LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS
2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

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Below is a selection of quotes and coverage of how the presidential candidates from both parties have spoken about the Clean Power Plan, and their plans, if any, for reducing carbon pollution.

DONALD TRUMP (R)

Trump: Environmental Regulations Put The U.S. "At A Tremendous Disadvantage"; Energy Industry Has "So Many Regulations They Can't Breathe." During an August 2016 interview, Trump had the following exchange with reporter Patricia Mazzei:

> **TRUMP:** They have so many environmental regulations that you go to other countries, where they don't have that, it puts us at a tremendous disadvantage.
>
> **MAZZEI:** So those regulations that are in place here – are they necessary?
>
> **TRUMP:** Well, not all of them, no. Not all regulations. If you look at what's happening in the energy industry, if you look at what's happening in certain industries, they're being made to be noncompetitive. They've taken everything out of them. They have so many regulations that they can't breathe. They have people who handle nothing but regulations.
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> [Miami Herald, 8/11/16]

Trump: "I Am A Huge Believer In Clean Water And Clean Air. Crystal Clean Water And Air." During an August 2016 interview, Trump said, "I am a huge believer in clean water and clean air. Crystal clean water and air. I'm a very big believer in that and we have a lot to do with that – keeping our water clean, and keeping our air clean." [Miami Herald, 8/11/16]

Trump: "Anti-Energy" Clean Power Plan Have Shut Down Power Plants "Entirely" Or Forced Them To Undergo "Expensive Conversions." During an August 2016 economic policy speech, Trump said, "The Obama-Clinton Administration has blocked and destroyed millions of jobs through their anti-energy regulations, while raising the price of electricity for both families and businesses. As a result of recent Obama EPA actions coal-fired power plants across Michigan have either shut down entirely or undergone expensive conversions. The Obama-Clinton war on coal has cost Michigan over 50,000 jobs." [NPR, 8/8/16]

Trump Would "Rescind" The Clean Power Plan. In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said that in his first 100 days in office, he would "rescind all the job-destroying Obama executive actions including the Climate Action Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule." [Donald Trump Press Release, 5/26/16]

Donald Trump has repeatedly called for abolishing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA in charged with executing and enforcing the Clean Power Plan; if Trump eliminated the agency itself, the Clean Power Plan would go with it.

Trump Suggested That He Would Abolish The EPA. During an October 2015 appearance on Fox News Sunday, Trump had the following exchange with host Chris Wallace:

> **WALLACE:** Would you cut serve -- would you cut departments?
>
> **TRUMP:** No, I'm not cutting services, but I'm cutting spending. But I may cut Department of Education. I believe Common Core is a very bad thing. I believe that we should be no -- you know, educating our children from Iowa, from New Hampshire, from South Carolina, from California, from New York. I think that it should be local education. If you look at a Jeb Bush and some of these others, they want them to be educated by Washington, D.C. bureaucrats. So the Department of Education is one. Environmental Protection, what they do

is a disgrace. Every week they come out with new regulations. They're making it impossible…

WALLACE: Who's going to protect the environment?

TRUMP: We'll be fine with the environment. We can leave a little bit, but you can't destroy businesses.

[Fox News Sunday, 10/18/15]

Huffington Post Headline: "Donald Trump Would Cut Department Of Education, EPA." [Huffington Post, 10/18/15]

Trump: In Order To Bring Down Deficit, "We Have Tremendous Cutting To Do," Including The Dept. Of Education And The EPA. In October 2015, Trump spoke at a No Labels convention, where he had the following exchange with an audience member:

QUESTION: Specifically, what are you going to be doing about the $18 trillion deficit?

TRUMP: All right. Well, what we're going to do, I mean, we do -- and by the way, it's now $19 trillion -- so we have now $19 trillion in deficits, $19 trillion. You know, if you look, we owe -- when I say that -- we owe -- this is what you're talking about -- we owe $19 trillion as a country, and we are going to knock it down and we are going to bring it down big league and quickly. We're going to bring jobs back, we are going to bring business back. We are going -- we are going to stop our deficits. We're going stop our deficits. We are going to do it very quickly. Oh, how? Are you ready? Number one, we have tremendous cutting to do. You have a Department of Education that is totally out of control, massive costs. And you know, most of the -- and some of the Republican candidates like Common Core. I am totally against Common Core. I want local education. When I am in New Hampshire and Iowa and South Carolina, I want -- so important. So we're going to have that. We're going to save on Department of Environmental Protection [sic] because they're not doing it. They're not doing their job and they are making it impossible for our country to compete, and many, many other things. Hundreds of billions of dollars is going to be saved just in terms of running government.

In addition to that, I'm going to bring millions of jobs back into this country.

[No Labels, 10/12/15]

When Asked What Departments He Would Cut "Right Away," Trump Named The EPA And Dept. Of Education. In September 2015, Trump had the following exchange with Fox News host Bill O'Reilly:

O'REILLY: Give me one big thing you're going to cut, right away.

TRUMP: I'm going to cut [the] big, big Department of Education, as an example … I'm all for education, I want it to be local. Department of Education – tremendous cuts. "Department of Environmental Protection [sic], where they're actually going around and causing damage, as opposing to saving damage – tremendous amounts of money, tremendous fraud, tremendous abuse."

[Fox News, 9/29/15]

HILLARY CLINTON (D)

Sec. Clinton: Senate Needs To Confirm Merrick Garland To Supreme Court To Counter The Attacks On The Clean Power Plan From "Fossil Fuels And The Right." During an April 14, 2016 Democratic primary debate in Brooklyn, NY, Sec. Clinton said, "I have laid out a set of actions that build on what President Obama was able to accomplish, building on the Clean Power Plan, which is currently under attack by fossil fuels and the right in the Supreme Court, which is one of the reasons why we need to get the Supreme Court justice that President Obama has nominated to be confirmed so that we can actually continue to make progress." [Washington Post, 4/14/16]

Sec. Clinton: Combatting Climate Change Means Supporting The Clean Power Plan. During a March 9, 2016 Democratic primary debate in Miami, Sec. Clinton said, "We also do have to combat climate change, and no state has more at stake in that than Florida. And the best way to do that is not only enforcing the laws we have, but also the clean power plan that President Obama has put forth that I support, and the Paris agreement that I think was a huge step forward in the world, that Senator Sanders said was too weak, but I helped to lay the groundwork for that." [Washington Post, 3/9/16]

Sec. Clinton: "In Addition To Defending" The Clean Power Plan, "We Need A Clear Economic Program That Goes Hand-In-Hand With Combatting Climate Change." On November 9, 2015, Sec. Clinton received an endorsement from the League of Conservation Voters. During her remarks, she said, "I have been very clear that combatting climate change is not only the right thing to do, in order to preserve our planet [and] to deal with the threats that it poses, but it can be a very smart economic approach as well. Why? In addition to defending President Obama's historic gains that he's made, starting with the Clean Power Plan, but others as well, we need a clear economic program that goes hand-in-hand with combatting climate change … Building on the Clean Power Plan, I will launch a clean energy challenge to partner with states, cities, and rural America to accelerate clean energy deployment, building efficiency, and clean transportation." [PSB Satellite YouTube Channel, 11/9/15]

Sec. Clinton: "Modernizing North American Energy Infrastructure" Meant Building On The Momentum Of The Clean Power Plan To "Ensure That National Carbon Policies Take Advantage Of Integrated Markets." In September 2015, Sec. Clinton released an energy plan for "modernizing North American energy infrastructure." One of the plan's pillars aimed to "build on the momentum created by the Clean Power Plan, which sets the first national limits on carbon pollution from the energy sector, and regional emissions trading schemes in Canada, Mexico, and the United States to drive low carbon power generation across the continent, modernize our interconnected electrical grid, and ensure that national carbon policies take advantage of integrated markets." [Hillary Clinton, 9/23/15]

Sec. Clinton: Clean Power Plan Is A "Significant Step" To Combat Climate Change, And "As President, I'd Defend It." In an August 2015 press release, Sec. Clinton said, "The Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan is a significant step forward in meeting the urgent threat of climate change. It sets a smart federal standard that gives states the flexibility to choose how to reduce carbon pollution most effectively. And it drives investments in clean energy and energy efficiency, reduces asthma attacks and premature deaths, and promotes a healthier environment and a stronger economy. It's a good plan, and as President, I'd defend it … Of course, the Clean Power Plan standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further." [Hillary Clinton Press Release, 8/2/15]