

January 30, 2025

United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senators,

As a broad coalition of organizations representing millions of Americans from all walks of life, we strongly oppose the nomination of Russ Vought to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and ask you to oppose his confirmation. Russ Vought is not a run-of-the-mill nominee. His previous actions while leading OMB and his well-documented plans in Project 2025 for remaking how the federal government functions demonstrate his intent to chart a reckless path that will impact every area of US policy from reproductive health to the environment, from national security to Medicare and Medicaid. His record serves as a clear warning sign that he will continue to try to upset the constitutional balance of powers by working to expand executive powers to push a radical agenda without accountability.

Vought's actions during his previous stint at OMB should disqualify him from a return to any senior leadership position in the federal government. From 2018 to 2020, he used his perch to slow down the delivery of billions of dollars of congressionally approved disaster aid to Puerto Rico to assist in their recovery from Hurricane Maria. In 2019, while serving as Acting Director, he defied the will of Congress and oversaw what the Government Accountability Office called the illegal freezing of a \$400 million military aid package to Ukraine. And, in the final days of his tenure at OMB, Vought sought to reclassify 88% of OMB's personnel as political appointees, stripping these public servants of their federal civil service protections and vastly expanding the role of partisan politics in the administration of government.

Since leaving the federal government, Vought has continued sharpening and publicizing his radical policy ideas that are not what Americans voted for. Vought is known as a key architect of Project 2025, an extreme playbook for remaking the federal government that President Trump has called "ridiculous and abysmal." Vought has said that he "wants to be the person that crushes the deep state," that career public servants should be villainized and experience so much "trauma" that they don't want to go to work anymore, and that "the whole notion of an independent agency should be thrown out." He also has called for the undoing of critical investments that reduce pollution and make energy more affordable and wants to exercise greater power over the scientists who produce the National Climate Assessment required by Congress. He told reporters that he would pursue an anti-abortion agenda directly at odds with President Trump's public positioning, assuring that "people like me" would work to enact nationwide restrictions on reproductive health and rights.

Importantly, Vought has taken actions that highlight his disregard for the role of Congress as an equal branch of government. He has said there is an "existential" need for the President to make more aggressive use of his powers and has said he would use his position as OMB Director to help the President consolidate his authority. He has shown that he is willing to ignore legal directives from Congress in pursuit of his own agenda, such as his stated support for withholding congressionally approved spending – a practice known as impoundment – to drastically cut spending across the federal government. Vought has also written articles that make the case that "bipartisan normally means it's bad," and that Republicans should have a willingness to shut down the government and "embrace the sort of brinkmanship that shows they are playing to win."

Vought's record of stripping the rights of nonpartisan civil servants and his rhetoric targeting the work of federal agencies make clear that he's on a mission to enfeeble the government, not manage it. The Office of Management and Budget performs an essential role to oversee the spending and performance of the federal agencies and professional staff we depend on to provide essential services, implement needed protections, and protect a functioning democracy. Through his actions and statements, Vought has shown that he's uniquely unqualified to direct that vital work.

Please oppose Russ Vought's confirmation as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)

Center for Coalfield Justice

Change the Chamber

Clean Air Council

Clean Water Action

Climate Action Campaign

Colorado Jewish Climate Action

Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

Earthjustice

Earthjustice Action

Earthworks

EDF Action

Elders Climate Action

Endangered Species Coalition

Green The Church

GreenLatinos

Indivisible

Jewish Earth Alliance- PA

Latino Victory Project

League of Conservation Voters

Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

Moms Clean Air Force

Montana Wildlife Federation

Mountain Mamas

National Urban League

PAI

Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility PA

Planned Parenthood Action Fund

Quaker Action - Mid-Atlantic Region

Sierra Club

The Center for Science in the Public Interest
(CSPI)

The Institute for a Progressive Nevada

Western Watersheds Project