



Because the next President will determine whether we continue to make progress or slide backward in the fight against the climate crisis, the League of Conservation Voters is urging every presidential candidate to be explicit about their plans to combat the greatest challenge of our time. The next President must create real and lasting solutions that cut carbon pollution while creating a clean energy future that continues to improve the economy and creates jobs. As they hit the campaign trail all the presidential candidates have an opportunity to demonstrate exactly how they would do that.

Below is a selection of quotes and coverage of how the announced candidates (and potential candidates) from both parties have spoken about the science of climate change, and their plans, if any, for tackling this historic challenge.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

### JEB BUSH (R)

**Gov. Bush Admitted That The Climate Is Changing, But “Questions The Percentage Of Human Involvement.”** During a July 2014 interview with the Union leader, Gov. Bush “said the climate is changing, but questions the percentage of human involvement. ‘I think it’s appropriate to recognize the climate is changing and invest in the proper research to find solutions over the long haul, but not be alarmist about it,’ Bush said. ‘Not say ‘end is near,’ not de-industrialize the country, not create barriers for higher growth, not just totally obliterate family budgets.’” [Union Leader, [7/9/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Addressing Climate Change Should Not “Create Hardship” For The Middle Class.** In June 2015, the New York Times reported, “In recent months, Mr. Bush has framed a more centrist position on climate change than most of the Republican presidential field, or than earlier in his career. While not embracing President Obama’s efforts to limit carbon emissions from power plants, Mr. Bush said the federal government should ‘create incentives for adapting to this.’” He told reporters, “I live in Miami, a place where this will have an impact over the long haul, and I think we need to develop a consensus about how to approach this without hollowing out our industrial core, without taking jobs away from people, without creating more hardship for the middle class of this country.” Gov. Bush also expressed that “there are technological solutions for just about everything, and I’m sure there’s one for this as well.” [New York Times, [6/17/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: “There’s A Debate” Whether Or Not The “Science Is In” On Climate Change.** During a June 2015 Fox News interview, host Sean Hannity asked Gov. Bush, “Does climate change – everyone, the president says the science is in. It’s all been determined. Are you there? Where are you on climate change?” Gov. Bush responded, “I think there’s a debate about that. I do think the great story is that we’ve reduced our carbon footprint not because of anything government has done. We’ve reduced it because of American ingenuity and American know-how being applied to increase the natural gas consumption in this country that’s reduced carbon emissions.” [Fox News, [6/17/15](#)]

**Reacting To The Pope’s Encyclical Calling For Action On Climate Change, Gov. Bush Said He Doesn’t Get “Economic Policy From My Bishops Or My Cardinals Or My Pope,” Adding That Religion Should Not Get Into Political Realm.** During a town hall event in New Hampshire, Gov. Bush reacts to the Pope’s leaked draft encyclical, saying, “I hope I’m not going to get castigated for saying this by my priest back home, but I don’t get economic policy from my bishops or

my cardinals or my pope.” He added that he wanted to see exactly what the pope recommended “before I pass judgment, but I think religion ought to be about making us better as people, less about things [that] end up getting into the political realm, so I am a little skeptical about this.” [Huffington Post, [6/16/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: It’s “Intellectual Arrogance” To Agree With Scientists About Humans Driving Climate Change.** In May 2015, Huffington Post wrote, ‘Likely Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said ... that while he acknowledges ‘the climate is changing,’ he’s not clear on the extent to which human activity may be causing those changes. ‘I don’t think the science is clear of what percentage is man-made and what percentage is natural. It’s convoluted,’ the former Florida governor said at an event in Bedford, New Hampshire. ‘For the people to say the science is decided on this is really arrogant, to be honest with you,’ he said, according to CNN. ‘It’s this intellectual arrogance that now you can’t have a conversation about it, even. The climate is changing. We need to adapt to that reality.’ [Huffington Post, [5/21/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Climate Change Should Be “Small Part” Of American Foreign Policy; Decrease In Carbon Emissions Rates Was Due To Fracking, Horizontal Drilling, And Increased Use Of Natural Gas.** In May 2015, Gov. Bush “said that climate change should be just “part of, a small part of prioritization of our foreign policy.” He suggested that the United States should encourage countries that have higher carbon emissions rates to reduce them. But, he added, ‘We’ve had a pretty significant decrease and we’ll continue on, not because of Barack Obama, but because of the energy revolution.’ He credited hydraulic fracking, horizontal drilling and an increased use of natural gas for helping cut American carbon emissions.” [Post Politics blog, [Washington Post, 5/20/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Climate Change Was Not “The Highest Priority.”** In May 2015, Gov. Bush said of climate change, “I don’t think it’s the highest priority ... I don’t think we should ignore it, either. Generally, I think as conservatives we should embrace innovation, embrace technology, embrace science. It’s the source of a lot more solutions than any government-imposed idea and sometimes I sense that we pull back from the embrace of these things. We shouldn’t. We’re the party that should be the party of discovery, the party of science, the party of innovation and tear down the barriers so that those things can accelerate in our lives to find solutions for all these things.” [Post Politics blog, [Washington Post, 5/20/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Issue Of Climate Change “Has Been Co-Opted By The Hard-Core Left And If You Don’t March To Their Beat Perfectly Then You’re A Denier.”** In a May 2015 interview with the Daily Signal, Gov. Bush said, “The problem is climate change has been co-opted by the hard-core left and if you don’t march to their beat perfectly then you’re a denier. ... The climate is changing. I don’t think anybody can argue that it’s not. I don’t think anybody truly knows what percentage of this is man-made and which percentage is just the natural evolution of what happens over time on this planet. I think we have a responsibility to adapt to what the possibilities are without destroying our economy, without hollowing out our industrial core. There are things that we can do that are commonsensical about this.” [Daily Signal, [5/21/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: “Climate Is Changing, And I’m Concerned About That,” But “I’m More Concerned About ... The Hollowing Out Of Our Ability To Compete In An Increasingly Competitive World.”** In April 2015, Gov. Bush spoke at the New England Council’s “Politics and Eggs” series in New Hampshire, where he “fielded a question about whether his energy policy would take the environment into account. ‘The climate is changing and I’m concerned about that,’ Bush responded. ‘But to be honest with you, I’m more concerned about the hollowing out of our country, the hollowing out of our industrial core, the hollowing out of our ability to compete in an increasingly competitive world.’ Bush argued that the U.S. has reduced carbon emissions through conservation and an increased reliance on cheap natural gas. ‘We can continue to reduce carbon emissions by taking advantage of the abundance of natural gas,’ he said.” [The Hill, [4/17/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: No Consensus Among Scientists That Climate Change Is “Disproportionately Manmade,” “I Get A Little Tired Of ... This Idea That Somehow Science Has Decided All This So You Can’t Have A View.”** During an August 2011

Fox Business interview on the topic of climate change, Gov. Bush said, “It is not unanimous among scientists that it is disproportionately manmade. What I get a little tired of on the left is this idea that somehow science has decided all this so you can’t have a view. Science has decided that embryonic stem cell research is the way to go and if you don’t agree with that then somehow you’re Cro-Magnon Man or something like that.” [Fox Business, [8/23/11](#)]

## BEN CARSON (R)

**Dr. Carson: “There’s Always Going To Be Either Cooling Or Warming Going On. As Far As I’m Concerned, That’s Irrelevant.”** In November 2014, during an interview in Iowa, Dr. Carson said, “There’s always going to be either cooling or warming going on. As far as I’m concerned, that’s irrelevant. What is relevant is that we have an obligation and a responsibility to protect our environment.” [Bloomberg News, [11/26/14](#)]

**Dr. Carson Op-Ed: “To Use Climate Change As An Excuse Not To Develop Our God-Given Resources Makes Little Sense.”** In a March 2014 [Washington Times](#) op-ed, Dr. Carson wrote, “Whether we are experiencing global warming or a coming ice age, which was predicted the 1970s, we as responsible human beings must be concerned about our surroundings and what we will pass on to future generations. However, to use climate change as an excuse not to develop our God-given resources makes little sense. Expanding our wealth of energy resources, as well as encouraging development of new renewable energy sources, can provide an enormous economic lift with obvious benefits, but it can also bolster our role as a formidable player in the struggle for world leadership.” [Dr. Carson op-ed, [Washington Times](#), [3/25/14](#)]

## CHRIS CHRISTIE (R)

**Gov. Christie Believed People Contribute To Climate Change, But He Wasn’t Sure How Much.** During a July 2015 roundtable discussion in New Hampshire, Gov. Christie said that “he believes people contribute to climate change (he just doesn’t know how much they contribute).” [NJ.com, [7/5/15](#)]

**Gov. Christie: Climate Change Is Happening, But The Discussion On How To Deal With It Should Not Be “This Big Scientific Argument.”** In a July 2014 WMUR interview, Gov. Christie said, “That’s where I think we should have the climate change discussion – what do we do? Not this big scientific argument. I’m not a scientist. But I do know that climate change is happening.” [Forecast the Facts YouTube Channel, [7/2/14](#)]

**Gov. Christie: Climate Change Did Not Cause Hurricane Sandy.** At an Iowa town hall speaking about extreme weather, Gov. Chris Christie said, “I don’t know, nor has anybody else proven to my satisfaction, that it is climate change that is causing some of these storms... I haven’t seen anything, at least at this point, that’s definitive to me that it was climate change that caused Superstorm Sandy.” [Washington Times, [6/12/15](#)]

**Gov. Christie: Man-Made Climate Change Is Real, But “There Needs To Be More Discussion About The Degree To Which Humans Play A Role.”** In May 2015, Gov. Christie spoke at a New Hampshire country club and said, “I think global warming is real. I don’t think that’s deniable. And I do think human activity contributes to it.” According to MSNBC, “He added, however, that there needs to be more discussion about the degree to which humans play a role.” [MSNBC, [5/7/15](#)]

**Gov. Christie: Climate Change Is Real; There Is “Undeniable Data” That Greenhouse Gas Levels In The Atmosphere Are Increasing.** During a May 2011 press conference, Gov. Christie said, “In the past I’ve always said that climate change is real and it’s impacting our state. There’s undeniable data that CO2 levels and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are increasing. This decade, average temperatures have been rising. Temperature changes are affecting weather

patterns and our climate. In order to best deal with climate change, we have to understand its causes... I'm certainly not a scientist, which is the first problem. So I can't claim to fully understand all of this, certainly not after just a few months of study. But when you have over 90 percent of the world's scientists who have studied this stating that climate change is occurring and that humans play a contributing role, it's time to defer to the experts." [GovChristie YouTube Channel, [5/26/11](#)]

**November 2010: Gov. Christie Was "Skeptical That Humans Are Responsible For Global Warming," Adding That He Needed "More Science" To Be Convinced.** During a November 2010 town hall meeting in Toms River, Gov. Christie said he was "skeptical that humans are responsible for global warming ... Asked by a man attending the event whether he thought mankind was responsible for global warming, Christie says he's seen evidence on both sides of the argument but thinks it hasn't been proven one way or another. Christie says 'more science' is needed to convince him." [Associated Press, [11/10/10](#)]

## **TED CRUZ (R)**

**Sen. Cruz: Climate Change, Which Is "More Government Control Over Our Lives And The Economy," Can Never Be Disproven, Which Makes It The Perfect Political Issue.** In June 2015, Sen. Cruz conversed with a climate scientist at Drake University. During the discussion, Sen. Cruz said, "Even global warming – and by the way, the solution to global cooling was more government control over our lives and the economy. The solution to global warming is more government control over our lives and the economy. The third permutation was climate change, which I have to say, from a political perspective – I'm not a scientist – but from a political perspective, climate change is the perfect theory. As you know, the scientific [method] is you start with a hypothesis that can get disproven by evidence. Climate change can never be disproven because whether it gets hotter or colder, wetter or drier, there's always change. And so, it's the politicians' perfect theory." [Scott Galindez YouTube Channel, [6/29/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: Climate Change Is A "Pseudoscientific Theory."** During a June 2015 Yahoo interview with Katie Couric, Sen. Cruz calls climate change is a "pseudoscientific theory" stating that, "satellite data shows there has been no significant recorded warming. None. When the satellites are measuring the temperature — it's not happening." He adds, "climate change is being driven by politicians who want more control over our lives." [Yahoo Politics, [6/29/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: "Global Warming Alarmists Are The Equivalent Of Flat-Earthers."** In a March 2015 interview with the Texas Tribune, Sen. Cruz said, "Today, the global warming alarmists are the equivalent of the flat-Earthers. It used to be [that] it is accepted scientific wisdom the Earth is flat, and this heretic named Galileo was branded a denier." Sen. Cruz added, "I'm a big believer that we should follow the science, and follow the evidence. If you look at global warming alarmists, they don't like to look at the actual facts and the data. The satellite data demonstrate that there has been no significant warming whatsoever for 17 years." [Texas Tribune, [3/24/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: Global Warming Is Not Happening; Satellites Show That There's Been "Zero Warming" For The Last Seventeen Years.** In a March 2015 interview on Late Night with Seth Meyers, Sen. Cruz said, "My view, actually, is simple. Debates on this should follow science and should follow data. And many of the alarmists on global warming, they've got a problem because the science doesn't back them up. In particular, satellite data demonstrate that for the last 17 years, there's been zero warming – none whatsoever. Remember how it used to be called global warming, and then magically the theory changed to climate change? The reason is, it wasn't warming. But the computer models still say it is, except the satellites show it's not." [Late Night with Seth Meyers, [3/16/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz Voted Against Stating That Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor To Climate Change.** In January 2015, Sen. Cruz voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Schatz (D-HI) – which expresses the sense of Congress that

climate change is real and that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change. 2014 was the hottest year on record, and this amendment references the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other scientific institutions. Requiring a three-fifths vote, the amendment failed 50-49. [SA 58 to SA 2 to S 1, [Vote 12](#), 1/21/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 12](#)]

## CARLY FIORINA (R)

**Fiorina: Innovation Is The Solution To Climate Change.** In June 2015, Carly Fiorina tweeted, “One nation acting alone will make no difference in climate change, the answer is innovation.” [Carly Fiorina Twitter, [6/25/15](#)]

**Fiorina Accepted The Science Behind Man-Made Climate Change, But Didn’t See The Point In Acting On It.** During a May 2015 interview on Late Night with Seth Meyers, Fiorina said, “I’m prepared to take the scientists at their word. Scientists say climate change is man-made. The problem is, we never finished the scientists’ sentence, because the rest of what the scientists all agree on is a single nation acting alone can make no difference at all. So why would we destroy all these jobs with regulations when the answer to climate change is innovation, not regulation? We’re just kind of shooting ourselves in the head and in the foot right now.” [Late Night with Seth Meyers, [5/6/15](#)]

**Fiorina: Scientists Say One Nation Can’t Affect Climate Change, So Why Should We Bother? U.S. Should Focus On Clean Coal Technology And Innovation, In Order To Keep Up With The Chinese.** During a May 2015 Yahoo! interview with Katie Couric, Fiorina said, “I think we have to read all the fine print. Every one of the scientists that tell us that climate change is real and being caused by man-made activity also tell us that a single nation acting alone can make no difference at all. So when I see a state like California destroy lives and livelihoods with environmental regulations that will make no difference at all to climate change, when I see the Obama administration take that same regulation and apply it nationally, it will make no difference at all. And yet, we’re destroying people’s lives and livelihoods. I wonder, why are we doing this? Why are we doing this when it won’t have any impact? I think the answer to this problem is innovation, not regulation. But I must say, it angers me when liberals say, I’m prepared for you to lose your job in the name of sending a signal to, whom? China could care less. In fact, China is delighted that we are not spending any time or energy figuring out clean coal because they’re going to go do it.” Asked what should be done to “focus on this issue,” Fiorina added, “I think we have to focus on innovation. We have to focus on how to make coal cleaner. Coal provides half the energy in this nation, still, not to mention around the world. So to say we’re going to basically outlaw coal, which is what this administration has done, is so self-defeating. It destroys jobs. It destroys communities. It’s not helping us. It’s not helping global warming. Let’s get on with the innovation about how to make sure we actually have clean coal technology. The Chinese will do it if we don’t. And they are doing it.” [Yahoo! News, [5/4/15](#)]

**Fiorina: California’s Actions to Combat Climate Change Will Have “No Effect At All.”** In an April 2015 interview with MSNBC, Fiorina stated, “Let’s say global warming or climate change has played a role in [California’s drought]. What all the scientists also tell us is that a single state, or single nation acting alone can make no difference acting alone. If we want to accept the science, we have to read the fine print. California can be the most onerous regulatory regime in the world, which they are, and it won’t make a bit of difference in climate change.” [MSNBC, [4/6/15](#)]

**Fiorina: “Lot Of Consensus Among The Scientists That Climate Change Is Real And Human Activity Contributes To It,” But There Doesn’t Appear To Be Anything A Single Country Can Do About It.** At a February 2015 event hosted by the New England Council and New Hampshire Institute of Politics, Fiorina said, “There is a lot of consensus among the scientists that climate change is real and human activity contributes to it. There is also absolute consensus among the same scientists that a single nation acting alone can make no difference at all.” [CSPAN, [2/10/15](#)]

**Carly Fiorina Op-Ed Headline: “Companies Shouldn’t Cave In To The Demands Of Climate Change Activists.”** [Carly

Fiorina op-ed, [Washington Post](#), [10/24/14](#)]

**Fiorina Op-Ed: Climate Change Is A Big Issue Without Obvious Solutions; While American Families Still Struggle, Is It Fair To Commit To “Energy Policy That Puts U.S. Jobs, And The Economy, At Risk?”** In an October 2014 [Washington Post](#) op-ed, Fiorina wrote, “Climate change is a big issue; informed discussion is desperately needed and solutions are not immediately obvious. It is counterproductive and dishonest to assign people and companies to one of only two possible camps when complicated policy and economic issues need to be addressed. Decisions on climate revolve around energy production and consumption, which in turn have implications in such vital areas as job growth, innovation, global air quality, grid maintenance and power generation. These are not small considerations. When discussing climate, scientists may agree that some policy change is warranted, but they also agree that action by a single state or nation will make little difference. China and India are the biggest and third-biggest producers, respectively, of carbon dioxide emissions, and their leaders were absent from the recent U.N. Climate Summit. At a time when American families are still recovering from joblessness and the recession, should the United States commit to an energy policy that puts U.S. jobs, and the economy, at risk?” [Carly Fiorina op-ed, [Washington Post](#), [10/24/14](#)]

## LINDSEY GRAHAM (R)

**Sen. Graham: I’m Not A Scientist, But Why Don’t My Fellow Republicans Believe Those Who Are?** In a July 2015 interview on Late Night with Seth Meyers, Sen. Graham said, “I’m not a scientist, and you know why I can say that? Because I’m not ... The bottom line is, I know I’m not a scientist, but here’s the problem I’ve got with some people in my party. When you ask the scientists what’s going on, why don’t you believe them? If I went to ten doctors, and nine said, ‘You’re going to die,’ and one said, ‘You’re fine,’ why would I believe the one guy?” [Late Night with Seth Meyers, [7/15/15](#)]

**Sen. Graham “Absolutely” Believed In Man-Made Climate Change, Saying, “When 90% Of Doctors Say You Have A Problem,” It’s Unwise To Listen To The Small Minority That Disagree.** In a CNN interview, Lindsey Graham said, “If I’m President of the United States we are going to address climate change and CO2 emissions in a business friendly way. We are going to find oil and gas that we own because we are going to use fossil fuels for a long time to come but it is ok to set lower carbon targets.” When asked if he believe in man-made climate change he responded, “Yes I do. Absolutely. When 90% of doctors say you have a problem, do you listen to the [10 percent]?” [CNN, [6/7/15](#)]

**Sen. Graham Voted For Legislation Acknowledging The Reality of Climate Change, And Calling On Congress To Act To Cut Carbon Pollution.** In March 2015, Sen. Graham voted in favor of legislation – sponsored by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) – which would acknowledge the reality of climate change and call on Congress to take action to cut carbon pollution. The amendment was rejected 49-50. [SA 777 to S Con Res 11, [Vote 89](#), 3/25/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 89](#)]

**Sen. Graham Voted For Stating That Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor To Climate Change.** In January 2015, Sen. Graham voted for legislation – sponsored by Sen. Schatz (D-HI) – which expresses the sense of Congress that climate change is real and that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change. 2014 was the hottest year on record, and this amendment references the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other scientific institutions. Requiring a three-fifths vote, the amendment failed 50-49. [SA 58 to SA 2 to S 1, [Vote 12](#), 1/21/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 12](#)]

**Sen. Graham: “I Do Believe That Climate Change Is Real.”** In a June 2015 interview on CNN’s State of the Union, Sen. Graham “said that his party lacked an environmental policy.” He stated, “I do believe that climate change is real ... I want a business solution to that problem.” [[New York Times](#), [6/7/15](#)]

**Sen. Graham Believed That “Climate Change Is A Problem And That It Is Caused By Human Activity.”** In June 2015, the New York Times wrote, “Unlike other Republican presidential contenders, Mr. Graham believes that climate change is a problem and that it is caused by human activity. But he is concerned about using federal laws to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, saying he wants to make an issue of whether ‘you have to destroy the economy to solve the problem’ of global warming.” [New York Times, [6/2/15](#)]

## **MIKE HUCKABEE (R)**

**Gov. Huckabee: Science On Climate Change Is Not Settled.** During a June 2015 interview on NBC’s Meet the Press, host Chuck Todd asked Gov. Huckabee, “To the key point of climate change: a) do you believe it’s manmade? And b), do you think government -- that if you’re elected president, this has to be on your agenda?” Gov. Huckabee responded, “Whether it’s manmade or not, I know that when I was in college, I was being taught if we didn’t act very quickly that we were going to be entering a global freezing. And, you know, go back and look at the covers of TIME and Newsweek from the early ‘70s. And we were told if we didn’t do something by 1980, we would be popsicles. Now we’re all told we’re all burning up. Science is not as settled on that as is it on some things.” [NBC News, [6/21/15](#)]

**Gov. Huckabee Likened The Effects Of Climate Change To Getting A Sunburn.** At a January 2015 speech at the Iowa Freedom Summit, “Mike Huckabee mocked the notion that climate change is a major threat to Americans in a speech to conservative activists ... ‘A beheading is a far greater threat to an American than a sunburn,’ cracked Huckabee, referring to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, and its tactic of beheading its enemies. The line drew laughter and applause from the grassroots faithful at Rep. Steve King’s Iowa Freedom Summit. The former governor of Arkansas and Fox News personality was reacting to President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address, in which he identified climate change as the greatest threat to the country’s future.” [Politico, [1/25/15](#)]

## **BOBBY JINDAL (R)**

**Gov. Jindal: “I’m Sure That Human Activity Has Some Impact On The Environment. How Much, I’ll Leave To The Scientists.”** During a July 2015 interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity, Gov. Jindal said, “Look, I’m sure that human activity has some impact on the environment. How much I’ll leave it to scientists. Here’s what I know from a policy perspective, two things. We can have a strong economy, affordable energy, and protect our environment. This president doesn’t believe you can do all of those things. Secondly, we shouldn’t be doing anything that unilaterally hurts our economy vis-a-vis our competitors, countries we compete with and trade with like this president is doing with China. So he’s hurting our economy, not making them do anything in the short term.” [Fox News, [7/6/15](#)]

**Gov. Jindal Agreed That The “Climate Is Always Changing,” But Questioned The “Role Of Humans In That Change.”** Gov. Jindal’s September 2014 energy plan states, “Nobody disputes that the climate is always changing. The question is what is the role of humans in that change—and what, if any, dangers that change presents for Americans. However, the highly politicized nature of this debate has taken real, practical solutions to address potential climate risks off the table.” [Gov. Jindal Energy Plan, [September 2014](#)]

**Gov. Jindal “Accepts The Idea That Human Activities Are Causing Some Amount Of Global Climate Change, But The ‘Real Question Is How Much.’”** In September 2014, the Los Angeles Times reported, “Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal ... released an energy plan that calls for expanded oil and gas production and reversing the Obama administration’s efforts against climate change ... Jindal’s 44-page energy plan, unveiled initially at a breakfast for Washington reporters sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, includes a number of planks that virtually all Republicans agree on -- approval of the Keystone Pipeline from Canada to the Gulf Coast, for example, and eliminating ‘burdensome regulations’ ... ‘Let the scientists decide the underlying facts,’ Jindal said at the breakfast, adding that he accepts the idea that human

activities are causing some amount of global climate change, but ‘the real question is how much.’” [[Los Angeles Times, 9/16/14](#)]

## JOHN KASICH (R)

**Gov. Kasich: “We Shouldn’t Worship The Environment ... I Don’t Know That Anybody Is Fully Sure Of All The Causes And All The Science” Behind Climate Change.** During a July 2015 interview with Financial Times, Gov. Kasich said, “I respect what the Pope said. My feeling is what he said, what Francis of Assisi said ... that we have an obligation to the environment. In Ohio, we’ve tended to the lake, our beautiful Lake Erie. We’ve reduced emissions in Ohio by 30 percent over the last 10 years. Of course we’ve got to be concerned about it. But we shouldn’t worship the environment. I wouldn’t want to create any kind of dramatic economic policy, because I’m still not sure – I don’t know that anybody is fully sure of all the causes and all the science.” [[Financial Times, 7/13/15](#)]

**Gov. Kasich Acknowledged Climate Change, But Didn’t Seem To Want To Do Much About It.** In May 2012, [The Hill](#) wrote, “Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) acknowledged ... that his belief in climate change cuts against the grain in the Republican Party, but don’t look for him to embrace Environmental Protection Agency regulations any time soon. ‘I am a believer — my goodness I am a Republican — I happen to believe there is a problem with climate change. I don’t want to overreact to it, I can’t measure it all, but I respect the creation that the Lord has given us and I want to make sure we protect it,’ Kasich said at a Columbus, Ohio, energy conference hosted by [The Hill](#). ‘But we can’t overreact to it and make things up, but it is something we have to recognize is a problem,’ Kasich said.” [[The Hill, 5/2/12](#)]

**Gov. Kasich: “There Is A Problem With ... Climate Change In The Atmosphere. I Believe It,” But “I Don’t Know How Much There Is.”** At an April 2012 GOP fundraiser, Gov. Kasich said, “This isn’t popular to always say, but I believe there is a problem with climates, climate change in the atmosphere. I believe it. I don’t know how much there is, but I also know the good Lord wants us to be good stewards of his creation. And so, at the end of the day, if we can find these breakthroughs to help us have a cleaner environment, I’m all for it.” [[Columbus Dispatch, 4/10/12](#)]

## GEORGE PATAKI (R)

**Gov. Pataki Believed That Climate Change Was Real.** In May 2015, PBS reported, “Pataki, who co-chaired the Council on Foreign Relation’s 2007 task force on the issue, believes climate change is a real and scientifically proven. In his opinion, it is best combated through private initiatives. The former governor turned environmental consultant opposes government regulation of emissions.” [[PBS News Hour, 5/28/15](#)]

## RAND PAUL (R)

**Sen. Paul Voted Against Legislation Acknowledging The Reality of Climate Change, And Calling On Congress To Act To Cut Carbon Pollution.** In March 2015, Sen. Paul voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) – which would acknowledge the reality of climate change and call on Congress to take action to cut carbon pollution. The amendment was rejected 49-50. [SA 777 to S Con Res 11, [Vote 89](#), 3/25/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 89](#)]

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1/21/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 12](#)]

**Sen. Paul: “Abundant Evidence That Carbon Is Increasing, And Has Increased Since The Industrial Age.”** During a November 2014 appearance on Real Time with Bill Maher, Sen. Paul said, “There’s abundant evidence that carbon is increasing, and has increased since the Industrial Age. All I ask for is that the solution has to be a balanced solution, and that you have to account for jobs, and jobs lost by regulation. I’m not against regulation, I think the environment has been cleaned up dramatically through regulations on emissions, as well as clean water over the last forty or fifty years, but I don’t want to shut down all forms of energy such that thousands and thousands of people lose jobs. Plus, we’re a growing population, and as we grow, we need more energy, and maybe cleaner energy will supplant less clean energy over time, and it already is. But I don’t think that shutting down dramatically one form of energy is a good idea for an economy.” [Real Time with Bill Maher, [11/10/14](#)]

**Sen. Paul: “If We’re Going To Say The Statue Of Liberty’s Drowning, That’s Alarmist.”** During a November 2014 appearance on Real Time with Bill Maher, Sen. Paul said, “If we’re going to say the Statue of Liberty’s drowning, that’s alarmist. And we just can’t get to any kind of middle ground.” [Real Time with Bill Maher, [11/10/14](#)]

**Sen. Paul: Science Behind Climate Change Is Inconclusive; “People Who Tie Extreme Weather To A Changing Climate” Are “Ignorant” And “Alarmists.”** In an April 2014 interview, Sen. Paul said that the “science behind climate change is ‘not conclusive,’ calling people who tie extreme weather to a changing climate ignorant. ... Paul said the earth goes through periods of time when the climate changes, but he's ‘not sure anybody exactly knows why.’ And ‘the conclusions you make from that are not conclusive,’ Paul, a possible 2016 Republican presidential hopeful, said.” Additionally, Sen. Paul “doesn't back ‘alarmist’ claims that the earth is headed toward a downward spiral due to increasing temperatures. ‘That alarmist stuff really detracts from the case that we shouldn't pollute,’ Paul said.” [The Hill, [4/23/14](#)]

## RICK PERRY (R)

**Gov. Perry: Unclear What Role Humans Have In Climate Change.** In June 2015, a spokesman for Gov. Perry said, “Gov. Perry believes the climate is always changing, but it's not clear what role humans have in it.” [AP, [6/19/15](#)]

**When Asked If The Science Behind Climate Change Was Real, Gov. Perry Avoided The Question.** In June 2015, Fox News host Sean Hannity asked Gov. Perry, “The president recently said that one of our biggest national security threats. Real, maybe science not conclusive, where do you stand?” Gov. Perry responded, “I want to look at results. And in the 14 years I was governor in the state of Texas, we added 5.6 million to our population. That's a lot of pickup trucks, Sean, driving out on the road, nonpoint source pollution, all of that refining capability on our gulf coast. And we lowered nitrogen oxide levels by 62.5 percent, sulfur dioxide levels by 50 percent, ozone levels by 23 percent, carbon dioxide by nine percent. Now, no matter where you are in the global climate change debate, wasn't that the goal? And so my point is, there's some examples in the 12th largest economy in the world. They did this with an incentive-based approach to this. So we need to be having not split people up. I mean, this president is such a divider. Let's agree that we can do some things together. Whether it's on criminal justice reform, whether it's on getting this country back working again, whether it's on how we develop our security and keep America safe, that there are things we are agree on. And Democrats and Republicans, let's not divide ourselves. Let's bring ourselves together and find the solution.” [Fox News, [6/4/15](#)]

**Gov. Perry Continues To Reject The Science Behind Climate Change.** As Gov. Perry gears up for his 2016 presidential bid, he shared “at least one thing in common with most of his competitors ... He rejects the science behind climate change. ... Despite the smart-guy glasses he's donned since his last presidential bid, the 2016 version of Candidate Perry is still a consistent skeptic when it comes to humanity's role in warming the planet.” [Mother Jones, [6/4/15](#)]

**June 2014: Gov. Perry Did Not Believe Climate Change Was “Settle Science By Any Sense Of The Imagination,” Adding, “I’m Not A Scientist.”** During a June 2014 roundtable with several reporters, Gov. Perry “offered a scathing critique of the Obama administration’s policies on climate change, including regulations proposed ... to cut carbon emissions ... ‘I don’t believe that we have the settled science by any sense of the imagination to stop that kind of economic opportunity’ offered by an expansion of oil and gas exploration, and approval of the Keystone pipeline, which would bring crude oil from Canada’s tar sands to the Gulf Coast ... ‘I’m not a scientist,’ he said. But ‘short term, I’m substantially more concerned about Iran changing the temperature of New York’ – an allusion to a nuclear attack – than about potential climate change 50 years from now stemming from today’s environmental policies. If you disagree, ‘you’re a denier,’ he said, paraphrasing the president. ‘I’m offended by that.’” [Dallas Morning News, [6/19/14](#)]

**Gov. Perry Was “Adamant That Carbon Dioxide Is Not, In Fact, A Pollutant.”** During a June 2014 roundtable with several reporters, Gov. Perry was “adamant that carbon dioxide is not, in fact, a pollutant. Curbing the use of coal will ‘strangle our economy,’ he asserted. ‘Calling CO2 a pollutant is doing a disservice the country, and I believe a disservice to the world,’ he said.” [Dallas Morning News, [6/19/14](#)]

## MARCO RUBIO (R)

**Sen. Rubio Voted Against Legislation Acknowledging The Reality of Climate Change, And Calling On Congress To Act To Cut Carbon Pollution.** In March 2015, Sen. Rubio voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) – which would acknowledge the reality of climate change and call on Congress to take action to cut carbon pollution. The amendment was rejected 49-50. [SA 777 to S Con Res 11, [Vote 89](#), 3/25/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 89](#)]

**Sen. Rubio Voted Against Stating That Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor To Climate Change.** In January 2015, Sen. Rubio voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Schatz (D-HI) – which expresses the sense of Congress that climate change is real and that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change. 2014 was the hottest year on record, and this amendment references the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other scientific institutions. Requiring a three-fifths vote, the amendment failed 50-49. [SA 58 to SA 2 to S 1, [Vote 12](#), 1/21/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 12](#)]

**Sen. Rubio: “I Don’t Agree” With Scientists Who Say That “Action We Can Take Today ... Would Actually Have An Impact On What’s Happening In Our Climate.”** During a May 2014 interview with ABC News’s Jonathan Karl, Sen. Rubio said, “I don’t agree with the notion that some are putting out there, including scientists, that somehow, there are actions we can take today that would actually have an impact on what’s happening in our climate. Our climate is always changing. And what they have chosen to do is take a handful of decades of research and - and say that this is now evidence of a longer-term trend that’s directly and almost solely attributable to man-made activity... I do not agree with that.” [ABC News, [5/13/14](#)]

**Sen. Rubio Did Not Believe In Man-Made Climate Change “The Way These Scientists Are Portraying It.”** In a May 2014 interview on ABC’s This Week, Sen. Rubio said, “I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it. And I do not believe that the laws that they propose we pass will do anything about it. Except it will destroy our economy.” [PolitiFact, [5/13/14](#)]

**Sen. Rubio In 2010: “I’m Not A Scientist,” But “I Don’t Think There’s The Scientific Evidence To Justify” Man-Made Global Warming.** In February 2010, Sen. Rubio said that he “doesn’t accept the scientific evidence for global warming,” stating, “I don’t think there’s the scientific evidence to justify it.” The [Tampa Tribune](#) reported, “Asked whether he accepts the scientific evidence that the global climate is undergoing change, he responded, ‘The climate is always

changing. The climate is never static. The question is whether it's caused by man-made activity and whether it justifies economically destructive government regulation.' Rubio hasn't previously denied global warming outright in published statements on the issue. In December [2009], he told The Miami Herald, 'I'm not a scientist. I'm not qualified to make that decision. There's a significant scientific dispute about that.'" [Tampa Tribune, [3/22/13](#)]

## **RICK SANTORUM (R)**

**Sen. Santorum: "Can You Imagine If Instead Of The President Spending All Of His Time Talking About Global Warming, If He Talked About The Importance Of Marriage ... And Actual Promoting Marriage?"** In a June 2015 interview with Fox News's Tucker Carlson, Sen. Santorum said, "Can you imagine if instead of this president spending all his time talking about global warming, if he talked about the importance of marriage and fathers and mothers taking responsibility and raising their children in healthy homes, and actually promoting marriage? ... And actually have programs that support the idea of marriage and togetherness in order to raise children. That, to me, is the most important thing we can do as a society, is begin to lift up marriage as an institution that's important for the survival of our country because too many children are falling through the cracks." [Raw Story YouTube Channel, [6/28/15](#); Fox News, 6/28/15]

**When Asked About The Pope's Encyclical Calling For Action On Climate Change, Sen. Santorum Suggested That The Church Is "Better Off Leaving Science To The Scientists."** During a June 2015 interview with Philadelphia talk radio host Dom Giordano, Sen. Santorum was asked about Pope Francis's encyclical on climate change. Sen. Santorum replied, "The Church has gotten it wrong a few times on science, and I think we're probably better off leaving science to the scientists and focus on what we're really good on, which is theology and morality. When we get involved with political and controversial scientific theories, then I think the church is probably not as forceful and credible." [CBS, [6/1/15](#)]

**Sen. Santorum Wouldn't Say Whether Human Activity Contributed To Climate Change.** In a January 2015 CNN interview, Sen. Santorum said, "Is the climate warming? Clearly over the past, you know, 15 or 20 years...yes. The question is, is man having a significant impact on that." [National Journal, [2016 Guide to Republicans and Climate Change](#)]

**Sen. Santorum: Climate Change Is A Hoax; Science Has Been "Hijacked By Politicians On The Left ... To Create Panic ... And To be Able To Step In And Even More Greatly Control Your Life."** In February 2012, a day before the Colorado caucuses, "Rick Santorum dismissed climate change as "a hoax" and advocated an energy plan heavy on fossil fuels. 'We were put on this Earth as creatures of God to have dominion over the Earth, to use it wisely and steward it wisely, but for our benefit not for the Earth's benefit,' Santorum told an audience at the Colorado School of Mines where he was a guest speaker Monday at the Colorado Energy Summit. 'We are the intelligent beings that know how to manage things and through the course of science and discovery if we can be better stewards of this environment, then we should not let the vagaries of nature destroy what we have helped create,' Santorum said to applause from the conservative crowd. The former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania argued that science has been hijacked by politicians on the left, and that climate change is 'an absolute travesty of scientific research that was motivated by those who, in my opinion, saw this as an opportunity to create a panic and a crisis for government to be able to step in and even more greatly control your life,' Santorum said." Sen. Santorum added, "I for one never bought the hoax. I for one understand just from science that there are one hundred factors that influence the climate. To suggest that one minor factor of which man's contribution is a minor factor in the determining ingredient in the sauce that affects the entire global warming and cooling is just absurd on its face. And yet we have politicians running to the ramparts — unfortunately politicians who happen to be running for the Republican nomination for president — who bought into man-made global warming and bought into cap and trade." [Colorado Independent, [2/6/12](#)]

**Sen. Santorum: Climate Change Was Based On "Junk Science" That Was A "Beautifully Concocted Scheme" By The**

**Government To “Regulate Your Life Some More.”** In June 2011, Sen. Santorum said, "I believe the earth gets warmer and I also believe the earth gets cooler. And I think history points out that it does that and that the idea that man, through the production of CO2 — which is a trace gas in the atmosphere, and the man-made part of that trace gas is itself a trace gas — is somehow responsible for climate change is, I think, just patently absurd when you consider all the other factors, El Niño, La Niña, sunspots, moisture in the air. There's a variety of factors that contribute to the Earth warming and cooling ... To me, this is an opportunity for the left to create — it's really a beautifully concocted scheme because they know that the earth is gonna cool and warm. And so it's been on a warming trend so they said, 'Oh, let's take advantage of that and say that we need the government to come in and regulate your life some more because it's getting warmer.' Just like they did in the '70s when it was getting cooler. They needed the government to come in and regulate your life because it's getting cooler. It's just an excuse for more government control of your life. And I've never been for any scheme or even accepted the junk science behind the whole narrative." [Politico, [6/9/11](#)]

## DONALD TRUMP (R)

**Trump: “I’m Not A Believer” In Manmade Climate Change; “This Planet Is So Massive.”** In a June 2015 Fox News interview with Sean Hannity, Trump said, “I'm not a believer in manmade -- look, this planet is so massive. And when I hear Obama saying that climate change is the number one problem it is just madness. And by the way it started this global cooling, I mean we went through global warming.” [Fox News, [6/17/15](#)]

**Trump: If There Are Low Temperatures And Snow, “Where The Hell Is Global Warming?”** In February 2015, Trump tweeted, “Record low temperatures and massive amounts of snow. Where the hell is GLOBAL WARMING?” [Donald Trump Twitter, [2/14/15](#)]

**Trump: Global Warming “Hoaxers” Are Using “Any And All Weather Events ... To Justify Higher Taxes.”** In January 2014, Trump tweeted, “Any and all weather events are used by the GLOBAL WARMING HOAXSTERS to justify higher taxes to save our planet! They don't believe it \$\$\$\$!” [Donald Trump Twitter, [1/26/14](#)]

**Trump: Global Warming Is A Hoax.** In January 2014, Trump tweeted, “NBC News just called it the great freeze - coldest weather in years. Is our country still spending money on the GLOBAL WARMING HOAX?” [Donald Trump Twitter, [1/25/14](#)]

**Trump Referred To Climate Change As “Bullshit,” Adding, “Our Planet Is Freezing, Record Low Temps, And Our [Global Warming] Scientists Are Stuck In Ice.”** In January 2014, Trump tweeted, “This very expensive GLOBAL WARMING bullshit has got to stop. Our planet is freezing, record low temps, and our GW scientists are stuck in ice.” [Donald Trump Twitter, [1/1/14](#)]

**Trump: “Concept Of Global Warming Was Created By And For The Chinese” To Make U.S. Less Competitive.** In November 2012, Trump tweeted, “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.” [Donald Trump Twitter, [11/6/12](#)]

## SCOTT WALKER (R)

**PolitiFact: Gov. Walker’s Claim That President Obama Said Climate Change Is The Greatest Threat To The World Is Mostly False Because He Left Out “Critical Facts” That Provided Proper Context.** Speaking at the Faith & Freedom Coalition conference in June 2015, Gov. Walker said, “We've got a president who, earlier this year - at the graduation ceremony for the Coast Guard Academy - stood up and actually told the graduates that the number one threat to the military and the world today is global warming. Well, I've got a message for you, Mr. President: The number one threat

to the military, the number one threat to America, the number one threat to the world, is radical Islamic terrorism and it's about time we do something about it" ... Walker made a far-reaching claim. Did Obama tell graduates from a branch of the military that global warming is the number one threat to the military and the world? ... Obama on various occasions, and in a general context, has said there is no greater threat to the world than climate change. But in the speech Walker cited, the president told Coast Guard graduates that climate change was a serious threat, not the number one threat to the military or the world. For a statement that contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression, we give Walker a Mostly False." [PolitiFact, [6/25/15](#)]

**Gov. Walker Has Yet To Publicly Say Whether He Believes In The Existence of Climate Change.** According to Think Progress, "Governor Walker (R) has never publicly said if he believes climate change is occurring. " [Think Progress, [1/26/15](#)]

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

### LINCOLN CHAFEE (D)

**Gov. Chafee: “We Can Address Climate Change And Extreme Weather While Protecting American Jobs.”** [TIME Magazine, [6/3/15](#)]

**Gov. Chafee Signed Into Law A Bill “Preparing State Organizations And Municipalities The Impacts Of Climate Change”; Bill Called For 80 Percent Reduction In Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** In August 2014, Gov. Chafee signed into law the “state’s comprehensive climate-change legislation. The Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 continues what Chafee started in February, a fast-acting committee of department and agency heads looking to prepare state organizations and municipalities for the impacts of climate change. The group also intends to mitigate those impacts by reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. Its ultimate target is an 80 percent reduction of 1990 emission levels by 2050.” [Eco RI, [8/2/14](#)]

### HILLARY CLINTON (D)

**Sec. Clinton: Pope Is Right, “Climate Change Is A Moral Crisis That Disproportionately Harms The Neediest Among Us.”** In response to the Pope’s encyclical on the moral responsibility to combat climate change, Sec. Clinton tweeted: “@Pontifex is right—climate change is a moral crisis that disproportionately harms the neediest among us. We need leadership, not denial.” [Twitter, [6/15/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: Candidates Who Defer Questions About Climate Change Saying “I’m Not A Scientist” Should “Start Listening To Those Who Are.”** During a June 2015 campaign speech, Sec. Clinton said, “Ask many of these candidates about climate change, one of the defining threats of our time, and they’ll say: ‘I’m not a scientist.’ Well, then, why don’t they start listening to those who are?” [C-SPAN, [6/13/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: America Can Lead The “Global Fight Against Climate Change” And Become The “Clean Energy Superpower Of The 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”** During a June 2015 campaign speech, Sec. Clinton said, “We will make America the clean energy superpower of the 21st century. Developing renewable power – wind, solar, advanced biofuels; building cleaner power plants, smarter electric grids, greener buildings; using additional fees and royalties from fossil fuel extraction to protect the environment; and ease the transition for distressed communities to a more diverse and sustainable economic future from coal country to Indian country, from small towns in the Mississippi Delta to the Rio Grande Valley to our inner cities, we have to help our fellow Americans. Now, this will create millions of jobs and countless new businesses, and enable America to lead the global fight against climate change.” [C-SPAN, [6/13/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: “The Science Of Climate Change Is Unforgiving, No Matter What The Deniers May Say.”** In a December 2014 speech at the League of Conservation Voters Annual New York Dinner, Sec. Clinton said, “The science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say. Sea levels are rising; ice caps are melting; storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc. ... If we act decisively now we can still head off the most catastrophic consequences ... The political challenges are also unforgiving, there is no getting around the fact the kind of ambitious response required to effectively combat climate change is going to be a tough sell at home and around the world at a time when so many countries including our own are grappling with slow growth and stretched budgets.” [LCV YouTube, [12/3/14](#); [The Hill](#), [12/2/14](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: Climate Change Was “The Most Consequential, Urgent, Sweeping Collection Of Challenges We Face As A**

**Nation And A World.”** In September 2014, at Sen. Harry Reid’s National Clean Energy Summit, Sec. Clinton called climate change “the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world.” [Politico, [9/4/14](#)]

## MARTIN O’MALLEY (D)

**Gov. O’Malley: Climate Change Should Be Seen As A Business Opportunity.** During a campaign stop in Iowa, Gov. O’Malley stated that, “The climate challenge is the greatest business opportunity to come to our country in 100 years. I believe that it can be a font of all sorts of job creation and renewable technology, green design, renewable energy and you’ve seen a little glimmer of it here with the wind in your state.” [Des Moines Register, [6/28/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: Protecting The U.S. From Impact Of Climate Change Is “At The Center Of My Campaign For President.”** In a June 2015 [USA Today](#) op-ed, Gov. O’Malley wrote, “Protecting the United States from the devastating impact of climate change — while capitalizing on the job creation opportunity of clean energy — is at the center of my campaign for president.” [O’Malley op-ed, [USA Today](#), [6/18/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: “Climate Change Is Real.”** During Gov. O’Malley’s campaign announcement speech, he said, “Climate change is real. We must create an American jobs agenda to build a new renewable energy future. [Martin O’Malley Campaign Website, [5/30/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: National Security Strategy Must Include “Reduction of Threats” Such As “Drought, Famine, And Floods Of Climate Change.”** During Gov. O’Malley’s campaign announcement speech, he said, “Together, we must construct a New National Security Strategy and build new alliances that are forward-seeing and forward-acting. The center of this new strategy must be the reduction of threats. Fast-evolving threats — from violent extremism, pandemic, cyber attacks, nuclear proliferation, nation-state failures, to the drought, famine, and floods of climate change.” [Martin O’Malley Campaign Website, [5/30/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: “Rising Sea Levels Caused By Climate Change” Was A Threat.** In 2014, Gov. O’Malley “vetoed a bill that would have effectively killed Maryland’s first big offshore wind project. In response to concerns that the wind turbines would threaten the use of a naval radar installation (despite Defense Department confirmation that it would be fine), he said ‘the real threat ... is not an array of wind turbines on the lower Eastern Shore but rising sea levels caused by climate change.’” [Think Progress, [4/11/15](#)]

## BERNIE SANDERS (D)

**Sen. Sanders Agreed “Very Strongly With Pope Francis That Climate Change Is The Great Planetary Crisis, Environmental Crisis That We Face.”** In July 2015, Sen. Sanders said, “I happen to agree very strongly with Pope Francis that climate change is the great planetary crisis, environmental crisis that we face.” [National Journal, [7/14/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: U.S. Must “Lead The World In Tackling Climate Change” For The Sake Of Future Generations.** According to Sen. Sanders’ campaign website, “The United States must lead the world in tackling climate change to make certain that this planet is habitable for our children and grandchildren ... Unless we take bold action to address climate change, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are going to look back on this period in history and ask a very simple question: Where were they? Why didn’t the United States of America, the most powerful nation on earth, lead the international community in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and preventing the devastating damage that the scientific community was sure would come?” [Bernie Sanders 2016 Website, [Climate Change & Environment](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: “On Climate Change, We Have A Moral Responsibility To Act Boldly.”** [Des Moines Register, [7/7/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Action Against Climate Change Is Necessary.** In June 2015, Sen. Sanders tweeted, “The scientific community has been extremely clear. We must take bold action to address climate change.” [Twitter, [6/28/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: The Pope’s Statements on Climate Change Will Make A Profound Difference, And The Republican’s Denial Of It Is Embarrassing.** On HBO’s “Real Time with Bill Maher, Sen. Sanders criticized Republicans saying, “One of the embarrassments that goes on in this country today is that we have a major political party called the Republican Party that is rejecting what the overwhelming majority of scientists are saying. That is, of course, climate change is real and caused by human activity.” He also praised the Pope’s recent encyclical on needing to combat climate change calling the Pope “a miracle for humanity.” “He makes me very conservative on economic issues and that he spoke on climate change in as forceful a manner as he did is just extraordinary...I think the fact that the Pope has spoken out will have a profound impact all over this world.” [Real Time with Bill Maher, [6/19/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Climate Change Is A Planetary Crisis; Scientific Debate Is Over, And Human Activities, Like Fossil Fuel Consumption, Are “Already Causing Devastating Problems.”** During Sen. Sanders’ campaign announcement speech, he said, “This country faces more serious problems today than at any time since the Great Depression and, if you include the planetary crisis of climate change, it may well be that the challenges we face now are direr than any time in our modern history ... The debate is over. The scientific community has spoken in a virtually unanimous voice. Climate change is real. It is caused by human activity and it is already causing devastating problems in the United States and around the world. The scientists are telling us that if we do not boldly transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energies, this planet could be five to ten degrees Fahrenheit warmer by the end of this century. This is catastrophic. It will mean more drought, more famine, more rising sea level, more floods, more ocean acidification, more extreme weather disturbances, more disease and more human suffering. We must not, we cannot, and we will not allow that to happen.” [Sen. Sanders Campaign Announcement, [5/26/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders Sponsored Legislation Acknowledging The Reality Of Climate Change, And Calling On Congress To Act To Cut Carbon Pollution.** In March 2015, Sen. Sanders offered an amendment to a budget bill which would acknowledge the reality of climate change and call on Congress to take action to cut carbon pollution. The amendment was rejected 49-50. [SA 777 to S Con Res 11, [Vote 89](#), 3/25/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 89](#)]

## JIM WEBB (D)

**Sen. Webb: To Combat Climate Change, “We Have To Go After Clear Global Solutions.”** In a July 2015 interview on the Diane Rehm Show, Sen. Webb said, “When we get to the area of climate change, global climate change, we have to go after clear global solutions. This has been my point since I was in the Senate. When President Obama went to Copenhagen for the climate change meetings, he -- in '09, he announced that he was going to come back with a binding international agreement. And I wrote a letter to them. I said you cannot, as a president, bind the country in these kinds of agreements without the consent of the Congress. If you look at the most polluted cities in the world, I would venture - because, you know, it varies year by year -- 16 out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are either in China or India. They have to sign up. They’re not signing up. The agreement that was announced several months ago with China didn't even give them a start period for cleaning up their programs until decades in the future.” [Diane Rehm Show, [7/15/15](#)]

**Sen. Webb Acknowledged Humans’ Role In Climate Change.** In December 2014, Mother Jones reported that Sen. Webb “acknowledges that humans are causing climate change. He even supports solving the problem—at least in theory.” [Mother Jones, [12/22/14](#)]