

Environmental Media Release

Bush EPA Nominee – Pyrite

(Nashville, TN, 3-4-05) The Bush nomination of Dr. Stephen Johnson to head the Environmental Protection Agency is akin to pyrite – fool’s gold – it appears to be just what one is looking for, but upon further inspection it reveals its true nature.

“With due respect to Mr. Johnson and his abilities, it does not matter who is in charge of the EPA. Mr. Bush has the worst environmental record of any modern administration, and that is not changing. Just like the miner who finds pyrite and thinks he has struck gold, anyone who puts faith in this appointment will be disappointed,” said Will Callaway, Executive Director for the Tennessee Environmental Council.

Callaway added, “Tennesseans should be equally concerned about the failed policies of the Bredesen administration. When it comes to protecting the environment here at home, I would give the Department of Environment and Conservation a ‘D.’ That’s a passing grade but just barely. The commissioner at TDEC provides minimal leadership to guard against air and water pollution in our state.”

Johnson, who served as acting administrator at EPA, has been with the agency for nearly 25 years. He is one of the last cabinet level appointments for the second term of the Bush administration, and, like so many announcements that are met with skepticism, the news of his nomination comes on a Friday afternoon.

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