



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

KEEPING AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 AND THE EPA

The environment knows no borders, therefore, the protection of our country's land, seas, and skies necessarily involves responsible federal governance, engagement, and cooperation to ensure our national welfare. In light of the recent Supreme Court decision and having just celebrated our country's birthday, Emerald Keepers is taking this moment to review a key turning point in the history of environmentalism in America — the Nixon administration era's broad swath of *bipartisan* legislative action and the congressional establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency.

WEST VIRGINIA V. EPA (2022)

The Supreme Court ruled last week that the Clean Air Act does NOT give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *broad authority* to regulate emissions from installations that contribute to global warming. Specifically, the court determined the EPA does NOT have authority to regulate the carbon dioxide emissions of coal-fired power plants in an effort to transition away from the use of this fossil fuel-generated electricity. In the majority opinion, Chief Justice Roberts writes, "A decision of such magnitude and consequence rests with Congress itself or an agency acting pursuant to a clear delegation from that representative body."

THE EPA IN REVIEW: A BIPARTISAN INSTITUTION CREATED BY THE PRESIDENT, HOUSE, AND SENATE

Amid growing public concern for deteriorating city air, use of harmful insecticides, litter, and urban water contamination, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 ignited a pivotal bipartisan period of federal environmental action with a swath of foundational legislation and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency in December 1970.

Encouraging "productive and enjoyable harmony between [people] and [their] environment," promoting efforts to "eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere," stimulating the "health and welfare" of humanity, and enriching the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation, the NEPA and subsequent legislative action, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, significantly enhanced the capacity of the U.S. government to address environmental problems.

WHAT DOES THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION MEAN FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL CLIMATE ACTION?

• A reversal to federal capacity to mitigate the causes of climate change.



The Environmental Protection Agency is headquartered in Washington, D.C.



- A boon to the fossil fuel industry to push back on environmental progress and resist positive transition away from carbon neutral goals.
- A judicial approach that limits and disrupts federal environmental action and hinders national strategies to protect the American public in line with scientific recommendations.



WHAT IS EMERALD KEEPERS' GOAL AND WHY?

In line with the nonpartisan foundational work of the NEPA, Emerald Keepers seeks to 1) continue the enrichment of ecological understanding, invigorating environmental action at a local level amongst the citizens, business community, and government of Coronado and 2) foster a harmonious, sustainable mindset that will not only make Coronado *OCEAN BLUE*, *EMERALD GREEN*, but serve as a model to other communities.

LEARN MORE

For more information about EPA contributions to our national environmental well-being, go to epa.gov/history/milestones-epa-and-environmental-history or scan the QR code, where you will find an interactive timeline and a fun EPA history game.



For more information visit EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG