building will no longer be providing body soap for employees. Don't be surprised if EPA starts charging its staff for toilet paper after the New Year.

Even more galling, since Pruitt ended free fitness center membership, EPA HQ employees (who are the biggest users of the gym besides small units of a handful of other agencies) now pay a fee of \$13 every two weeks or \$338 annually. Other agency employees sharing the fitness center with (such as USAID) don't have to pay a fee for the privilege of packing in their own body wash.



Go Suds Yourself. Notice posted at EPA Headquarters fitness center.

EPA employees say this is one of the stupidest things since Jimmy Carter turned off the hot water in federal buildings as an energy conservation measure. Even Ronald Reagan (for whom the Ronald Reagan Fitness Center is named) provided soap and hot water to employees in order to encourage good hygiene and prevent the spread of disease and illnesses.

Since Donald Trump [does not believe in exercise](#), perhaps he is trying to save wear and tear on the federal employees he obviously values the most.

More likely, this is yet another Pruitt ploy to increase attrition. How are employees supposed to relieve the tension from long, tedious meetings plotting to undo EPA's job-killing regulations? BTW, the free EPA gym benefits cost taxpayers less than a million dollars agency-wide per year. No telling how infinitesimal these shampoo savings will be.

EPA employees asked PEER to share this moment of petty persecution with you – the people they actually work for. Please [support our efforts](#) to provide them a safe outlet for illuminating what is going on behind closed doors – even in the locker room.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ruch
Executive Director

P.S. New Hermit Kingdom. With [Syria signing onto the Paris Climate Accords](#), the U.S. is the planet's only remaining outlier. But Interior's Ryan Zinke wants to keep us engaged abroad through his creation of an International Wildlife Conservation Council to promote the "[economic benefits that result from U.S. citizens traveling abroad to hunt](#)."

After all, what can unite the world faster than rich Americans who safari into poor countries to [shoot trophy animals](#)?



Outdoor Recreation Requires a Rifle. Despite the deep decline in hunting's popularity, it is the sole form of outdoor recreation Interior's Zinke thinks needs federal support.

P.P.S. Brown Uniforms for Green Workers. Offered as a morale booster inside Interior, plans for new uniform designs have a snag – specs that require [anti-microbial and other pesticide chemicals be woven into the fabric](#). These new duds for 35,000 national park, refuge and other

green employees may bring new health risks to them and their families while risking contamination of ecologically sensitive lands and waters. Can't these guys get anything right?

P.P.P.S. The Perfect Stocking Stuffer. PEER "Undercover Activist" underwear is back. This time around, [both men's and women's boxers and women's briefs are available](#) (the latter in several colors while the boxers only come in all shades of white). Wear your allegiance proudly but covertly.



P.P.P.P.S. Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. PEER will be participating for the second time this year, and our theme is PEER Defending Science.

Please donate to PEER, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and spread the word about PEER among your friends, relatives, co-workers and random strangers you meet on the bus.