



# IN THEIR OWN WORDS 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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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 urges 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: “I Don’t Think Anybody Can Honestly say The Science Is Over As It Relates To The Longevity of The Impact” Of Climate Change; Government Shouldn’t Pick Winners And Losers, Free Markets Should “Sort Out The Problem.”** On October 16, 2015, [Valley News](#) reported, “Presidential hopeful Jeb Bush, during a town hall meeting ... in Lebanon [New Hampshire], said humanity played a role in climate change, but said scientists haven’t determined how much of it is attributable to people. ‘Humans have some impact,’ he said in response to an audience question. ‘I don’t think anybody can honestly say the science is over as it relates to the longevity of the impact, when that impact plays out, and what the actual impact will be.’ Rather than focus directly on reducing emissions, the government should not ‘pick winners and losers,’ he said, and advocated letting markets sort out the problem while humanity waits for a new technology to ‘reinvent the wheel’ in regards to global warming.” [[Valley News, 10/16/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: “I Think The Climate Is Changing,” And “Humans Have Some Say In It, For Sure ... What I Don’t Want To Do Is Destroy The American Economy As The Solution.”** In an October 2015 town hall in Bedford, New Hampshire, an audience member asked Gov. Bush if he did not believe that “human sources are responsible” for climate change. Gov. Bush responded, “No, I think the climate is changing; I think humans have some say in it, for sure. I honestly believe that, and I think there’s a proper role for the federal government to play in research and development, to find the next breakthrough in disruptive technologies. What I don’t want to do is destroy the American economy as the solution. You can eliminate carbon in the United States by, we could all go back to, you know, living on the land. We can eliminate all of our jobs, and we could all just live in poverty, and you’d probably see a reduction in carbon. If you didn’t drive your car, you’d see a reduction in carbon. If we didn’t grow crops, we’d probably see a reduction in carbon. I mean, I’m being exaggerating here... It’s a balance that we need, but I believe the climate is changing, and I think there’s a proper role... I’ll add another factor, this is not an issue that you’re gonna have to be worried about up here, but in Miami, Florida, our water system is three feet below us. And you have any kind of rising tides, you have a big challenge to the ecosystem. And it’s appropriate for south Florida to begin to adapt for the possibility of climate change impacting rising tides. Just as George Schultz says, we should have an insurance policy. Neither you nor I know exactly what the impact will be, ten, 20, 30, 40 years from now, but it’s proper and prudent to be able to plan for that, and I agree that that’s the proper role of government as well.” [[American Bridge, 10/1/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Pope Francis Is “Not A Scientist ... I Oppose The President’s Policies As It Relates To Climate Change.”**

During a September 2014 interaction with reporters in Bristol, VA, Gov. Bush had the following exchange:

**REPORTER:** You’re a Catholic. Pope Francis, yesterday, endorsed the Obama administration’s environmental policy, it seemed, by endorsing the president, or what he’s been doing. Is the Pope wrong?

**GOV. BUSH:** The Pope is not *wrong*. The Pope is a religious leader that I admire greatly, and I’m excited that he’s

coming, for the first time, to our country, to have a dialogue with us. I think it's extraordinary. Carbon emissions have dropped by 10 percent in the last decade. The United States has played a pretty constructive role, if you're talking about climate change being an issue. The way you create focus on protecting the natural environment, and the creatures that are divinely inspired, which is the Pope's view – he's not a scientist, he's a religious leader – is to create economic growth, the generate revenues, to be able to help people. If you read his encyclical, he talks about the rights of the unborn, and the importance of traditional family in that encyclical as it relates to climate change as well. So, I welcome him here, and I would embrace the philosophy of mercy, of love, of recognizing that we have a responsibility that is God-inspired...

**REPORTER:** Fair to say, though, that you don't necessarily agree on his point of his praise for the Obama administration?

**GOV. BUSH:** Put aside Pope Francis on the subject of any political conversation. I oppose the president's policies as it relates to climate change, because it will destroy the ability to reindustrialize the country to allow for people to get higher wage jobs, for people to rise up.

[Huffington Post, [9/24/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Conservatives Should “Embrace Science.”** In a July 2015 interview with Bloomberg News, Gov. Bush said, “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.” [Bloomberg News, [7/30/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Climate Is Changing, But “There's A Disagreement On The Timing”; In Order To Deal With A Changing Climate, “We Can't Destroy Jobs” And “People's Chance To Have Income.”** During a July 2015 town hall in Gorham, NH, Gov. Bush said, “The climate is changing, and I recognize that. I respect the passion and concern you have on that. I think there's a disagreement on the timing of all this. But I do know that to get to the right place, we can't destroy jobs. We can't destroy people's chance to have income. We can't grow at the kind of anemic rate that we're going to grow to be able to have the resources and to deal with whatever challenges we face.” [American Bridge, 7/23/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Gov. Bush: Climate Is Changing, But There's A Debate About “The Degree To Which Humans” Are Causing It.** During a July 2015 town hall at Morningside College in Sioux City, IA, Gov. Bush said, “I think one of the things we have to do is recognize that the climate's changing, that there is a dispute about the role of the degree to which humans are creating a changing climate. It's clear that we are. The degree to which we are is subject to discussion, debate, more research, to be able to reach consensus on that. There's things that, depending on where you live, there's going to have to be policies related to adapting to a changing climate. I'm selfish about this a little bit, because I live in Miami, a place where you're lucky if you get over 12 feet ... most of the topography is below that. Any kind of dramatic change in the rise in sea level, which again, the range is dramatically different, because not all of this stuff has been conclusively determined what the outcome will be. But it has a dramatic impact on water quality, on flooding – on all sorts of things ... I think it's important for us to recognize that it's an issue. Now, here's where I differ with some people. I think we'll have a better chance at dealing with climate issues and environmental issues in the broader sense with high sustained economic growth. Policies that make it harder for growth to take place make it harder for us to have practical solutions to problems as well.” [American Bridge, 7/13/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Gov. Bush Admitted That The Climate Is Changing, But “Questions The Percentage Of Human Involvement.”** During a July 2015 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](#)]

**Think Progress Headline: "Jeb Bush Thinks His Faith Shouldn't Inform His Position On Climate Change. Except When He Does."** [Think Progress, [6/18/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Religion Should Not Be Too Involved In Politics; "I Don't Get My Economic Policy From Bishops Or My Cardinals Or My Pope."** In June 2015, Gov. Bush "said that he thinks religion 'ought to be about making us better as people and less about things that end up getting into the political realm.' 'I hope I'm not going to get castigated for saying this by my priest back home,' Bush added, 'but I don't get my economic policy from my bishops or my cardinals or my pope.'" [Think Progress, [6/18/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: "Game Of Political Correctness" If I'm Expected To Say That I Would Never "Allow My Decisions In Government To Be Influenced By My Christian Faith."** In May 2015, Gov. Bush gave the commencement address at Liberty University. In his speech, he said, "I am asked sometimes whether I would ever allow my decisions in government to be influenced by my Christian faith. Whenever I hear this, I know what they want me to say. The simple and safe reply is, 'No. Never. Of course not.' If the game is political correctness, that's the answer that moves you to the next round. The endpoint is a certain kind of politician we've all heard before – the guy whose moral convictions are so private, so deeply personal, that he refuses even to impose them on himself." [Think Progress, [6/18/15](#); [CSPAN](#), [5/9/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Science On Climate Change Is Incomplete; Whether Humans Are Making Climate Change Worse Is "Kind Of Irrelevant."** During a June 2015 town hall in Derry, New Hampshire, Gov. Bush said, "My attitude is, I don't think the science is complete. The whole idea that people have already made up their minds about this, they use this argument, it's all over and anybody that disagrees is a caveman or something. I don't think that. But I do think we need to create long-term policies of adaptation. Because the climate is changing, whether men are doing it or not — in the case of the sea level rising in Miami — is kind of irrelevant. So that's where I think the focus ought to be, is to depoliticize this issue and create policies of adaptation." [[Concord Monitor](#), [6/17/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush "Framed A More Centrist Position On Climate Change Than Most Of The Republican Presidential Field," Calling For Incentives To Adopt Limits On Carbon Emissions Instead Of Federal Government Rule.** 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.' 'I live in Miami, a place where this will have an impact over the long haul,' he told reporters ... after a campaign appearance in eastern Iowa. '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.' He expressed optimism about addressing global warming. 'I believe there are technological solutions for just about everything, and I'm sure there's one for this as well,' Mr. Bush said." [[New York Times](#), [6/17/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush: Pope Francis Should Steer Clear Of Climate Issue.** In a June 2015 town hall meeting in New Hampshire, Gov. Bush, "a Catholic, had sharp words on Pope Francis' decision to leap into the climate change debate, saying the pontiff should steer clear of political issues. Bush ... said he was eager to read an encyclical the Vatican is set to release ... on climate change, but will take it with a grain of salt, even as he called Francis an extraordinary leader. 'I hope I'm not going to get castigated for saying this by my priest back home,' Bush said. 'But I don't get my economic policy from my bishops or my cardinals or my pope.'" [Reuters, [6/16/15](#)]

**Gov. Bush Is All Over The Place On Climate Change.** In May 2015, [National Journal](#) reported, "Jeb Bush is hard to pin down on climate change. The former Florida governor, who has taken more moderate stances on controversial issues

such as immigration and education than many of his Republican White House rivals, is attempting to thread the needle on climate change, energy, and the environment. In recent months, Bush has suggested that the United States should adapt to climate change and work with other countries to cut carbon-dioxide emissions while also outlining a moral case for protecting the planet. The green group funded by liberal billionaire Tom Steyer even applauded Bush for saying he was 'concerned' about the changing climate... But Bush is a far cry from being a climate champion. He does not acknowledge the scientific consensus that human activity drives climate change, and he attacks the Environmental Protection Agency, the agency enforcing President Obama's ambitious effort to tackle global warming." [National Journal, [5/22/15](#)]

**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: It's 'Intellectual Arrogance' To Agree With Scientists About Humans Driving Climate Change.** According to an article in the Huffington Post, 'Likely Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said Wednesday 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](#)]

**Washington Post Blog Headline: "Jeb's Careful Dismissal Of Climate Change Sounds An Awful Like That Of George W."** [The Fix blog, [Washington Post, 5/21/15](#)]

**Washington Post Blog: Gov. Bush's Statement That Man-Made Climate Change Is Up For Debate "Is Either Confused Or Disingenuous."** In May 2015, Gov. Bush addressed climate change, saying, "The climate is changing ... I don't think the science is clear on what percentage is man-made and what percentage is natural. It's convoluted. And for people to say the science is decided on this is just really arrogant, to be honest with you. It's this intellectual arrogance that now you can't have a conversation about it even." The [Washington Post's](#) The Fix blog wrote, "That statement is either confused or disingenuous. It would indeed be arrogant to say that the science is settled on what percentage of present and future warming is due to global warming gasses and particulate matter released into the atmosphere. With evidence still being collected and assessed, the extent to which natural changes are affecting warming trends is still debated. That said, there is consensus in the scientific community that the warming is due largely to human activity. As a rhetorical device, Bush is extending the idea that a hard ratio between man-made and natural causes hasn't been determined to ally himself with those that want to say the overall picture of human role in climate change is still heavily debated. It isn't, outside of politics." [The Fix blog, [Washington 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: “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](#)]

**Gov. Bush Was Skeptical Of Climate Change, Claiming, “I’m Not A Scientist” But “It May Only be Partially Man-Made. It May Not Be Warming, By The Way.”** In a July 2009 interview with Tucker Carlson, Gov. Bush said of climate change, “I’m a skeptic. I’m not a scientist. I think the science has been politicized. I would be very wary of hollowing out our industrial base even further... It may be only partially man-made. It may not be warming by the way. The last six years we’ve actually had mean temperatures that are cooler. I think we need to be very cautious before we dramatically alter who we are as a nation because of it.” [Esquire, [7/8/09](#)]

## **BEN CARSON (R)**

**Dr. Carson: “I Don’t Need Any Education About The Environment”; Progressive Cite Environmental Issues To “Get All Kinds Of Unreasonable Things Through Without Looking At The Evidence.”** During an October 2015 fundraiser in Iowa, Dr. Carson “gently poked fun at the media ... for portraying him as less than familiar with the arguments behind climate change. ‘A couple weeks ago I was getting a lot of press: ‘Jerry Brown sends Carson his memos about global warming to educate him’ and all this crap you know,’ Carson told a crowd of about 180 Iowans at a private fundraiser for an Iowa House candidate in West Des Moines. Carson was referring to California's Democratic governor, who reportedly sent Carson a primer on climate change after the Republican expressed skepticism about evidence of global warming. ‘I actually have fun looking at the media. They are so silly,’ Carson said, to laughs. He added: ‘I don't need any education about the environment.’ Progressives use the environment to ‘get all kinds of unreasonable things through without looking at the evidence,’ he said. The best solution is to work with businesses, industries and academics ‘to find the cleanest most environmentally friendly way to do things.’” [[Des Moines Register, 10/1/15](#)]

**Dr. Carson: Earth's Temperature Is Always Fluctuating.** During a September 2015 campaign stop in Durham, New Hampshire, Dr. Carson was asked if he "believed in climate change or evolution. 'Is there climate change? Of course there is,' Carson said. The temperature of the earth is always fluctuating, he said. 'When that stops happening, we're in big trouble,' he said. He also said he believes in microevolution or natural selection, and believed God gave organisms the ability to adapt to the environment, 'because he is very smart,' he said." [Foster's Daily Democrat, [9/30/15](#)]

**Dr. Carson: I Am A "Climate Science Questioner."** In a September 2015 editorial, Investor's Business Daily reported that Dr. Carson calls himself a "climate science questioner." [Editorial, Investor's Business Daily, [9/15/15](#)]

**Dr. Carson: "No Overwhelming Science That The Things That Are Going On Are Man-Caused And Not Naturally Caused."** During a September 2015 interview with [The San Francisco Chronicle](#), Dr. Carson discussed climate change, saying, "I know there are a lot of people who say 'overwhelming science,' but then when you ask them to show the overwhelming science, they never can show it. There is no overwhelming science that the things that are going on are man-caused and not naturally caused." [San Francisco Chronicle, [9/8/15](#)]

**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 Said Humans Contribute To Climate Change By Breathing, But Denied It Four Weeks Later."** During an August 2015 town hall meeting, Gov. Christie said, "Let me tell you – the climate's been changing forever, and it will always continue to change. Does human activity contribute to it? Of course it does. We all contribute to it one way or the other. By breathing, we contribute to it." Four weeks later, at another town hall meeting, Gov. Christie had this exchange with an audience member:

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:** On August 4<sup>th</sup>, here in New Hampshire at one of our town meetings, you said that humans contribute to climate change by breathing."

**GOV. CHRISTIE:** No I didn't.

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Do you really believe that humans expelling carbon dioxide contributes to climate change? I really care about this subject!

**GOV. CHRISTIE:** I know you really care about this subject, but you know what? The first thing you need to do is not be wrong, and not quote me incorrectly. I never said that humans contribute to climate change by breathing.

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:** On August 4<sup>th</sup>...

**GOV. CHRISTIE:** I don't care what date you said it was, I never said it. What I said ... were you there?

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:** I was.

**GOV. CHRISTIE:** Oh, and you heard that?

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Yes.

**GOV. CHRISTIE:** Well, you need to clean out your ears then, young lady. I never said that humans contribute to climate change by breathing. Ridiculous statement. I never said it. And since we film every one of these [town halls], I'd be happy to go back and give you the tape from August 4<sup>th</sup> so you can read this."

[NextGen Climate YouTube Channel, [8/31/15](#)]

**Gov. Christie: Climate Change Is Real And Humans Contribute To It; In Trying To Improve Climate And Environment, "I'm Not Going To Make America Noncompetitive In The Process."** During an August 2015 town hall in Salem, NH, Gov. Christie said, "I believe climate change is real, and I believe that humans contribute to it. But, we're not the only things that contribute to it, and the climate's been changing forever. In the entire history of the world, the climate's changed all the time. Does that mean you shouldn't try to make it better? No, of course we should. But I'm not going to make America noncompetitive in the process ... There's nobody, no matter what political party you're in, who doesn't want clean air and clean water." [American Bridge, 150824\_EMZ\_68\_A (1:33:00), 8/24/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**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 2015 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, [7/2/15](#)]

**Gov. Christie: Climate Change Is Happening, But "I Haven't Seen" Anything "Proven To My Satisfaction" That Says That It Is Caused By Humans, And That Storms Like Hurricane Sandy Were Caused By It.** During a June 2015 town hall in Cedar Rapids, IA, Gov. Christie was asked, "What do you think the conservative, Republican response to climate change should be?" He answered, "I have said this before. I think that climate change is real, and I think that humans contribute to it. Now, the thing I don't know is how much ... I don't know – nor has anyone else proven to my satisfaction – that it is climate change that is causing some of these storms. I don't know what it is, and I haven't seen anything – at least, at this point – definitive to me that says it was climate change that caused Superstorm Sandy. But what I will tell you about Superstorm Sandy and the floods that you had here seven years ago in Cedar Rapids is this ... We need to have somebody in the Oval Office who actually understands what happens to a community when this stuff happens." [American Bridge, 6/12/15 (video available from American Bridge); 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: Idea That Climate Change "Should Not Be Up For Debate" Runs Contrary To "What The Evidence And Data Show."** In an October 2015 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled "Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities," Sen. Cruz and Sierra Club president Aaron Mair had the following exchange on the science behind climate change:

**SEN. CRUZ:** In your written testimony you said that the science behind climate change and its effect on minority communities, quote, 'should not be up for debate.' I'm curious, is this a frequent practice, to declare areas of science not up for debate, not up for consideration of what the evidence and data show?

**MAIR:** If you are relying on the evidence and data, you know, the science, the preponderance of the evidence are there.

**SEN. CRUZ:** But that's a different thing than saying we should not debate a question. The Sierra Club has declared this scientific issue resolved and there should be no debate.

**MAIR:** Based upon the preponderance of the evidence, the science is settled. But the thing is that anything's up for debate, Senator. We can debate anything.

**SEN. CRUZ:** Well, you know, I would note that even the phrase 'preponderance of the evidence,' having been a practicing lawyer for many years, means 51 percent. That means at least 51 percent is what the preponderance means. You know, I would ask, for example, if you want to end debates you don't want to address the facts.

[Senate Judiciary Committee, [10/6/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: Statistic Citing 97 Percent Of Scientists Agree That Man-Made Climate Change Is Real Is "based On One Bogus Study."** In an October 2015 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled "Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities," Sen. Cruz and Sierra Club president Aaron Mair had the following exchange on the science behind climate change:

**MAIR:** 97 percent of the scientists concur and agree that there is global warming and anthropogenic impact with regards to...

**SEN. CRUZ:** The problem with that statistic that gets cited a lot is it's based on one bogus study. And indeed, your response, I would point that your response is quite striking. I asked about the science and the evidence, the actual data. We have satellites.

**MAIR:** Correct.

**SEN. CRUZ:** They're measuring temperature. That should be relevant. And your answer was: Pay no attention to

your lying eyes and the numbers that the satellites show. Instead, listen to the scientists, who are receiving massive grants, who tell us, “Do not debate the science.”

**MAIR:** Sir, this is one of the national pastimes in America, and while we're debating what 97 percent of scientists have already settled, the 3 percent that we, as I say, have invested in with regards to the carbon industry, you know, our planet is cooking and heating up and warming. So this is one of the reasons why...

**SEN. CRUZ:** So hold on a second. It is the Sierra Club's position that right now the Earth is cooking up and heating and warming. Is that the Sierra Club's – I mean, I just want to quote you and understand...

**MAIR:** I'm saying I concur with 97 percent of the world's scientists with regards to global warming and the anthropogenic effects of mankind with regards to climate.

**SEN. CRUZ:** But sir, would you answer the question: Is it the Sierra Club's position, as you just testified, that the Earth is cooking up and heating and warming right now? Is that the Sierra Club's position?

**MAIR:** Global temperatures are on the rise, sir.

[Senate Judiciary Committee, [10/6/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: “Theory” Of Global Warming Is A “Massive Government Control Of The Economy, The Energy Sector, And Every Aspect Of Our Lives”; Data And Evidence Don’t Support The Theory Of Global Warming.** During a September 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Sen. Cruz said, “30 to 40 years ago there were a group of political liberal and scientists who said we were facing global cooling. They said we were headed toward a global ice age and the solution to global cooling was increased massive government control of the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of our lives. Then the data disproved it. It was not in fact correct that we were seeing global cooling. So that was kind of a problem. Then many of these same political liberals, and many of these same scientists they then latched on to a new theory, it’s called global warming. And the new theory of global warming interestingly enough, the solution was the exact same as the solution had been for global cooling. It was massive government control of the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of our lives. But then the problem became the data and evidence didn’t back up global warming. In particular if you look at the satellite data.” [[The Guardian, 9/11/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: “To The End Of Time, The Climate Will Change ... You Should Follow The Evidence.”** During a September 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Sen. Cruz “engaged for a few minute with Tyler McFarlane, 23, of Rye, N.H. – an organizer for an environmental group – but eventually grew impatient with is pointed questions. ‘I’m not going to be cross examined,’ he said. Surrounded by cameras and cell phones, Cruz ran through his views on climate science: warnings three or four decades ago of an impending global ice age gave way to warning of global warming and eventually, as the data kept disproving the theories, to warnings of climate change. ‘To the end of time, the climate will change,’ Cruz said, and no matter which dire scenario, liberals keep offering the same solution, government control over the economy. McFarlane wasn’t buying it. ‘Keeping fossil fuels in the ground doesn’t require big government control,’ he said as Cruz moved down the row of tables. ‘It’s not going to be government that figures out what the next energy source is going to be,’ he told a young woman moments later. ‘You should follow the evidence,’ he chided the woman, Kaity Thomson of nearby Dover, a recent graduate of the University of New Hampshire young woman, urging her to study satellite data more closely and to be more skeptical about what she said she learned from her environmental science professors.” [[Dallas Morning News, 8/30/15](#)]

**Sen. Cruz: Science And Data Show “No Significant Warming” Of The Planet Over The Last 17 Years; Washington Bureaucrats Shouldn’t Raise Electricity Bills For Hardworking Men And Women.** During a campaign stop in Dyersville, IA, Sen. Cruz was asked if he believes in global warming. He answered, “You know, it’s an interesting question. I believe in science and following the data. Unfortunately, on this debate, there are a lot of politicians in Washington who aren’t interested in data or facts or evidence. For example, there are a lot of politicians in Washington who want more power over the economy and your times, who lay out global warming as a theory. Here’s the problem. The satellite data – the

actual evidence – show there is no significant warming over the past 17 years, which is directly contrary to what their computer models show. And they have no good explanation for it. I think we should follow the evidence, and what I don't think we should allow is a bunch of Washington bureaucrats to drive up the electricity bills, drive up the gas bills of hardworking men and women in this country, single moms who are trying to make ends meet. The last thing a single mom who's trying to feed her kids, trying to give her children a better life needs is a bunch of Washington politicians doubling her electricity bill. I think we need to stand with the hardworking men and women, and when it comes to public policy, we should follow science and data and evidence, not theories of politicians." [American Bridge, 7/18/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Sen. Cruz: "Data And Facts" Do Not Support Climate Change Science.** At an August 2015 Koch brother donor summit, Sen. Cruz denied the reality of climate change, explaining, "'I'm saying the data and facts don't support it.'" [KenVogel Twitter, [8/2/15](#)]

**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](#),

## CARLY FIORINA (R)

**Fiorina, “No, I Didn’t Say” That I “Believe In Global Warming And [That] It’s Manmade.”** In a September 2015 interview, Glenn Beck said to Fiorina, “You believe in global warming and it’s manmade.” Fiorina responded, “No, I didn’t say that. What I said was scientists tell us that global warming is real and manmade. Scientists also tell us this: the only way with current technology to solve the problem of global warming is a global, coordinated effort over 30 years, costing trillions of dollars. Now, what do we suppose the chances of that are? Zero.” [The Blaze, [9/28/15](#)]

**Fiorina: According To Scientists, The Only Way To Address Climate Change Is “A Three-Decade Global Effort, Coordinated And Costing Trillions Of Dollars. Are You Kidding? It’ll Never Happen.”** In September 2015, Carly Fiorina had the following exchange with CNBC’s John Harwood:

**HARWOOD:** Do you believe that humans contribute to climate change and that government ought to do something about it?

**FIORINA:** I believe if you're going to go to science, you need to read the fine print. And here's what the scientists say: A single nation acting alone can make no difference at all. The only answer to this problem, according to the scientists, is a three-decade global effort, coordinated and costing trillions of dollars. Are you kidding? It'll never happen. When the Chinese said to Obama, "Oh, we're going to come up with a deal with you, we're going to stop increasing our global greenhouse emissions by 2025," you know what they were doing? They were simply lifting a goal out of a five-year plan and saying, "We'll play along." They're not playing along. The answer is innovation. And the only way to innovate is for this nation to have industries strong enough that they can innovate. So instead of destroying people's livelihoods at the altar of ideology—which is what it is, not science—we ought to say, "We're going to become the global energy powerhouse of the 21st century." We need to become the global energy powerhouse of the 21st century for so many reasons. To create jobs, to make the bad guys less bad, and so that we have industries including the coal industry that's powerful enough to be able to innovate. That's how you're going to solve an intractable problem. It's always the way you solve an intractable problem. Not with regulation—with innovation.

[CNBC, [9/15/15](#)]

**Fiorina: California Has Always Had Droughts; Leaders Should Have Prepared For That By Building Systems To Save Rainwater “During Years When There’s A Lot Of Rain.”** In August 2015, California Gov. Jerry Brown “pressed Republican presidential candidates ... to address the issue in their campaigns, first scolding them in a letter and then, ‘My message is real clear: California's burning. What the hell are you going to do about it?’” In response, Fiorina told the [Sacramento Bee](#), “California has had droughts for millennia. And so knowing that, you would think that you would prepare for droughts by building reservoirs and water conveyance systems so that you could save the rainwater during years when there's a lot of rain.” [[Sacramento Bee](#), [8/15/15](#)]

**Fiorina: Scientists Who Tell Us Climate Change Is Real And Man-Made Also Say That One Nation Can’t “Make A Difference At All”; Liberals Use Environmental Ideology To Sacrifice Others’ Livelihoods.** During a June 2015 Fox news interview, host Sean Hannity asked, “Do you think climate change is real?” Fiorina responded, “You know what I would say, you know what I would say, all of these scientists that tell us it's real and it's manmade, read the fine print of what those scientists say, because what they also say is a single nation acting alone will make no difference at all. So here we have a bunch of liberals and people in the EPA who are willing to sacrifice other people's lives, other people's livelihoods at the altar of their ideology, whether it's fish over families in California or destroying coal mining communities in Kentucky and West Virginia, and we're not making any difference. The answer to this is innovation. It's always innovation, never regulation.” [Fox News, [6/26/15](#)]

**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](#)]

## **JIM GILMORE (R)**

**Gov. Gilmore: Climate Is Changing, But We Do Not Know How Much Is Manmade; We Should Work To Reduce Carbon Emissions "Without Damaging Our Fragile Economy."** In a 2008 voter guide, Gov. Gilmore was asked if he believed that global warming/climate change was the result of manmade emissions, and if so, whether the federal government should do anything about it. He responded, "We know the climate is changing, but we do not know for sure how much is caused by man and how much is part of a natural cycle change. I do believe we must work toward reducing emissions without damaging our fragile economy." [Hampton Roads Voter Guide, [10/17/08](#)]

## **LINDSEY GRAHAM (R)**

**Sen. Graham: Climate Change Is Real, It's An Economic Issue And A National Security Issue; "I Don't Know" Why My GOP Colleagues – Especially Those Running For President" Don't Accept It.** On November 11, 2015, Sen. Graham appeared in a Fox News Interview with On The Record host Greta van Susteren. During the interview, Sen. Graham and van Susteren had the following exchange:

**VAN SUSTEREN:** Climate change: Is that an economic issue?

**SEN. GRAHAM:** Yes.

**VAN SUSTEREN:** You are, I think, the only Republican...

**SEN. GRAHAM:** Absolutely.

**VAN SUSTEREN:** ... talking about climate change. Is that an economic issue? How or why?

**SEN. GRAHAM:** It's a national security issue. It's an economic issue. At the end of the day, the oceans are rising. I do believe that CO2 emissions are creating greenhouse gas effects, that we do have oceans that are rising that is going to create economic displacement, particularly in Africa. Extreme climate is bad for the economy. And what would I do? I would create a lower carbon economy by creating jobs. Alternative energy would make us energy independent. We would stop sending \$300 billion overseas to buy oil and gas from people who hate our guts by finding more here and eventually using less. I believe climate change is real and I have a plan to deal with it that's good for the economy, not bad for the economy.

**VAN SUSTEREN:** Why are so many of your colleagues on your side of the aisle especially -- let's talk about the 2016 candidates not embracing the idea of climate change?

**SEN. GRAHAM:** I don't know. Either they are afraid to say it or they just don't believe the science. I'm not a scientist. I made a "D" in science so I can prove to you I am not a scientist. But I've been to the artic. I've been to Greenland. I've been to -- I've been Alaska. I've studied this issue. 90 percent of the climatologists say that greenhouse gases created by millions of cars and other sources of carbon emission on the energy production side and the transportation side is trapping heat, creating greenhouse gas effect, heating up the planet. I believe the science so I want to argue with the Democrats about the solution. Al Gore has made this a religion. I want it to be a problem to be solved. Energy independence as well as clean air would be the purpose of my presidency.

[FOX News, 11/11/15]

**Sen. Graham: “I’ve Talked To The Climatologists, And They Tell Me That Greenhouse Gas Effect Is Real.”** During an October 28, 2015 Republican presidential debate in Colorado, Sen. Graham had the following exchange with one of the debate’s moderators:

**MODERATOR:** You have said you believe climate change is real. You said you accept tax increases as part of a budget deal with Democrats. You've co-sponsored a Senate immigration bill providing a path to citizenship for those in the country illegally. Are you in the wrong party's debate?

**SEN. GRAHAM:** No, I think I’m trying to solve problems that somebody better solve. You don't have to believe that climate change is real. I have been to the Antarctic, I’ve been to Alaska. I’m not a scientist and I’ve got the grades to prove it. But, I've talked to the climatologists and they tell me that greenhouse gas effect is real, that we're heating up the planet. I just want a solution that would be good for the economy that doesn't destroy it.

[CNBC, [10/28/15](#)]

**Sen. Graham: I Believe That Climate Change Is Real, But It Is “A Problem That Needs To Be Solved, Not A Religion. So My Friends On The Left Who Are Making This A Religion, You Are Making A Mistake.”** On October 12, 2015, Sen. Graham participated in a New Hampshire convention hosted by the bipartisan group No Labels. During the convention, Sen. Graham said, “How many of you here believe climate change is real? I do too. So here's the trade-off; for those of you who believe climate change is real you're going to have to deal with a guy like me who will push a lower carbon economy over time in a business friendly way. The great trade-off is energy producers and environmentalists in a room trying to find over a 50 year period a way to go to a lower carbon economy [and] in the meantime, responsibly exploring for fossil fuels that we own and trying to create alternative energy in every sector of the economy. It is to me, folks, a problem needs to be solved, not a religion. So my friends on the left who are making this a religion, you're making a mistake. To my friends on the right who deny the science, tell me why. I'm not a scientist, I made a D science. You know why? Because she'd never given an F. But I've been to the Antarctic, I've been to Greenland, I've been to Alaska and I've heard from people who live in these regions how the climate is changing. And when 90 percent of Climatologists tell you it's real, who am I to tell them they don't know what they're talking about. So the trade-off is Joe Lee Rimming, John Kerry and Lindsey Graham got closed (ph) and we had the whole spill in the Gulf. More nuclear power because it's a good job creating method of energy, it's non-emitting. Exploring for all in gas in a reasonable way. Pushing low carbon technologies, having the government involved until we can get a foot hold on a lower carbon alternative energy economy in setting carbon targets that would give America clean water and clean air. Those are the trade-offs.” [CSPAN, [10/12/15](#)]

**Sen. Graham: “When I Get On Stage With Hillary Clinton, We Won’t Be Debating About The Science” Of Climate Change. “We’ll Be Debating About The Solutions.”** During the first Republican presidential primary debate in August 2015, FOX News host Bill Hemmer asked Sen. Graham, “You worked with Democrats and Republicans and president Obama when it came to climate change, something you know is extremely unpopular with conservative Republicans. How can they trust you based on that record?” Sen. Graham responded, “You can trust me to do the following – that when I get on the stage with Hillary Clinton, we won’t be debating about the science. We’ll be debating about the solutions. In her world, cap-and-trade would dominate. That will destroy the economy in the name of helping the environment. In my world, we’ll focus on energy independence and a clean environment. When it comes to fossil fuels, we’re going to find more here and use less. Over time, we’re going to become energy independent. I’m tired of sending \$300 billion overseas to buy oil from people who hate our guts. The choice between a weak economy and a strong environment is a false choice. That is not the choice I’ll offer America. A healthy environment, a strong economy and an energy independent America – that would be the purpose of my presidency. To break the stranglehold that people enjoy on fossil fuels who hate our guts.” [Fox News, [8/6/15](#)]

**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: "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](#)]

**Sen. Graham: I'm Not A Scientist, But I Believe Those Who Are.** During a 2015 speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Graham said, "I'm not a scientist but I've heard enough regarding those who make it their life's work to be convinced that man-made emissions are causing a problem of contributing to the overall warming of the planet." [National Journal, [2/8/15](#)]

**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](#)]

## 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: Commemorating New Orleans' Rebuilding Process Since Hurricane Katrina Was Not A Good Place To Discuss Climate Change, Calling It A "Divisive Political Agenda Of Liberal Environmental Activism."** In August 2015, President Obama spoke in New Orleans to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Before the president's visit, Gov. Jindal wrote a letter to President Obama saying, "It is ...with disappointment that I read of the White House's plans to make this visit part of a tour for your climate change agenda. I understand that your emphasis in New Orleans will – rightly – be an economic development, the temptation to stray into climate change politics should be resisted ... While you and others may be of the opinion that we can legislate away hurricanes with higher taxes, business regulations and EPA power grabs, that is not a view shared by many Louisianans. I would ask you to respect this important time of remembrance by not inserting the divisive political agenda of liberal environmental activism." [Times-Picayune, [8/26/15](#); Think Progress, [8/27/15](#)]

**Gov. Jindal: "Does Human Activity Impact The Environment? I'm Sure It Does. I Mean, How Could It Not? How Much It Does, I'll Leave That To The Scientists. You Don't Need Elected Officials."** During an August 2015 town hall in Marshalltown, IA, Gov. Jindal said, "People ask politicians all the time – does human activity impact the environment? I'm sure it does. I mean, how could it not? How much it does, I'll leave that to the scientists. You don't need elected officials. But, I will tell you this ... I think this president's wrong. I think that you can have a clean environment, affordable energy, and a strong economy. I don't think they're mutually exclusive. I think too often, the left uses climate change as an excuse to try and make energy scarce and expensive so we can depend on government." [American Bridge, 150825\_MJL\_385\_A (47:28), 8/25/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Gov. Jindal: "I'm Sure" Human Behavior Impacts Climate Change, But We'll Leave "How Much" To The Experts And The Scientists.** During a July 2015 town hall meeting in Ames, IA, Gov. Jindal said, "People ask me, 'Does human behavior impact the climate?' I'm sure it does. How much it does, and the consequences, I'll leave to the experts and the scientists." [American Bridge, 7/21/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**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: Climate Change "Does Exist," But "I Don't Believe That Humans Are The Primary Cause."** During a September 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Gov. Kasich said, "I don't believe that humans are the primary cause of climate change. ... I think it does exist, but we have to be careful how we react to it." [[Columbus Dispatch, 9/3/15](#)]

**Gov. Kasich: Climate Change Is Real, But Humans' Impact Has Not Yet Been Determined; "Worshipping The Environment Is Pantheism, And I'm Opposed To It."** During an August 2015 speech in Belmont, NH, Gov. Kasich said, "You asked me about climate change – I think it's real. But I think that the impact human beings have on it is yet to be determined. So I would not be enacting all these policies that could throw people out of work. In my state of Ohio, we've reduced emissions by 30 percent. We take care of Lake Erie, and we have the toughest regulations on fracking in the country. And yet, we are having a good energy industry ... God created the environment. We have an obligation to take care of it, but we should not worship it. We should take care of it and be ones that can be good caretakers. But worshipping the environment is pantheism, and I'm opposed to it. So, a responsible approach to this. I believe a clean environment is consistent with economic growth. You don't have to choose one or the other." [American Bridge, 8/12/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Gov. Kasich: Science Of Climate Change Is "Not Proven"; "We're Not Here To Worship The Environment."** During an August 2015 interview on NBC's Meet The Press, host Chuck Todd asked if Gov. Kasich agrees with the Pope, who "believes that climate change is manmade and that man needs to do something about it." Gov. Kasich responded, "Well, I think that man absolutely affects the environment. But as to whether -- you know, what the impact is, the overall impact, I think that's a legitimate debate. But what I do think is, you know, in my state of Ohio, you know, we precious take care of Lake Erie. We've reduced emissions by 30 percent over the last ten years. We believe in alternative energy. So of course we have to be sensitive to it, but we don't to want destroy people's jobs based on some theory that's not proven." Gov. Kasich added, "You know, the lord gave us the environment. We're not here to worship it, but we are here to manage it." [Meet The Press, [8/9/15](#)]

**Gov. Kasich: "I Don't Worship The Environment ... I'm Not In Denial, Saying All These Scientists Are Crazy. I'm Not Sure Who's Right."** During a July 2014 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Gov. Kasich said, "First of all, I believe that we're supposed to be good stewards of the environment, and I appreciate the fact that you're involved in something. We don't want to worship the environment, though. We live here, but we have to manage it ... Sometimes people come up with radical ideas about the environment and it lends itself to worshipping the environment. I don't worship the

environment, but I respect it and protect it. In my state, we spend a lot of money now on Lake Erie, because we don't want that to be destroyed ... So my view is, I am not in denial, saying all these scientists are crazy. I'm not sure who's right. I'm going to be careful about it." [Dan Roche YouTube Channel, [7/22/15](#)]

**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: Humans May Have An Impact On Climate, But Earth Also Goes Through A "Natural Period" Of Climate Change; We Shouldn't Worship The Environment.** During a July 2015 campaign stop in Barrington, NH, Gov. Kasich said, "We're supposed to be stewards of the environment. God created the environment, and we're supposed to manage it, take care of it. We learned that from Francis of Assisi ... I think the environment is really important. It's important we be good stewards of it, but it's also important we don't worship it. In my job as governor, there are a couple of really critical areas that we think about. One is Lake Erie. We don't have the ocean here, but have what we call the north coast. Lake Erie, over the years, has been damaged. We've done everything we can, including passing legislation that both farmers and environmentalists have gotten behind and supported, and overwhelmingly passed through legislature ... Now, in terms of the whole issue of climate change, I suspect that human beings have had some impact, but I think there's also a natural period that the Earth goes through. Do I think that we should that we should use common sense to do some things to protect it? Absolutely. Do I think we ought to throw lots of people out of work, and let other countries not be as sensitive as we are to it? No, I wouldn't think that would make much sense. But, I think as a people that are on this earth, I think we need to be sensitive to it, and I think we need to take some reasonable actions to make sure that we leave this to the next generation in a healthy state." [American Bridge, 7/12/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**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: It's Troubling That "Too Often," GOP Questions Science "That Everyone Accepts"; Putting Carbon Dioxide Into The Atmosphere Warms The Earth, "It's Incontrovertible."** During an October 28, 2015 Republican presidential debate in Colorado, Gov. Pataki said, "One of the things that troubles me about the Republican Party is too often we question science that everyone accepts. It's ridiculous that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we're questioning whether or not vaccines

are the appropriate way to go. Of course they are. And it's also not appropriate to think that human activity, putting CO2 into the atmosphere doesn't make the earth warmer all things being equal. It does. It's incontrovertible." [CNBC, [10/28/15](#)]

**Gov. Pataki: Acknowledging That More Greenhouse Gases In The Atmosphere Will Increase Temperatures Is Not A "Progressive Position," But An "Intelligent Position. Republicans Should Embrace Science."** On October 19, 2015, Gov. Pataki conducted an interview with MSNBC's Thomas Roberts. During the interview, Gov. Pataki said, "The whole world, including Republicans, have to acknowledge CO2 is a greenhouse gas and when you put more of it in the atmosphere, all things being equal, the earth's going to get warmer. Now, I don't think that's a progressive position. I think it's an intelligent position. Republicans should embrace science. But I don't support the Obama approach of regulation, expansion, raising costs, driving companies offshore. American innovation, American ingenuity, invention -- that's how we'll deal with climate change." [MSNBC, [10/19/15](#)]

**Gov. Pataki: We Must Deal With Climate Change, But Not "In The Way The Obama Administration Is Doing It With Massive Regulations And Higher Taxes, The Heavy-Handed Government Picking Winners And Losers, And Driving Jobs Out Of America."** On October 12, 2015, Gov. Pataki participated in a New Hampshire convention hosted by the bipartisan group No Labels. During the convention, Gov. Pataki said that the issue of climate change "is about the future of the globe and if we do not deal with the issue of global warming, we are going to have unforeseen consequences that no one here can predict that could have a horrible, negative impact on future generations' lives. And as I said at the beginning ... it is the one area where reducing the size of government -- because I would not do it the way Obama is doing it with massive regulations and higher taxes, the heavy-handed government picking winners and losers, and driving jobs out of America. I would do it in an exactly opposite way and that is by empowering American innovation, empowering the American belief in dreaming and creating, so that our private sector, our university sector, and government all working together could create the next generation of clean energy products that not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but create tens, hundreds of thousands of jobs for America. And by the way, if we did not need to be so dependent on things like oil, and not just the United States, if the world didn't need to be so dependent on things like oil, Russia, Iran, other totalitarian states would see their power greatly diminished and that helps the United States tremendously. So unleash the creativity, the innovative ability of the American dreamer, thinker, entrepreneur, scientist, and we can have that next generation of energy that doesn't just slightly reduce greenhouse gases, but allows us to de-carbonize our economy while growing jobs." [CSPAN, [10/12/15](#)]

**Gov. Pataki: Pope Has The Authority And Ability To Take About Climate Change; "We Are Stealing From The Future When We Don't Take Intelligent Steps" To Confront It.** In a September 2015 interview, Gov. Pataki was asked, "What are your thoughts about the pope's stance on climate change? Do you consider him a critical actor in the climate movement?" He responded, "It's important that figures beyond politics raise concerns and issues. And the pope has the authority, has the ability, to do that, speaking from a moral standpoint and a religious standpoint as opposed to a political or scientific standpoint ... We are stealing from the future when we don't take intelligent steps to leave the world a healthier, cleaner, greener place. I think this obligation is something that anyone in public office should feel." [Grist, [9/25/15](#)]

**Gov. Pataki: Planet Is Getting Warmer, "And Yes, Human Activity Is Contributing"; "Absurd For Some In My Party To Reject That Fact."** During an August 2015 Bloomberg News interview, Gov. Pataki was asked, "Is climate change occurring and, if so, what role does human activity play in it?" He answered, "There are two things that I think everyone has to acknowledge. One is that human activity is increasing the amount of [carbon dioxide] in the atmosphere and that CO2 is a greenhouse gas that—all other factors being equal—will result in higher temperatures. That is something that everyone has to agree on. Given that, I think the answer is yes, it is getting warmer, and yes, human activity is contributing. The question is to how much and to what extent other things, other atmospheric variances or solar flares or other things have an impact. I can't tell you. But the prudent thing to do would be to have intelligent policies,

consistent with economic growth and not driving up the costs of energy, to reduce CO2 emissions ... We do know that CO2 emissions are a greenhouse gas. I think it is really absurd to reject that fact. Just as it's absurd for some in my party and some other potential candidates to say that we have to question the value of vaccines, we have to question whether or not to teach evolution. This is the 21st century, and we have to embrace science and technology and be honest about it as we look at all the issues this country faces." [Bloomberg News, [8/3/15](#)]

**Gov. Pataki Believed That Climate Change Was Real.** In May 2015, PBS reported, "Pataki, who co-chaired the Council on Foreign Relations' 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: "While I Do Think Man May Have A Role In Our Climate," The Climate Has Always Been Changing; "We Need To Look Before We Leap."** During a November 10, 2015 Fox Business Republican primary debate, Sen. Paul said, "While I do think man may have a role in our climate, I think nature also has a role. The planet's 4.5 billion years old. We've been through geologic age through geologic age. We've had times when the temperature's been warmer, we've had times when the temperature's been colder, we've had times when the carbon in the atmosphere has been higher. We need to look before we leap." [Fox Business, [11/10/15](#)]

**Sen. Paul: "It's Almost Like They Will Put You In Prison For Challenging The Religious Dogma Of Climate Change."** During a November 12, 2015 interview on Fox News, Sen. Paul said, "We've become overly sensitive where people can't have a joke, people can't have an opinion. Only certain opinions are acceptable on college campus. I think we need more robust debate and it really shouldn't be this monolith thing. If do you challenge climate change it's almost like they will put you in prison for challenging the religious dogma of climate change on campus, and that's crazy." [Fox News, [11/12/15](#)]

**Sen. Paul Admitted That Humans Have Some Effect On Climate Change, But Added That "People Have Become Alarmists" And "Apocalyptic."** On November 5, 2015, Sen. Paul spoke to a crowd of approximately 200 people at the University of New Hampshire. At the event, University of New Hampshire Student Environmental Action Coalition member Griffin Sinclair-Wingate asked Sen. Paul for his thoughts on climate change. Sen. Paul responded, "So, the first thing I think we would all admit if we were to have a dispassionate argument or a discussion of this, is that nature has some effect, and man may well have some effect. I think what we've gotten though, is a point in time where people have become alarmists about this and apocalyptic." [The New Hampshire, [11/5/15](#)]

**Sen. Paul, On Not Accepting The Science Behind Man-Made Climate Change: "It Has Become Sort Of Like You're A Holocaust Denier If You Question Any Of The Religious Cult That Says, 'You have To Believe As I Do.'"** In October 2015, Se. Paul conducted an interview with the [Concord Monitor's](#) editorial board. During the meeting, Sen. Paul said that a discussion regarding humans' impact on climate change is "impossible to have – in a logical way – in the United States right now." Sen. Paul said, "It has become sort of like you're a Holocaust denier if you question any of the religious cult that says, 'You have to believe as I do.' I think we're in an absurd situation." [Concord Monitor, [10/10/15](#)]

**Sen. Paul: Climate Change Debate Is Over How Much Of It Is Man-Made; "People On The Other Side Have Become Hysterical."** During a July 2015 town hall in Lebanon, NH, Sen. Paul said, "Global warming – can, or does man have something to do with it? Sure. But that's not the debate. That's not the end of the debate. That's the beginning of the debate. So then let's last ourselves: before the Industrial Revolution, before we had any manmade emissions, were there changes in climate? Profound changes in climate. We had geologic ice ages, we had times when it's been warmer

than now. We've also had times when there's been much more CO2 in the air than we have now. So, there have been cyclical natures to climate. So there's a natural cycle that's occurred even before man was known to have existed on the planet. Then there's the question of whether man has some influence on the climate now, and I think we should all be concerned about that. We should all want a cleaner environment. We shouldn't want people to pollute our rivers, or our air. But there's a certain amount of a balancing act. Cars do have emissions, and they probably aren't good for the planet. How many people want to ban cars? See, we have to have a balanced equation between the economy and jobs, and the environment. That doesn't mean no rules – we have rules on emissions. We have rules on coal plants. Coal plants have actually gotten cleaner over the last 40 years. If you look at sulfur dioxide, if you look at nitrous oxide, mercury – the three things that they measure, it's all gone down dramatically over a 40-year period. Does man have some influence over the climate? Probably, yes. But the debate is – and this is where the religiosity of the people who are steadfast on 'man's causing all of it' – it's a religion. The thing is, we have a debate. The debate is over how much how much is nature, and how much is man. And I think good people can say, 'I don't know, maybe it's 95 percent nature. Maybe I think it's 50 percent nature.' But the people on the other side of this have become somewhat hysterical in thinking it's all man, that it has nothing to do with nature. If you block out of your mind all of our history and all these geologic ages of climate change, then I think we're probably fully thoughtful about the issue." [American Bridge, 7/25/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**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](#)]

**Sen. Paul Voted Against Stating That Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor To Climate Change.** In January 2015, Sen. Paul 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. 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, “Anybody who's ever studied any geology knows that over periods of time — long periods of time — that the climate changes, OK? I'm not sure anybody knows exactly why but we have 20, 30, 100,000 year sort of cycles that go on with the climate. It has been much warmer than it is today ... They all predicted the poor Statue of Liberty was going to drown within a hundred years, and the polar bears

and all this stuff. That alarmist kind of stuff, I think, really detracts from the case that we shouldn't pollute ... What I would say is that someone is an ignoramus who would say that, 'Oh, we had three hurricanes this year. This proves that somehow the climate is warming.' The earth's 4.5 billion years old, and you're going to say that we had four hurricanes and so it proves a theory? No. I'm not saying that theory is right or wrong. What I would say is there is something that all of us should be in favor of and that is we should minimize pollution." [University of Chicago Institute of Politics, [4/22/14](#)]

## MARCO RUBIO (R)

**Sen. Rubio: Climate Is Always Changing, And Passing Laws Won't Prevent Sea Levels From Rising, But It Will make "Living In America More Expensive"; We Should Innovate Our Way Out Of This Problem.** On October 14, 2015, Sen. Rubio held a town hall meeting in Derry, New Hampshire. During the town hall, he had the following exchange with an audience member:

**QUESTION:** Senator, I have to say I've heard you speak several times about climate control and not fighting it because the U.S. can't win the battle alone. China has recently introduced a groundbreaking program to limit carbon emissions with a cap and trade program. And I'm wondering, when you are president what will you do to match their commitment to fighting climate change?

**SEN. RUBIO:** Well, first of all, the Chinese have said that in the year 2030 they're going to begin to do some stuff. We'll see, number one. They continue to emit more carbon in the atmosphere than any other nation on earth. The second point I would make is look, the climate is always changing. There's never been a time when the climate was unchanged. The debate for me as a policymaker is what can we do about it? So I have these people come forward as a policymaker and saw we want you to pass this law, cap and trade or whatever it may be. And I ask them, OK, well if we pass this law, how many inches of sea rise will it prevent? Well, it won't prevent any, at least not for 150 years and only if other countries do the same thing. OK. So it won't really be measurable impact on the environment. On the other hand, I ask the economists, what will this do to our economy? Well, it'll make living in America more expensive. It'll make it harder to hire people. It'll make it more difficult for businesses to succeed in America as opposed to somewhere else. So I'm presented with these options that have deep economic costs, no environmental benefit. How is that a good deal for the country? As president I'm not going to support anything that hurts our economy and does nothing to help our environment. Now, do I believe this issue's one that can be confronted over time? Yes, I do. You know how? I think the American innovator is going to help solve a lot of this by making us more energy efficient. I have no problem in leading the world in solar and wind and bio-renewables and so forth. But we're also going to lead the world in oil and natural gas. We are not going to emasculate the American economy and hold ourselves back from economic growth and development, especially at a time when millions of Americans are struggling, stuck in low-paying jobs that are leaving them living paycheck to paycheck, and in some instances working and on public assistance. And so I'm not supporting any policies that are bad for our economy and do nothing for our environment.

[CSPAN, [10/14/15](#)]

**Sen. Rubio Opposed Recognizing The Reality Of Climate Change; "It's Not That I Deny Science. I'm Not Going To Support Policies That Would Destroy Our Economy And Do Nothing To Improve Our Environment."** During an October 2015 town hall meeting, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with a League of Conservation Voters Volunteer:

**VOLUNTEER:** I was wondering why you voted against a bill, in the Senate, to recognize the reality of climate change.

**SEN. RUBIO:** That bill is nothing but a symbolic effort to say that people are against this because they deny science. It's not that I deny science. I'm not going to support policies that would destroy our economy and do nothing to improve our environment. I've been repeatedly clear about that.

[American Bridge 21<sup>st</sup> Century YouTube Channel, [10/7/15](#)]

**Sen. Rubio: I Disagree With Pope’s Call On Act On Climate Change Because “On Economic Issues, The Pope Is A Person ... I Just Honestly Believe Free Enterprise Is A Better Way Of Doing It.”** In a September 2015 interview on FOX News, Sen. Rubio was asked “why he disagrees with the Holy Father on the specifics” of issues like “the need to fight poverty, and climate change.” He responded, “On moral issues, he speaks with incredible authority. He’s done so consistently on the value of life, on the sanctity of life, on the importance of marriage and on the family. [But] On economic issues, the pope is a person ... We have the same goal — providing more prosperity and upward mobility, I just honestly believe free enterprise is a better way of doing it.” [Fox News Insider YouTube Channel, [9/22/15](#)]

**Sen. Rubio Called Himself A Climate “Skeptic”; “You Can Measure The Climate,” But “I’m Skeptical Of The Decisions That The Left Wants To Make” To Address The Issue.** During the September 2015 CNN Republican presidential debate, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with moderator Jake Tapper:

**SEN. RUBIO:** Jake, you mentioned -- call me a denier --

**TAPPER:** I called you a skeptic.

**SEN. RUBIO:** A skeptic. You can measure the climate. You can measure it. That's not the issue we're discussing. Here is what I'm skeptical of. I'm skeptical of the decisions that the left wants us to make. Because I know the impact those are going to have and they're all going to be on our economy. They will not do a thing to lower the rise of the sea. They will not do a thing to cure the drought here in California. What they will do is make America a more expensive place to create jobs and today, with millions of people watching this broadcast that are struggling paycheck to paycheck that do not know how they're going to pay their bills at the end of this month, I'm not in favor of anything that is going to make it harder for tm to raise their family.

[CNN Debate, [9/16/15](#)]

**Sen. Rubio Believes The Climate Has Always Been Changing; He Did Not Support Any Policy Changes To Do Anything About It.** During an August 2015 campaign stop in Londonderry, NH, Sen. Rubio said, “The climate’s been changing forever, and it will continue to change ... there are scientists that believe that men have a direct impact on it.” He added that he would not support changes in policy that would increase Americans’ energy costs. [[Boston Globe](#), [8/26/15](#)]

**Sen. Rubio: “No Problem” With Pope Calling For Action On Climate Change, But It’s “Also In The Common Good To Protect Our Economy”; People Everywhere “Emerged From Poverty” Largely Due To “Affordable Energy.”** In June 2015, Sen. Rubio spoke to reporters before a keynote speech at the Miami-Dade GOP Lincoln Day dinner. According to the [Palm Beach Post](#), “Rubio said first that he finds it ‘ironic that a lot of the same liberals who are touting the encyclical on climate change ignore multiple pronouncements of this pope on the definition of marriage and the sanctity of life.’ Then, Rubio added: ‘I have no problem with what the pope did. He is a moral authority and as a moral authority is reminding us of our obligation to be good caretakers of the planet. I’m a political leader and my job as a policymaker is to act in the common good. And I do believe it’s in the common good to protect our environment. But I also believe it’s in the common good to protect our economy. There are people all over this planet and in this country who have emerged from poverty in large respect because of the availability of affordable energy. It creates industries. It makes the cost of living lower. And we have to take that into account as well.’” [[Palm Beach Post](#), [6/22/15](#)]

**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: No Scientific Consensus On Humans’ Impact On Climate Change.** During a May 2014 Fox News interview with Bill O’Reilly, Sen. Rubio stated, “I’ve never denied the climate is changing. That shouldn’t surprise us. The climate is always changing. The second point on the science is, the left likes to go around saying ‘There’s a consensus, there’s a consensus.’ There is a majority of scientists that say that global carbon emission by humans causes some changes in the climate. But what there is no consensus on, and they conveniently ignore is, there is no consensus on the sensitivity of the climate -- how much is changing and how much of it is directly attributable to human carbon emission? “There’s no consensus on that, which is why the models vary so greatly. Which is why despite 17 years of dramatic increases in carbon production by humans, surface temperatures in the earth have stabilized. But here’s the last point, which is indisputable: None of these proposals that liberals want us to impose on ourselves would do anything about the problem. There are 35 gigatons of carbon emitted into the atmosphere this year; we Americans are only responsible for 6 of it. By the year 2050, China and India alone will produce 50 gigatons. These laws they want us to pass would destroy our economy and have zero impact on these issues they keep raising. And that’s the part they don’t want to debate at all.” [Senator Marco Rubio YouTube Channel, [5/21/14](#)]

**Sen. Rubio Was “Deeply Skeptical” of Man-Made Climate Change; Did Not Believe In It “The Way These Scientists Are Portraying It.”** In a May 2014 interview on ABC’s This Week, 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 say that this is now evidence of a longer-term trend that’s directly and almost solely attributable to man-made activities ... I don’t know of any era in world history where the climate has been stable. Climate is always evolving, and natural disasters have always existed ... I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it. That’s what I -- and I do not believe that the laws that they propose we pass will do anything about it, except it will destroy our economy.” [ABC News, [5/11/14](#); PolitiFact, [5/13/14](#)]

**Sen. Rubio: “I Don’t Know Of Any Era In World History When The Climate Has Been Stable.”** In a May 2014 interview with Jonathan Karl on ABC’s “This Week,” Sen. Rubio “said he didn’t know of an era when the climate was stable.” He stated, “The fact is that these events that we’re talking about are impacting us, because we built very expensive structures in Florida and other parts of the country near areas that are prone to hurricanes. We’ve had hurricanes in Florida forever. and the question is, what do we do about the fact that we have built expensive structures, real estate and population centers, near those vulnerable areas? I have no problem with taking mitigation activity. What I have a problem with is these changes to our law that somehow politicians say are going to change our weather. That’s absurd.” [ABC News, [5/11/14](#)]

**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: While Pope Francis Is Trying To Reach Others With Climate Change Message, “The Vatican And The Pope Are Not Climate Scientists. They’re Not Going To Weigh In To What Needs To Be Done.”** In September 2015, Sen. Santorum said, “I know some people say, conservatives are really upset about the Pope. I’m not. Because what the Pope is trying to do is reach out to people that have not been listening, have tuned out the Pope and people of faith and say they’re not relevant in my life. For the Pope to engage in things that are relevant in people’s lives, who have walked away from faith or faith is not an important part of their life, he’s now tried to reach in and create a touchstone. And they’re listening because he’s talking their language ... The Vatican and the Pope are not climate scientists. They’re not going to weigh in to what needs to be done. What he’s saying is, we need address the issues that threaten the environment that God has created. We can agree or disagree as to how big a threat global climate change is, and obviously I have some disagreements there. But the thrust of it is, we need to be good stewards of the environment.” [CBS Philly, [9/24/15](#)]

**Sen. Santorum: Oft-Cited Statistic That 97 Percent Of Climate Scientists Was Not True.** In August 2015, Sen. Santorum had the following exchange with TV host Bill Maher:

MAHER: I don’t think you think climate change is a real problem.

SEN. SANTORUM: And I’m not alone. The most recent survey of climate scientists said about 57 percent don’t agree with the idea that 95 percent of the change on the climate is being caused by CO2. There was a survey done of 1,800 scientists, and 57 percent said they don’t buy off on the idea that CO2 is the knob that’s turning the climate. There’s hundreds of reasons the climate’s changed ... That’s number one. Number two: the 97 percent figure that’s thrown around? The head of the UNIPCC said that number was pulled out of thin air. It was based on a survey of 77 scientists – not even 97 scientists responded to that survey. So let’s talk about facts. And the fact is, lots of things cause climate change, and let’s talk about another point. What are you going to do about it? The answer is, if you look at what the president has proposed – an 80 percent reduction in emissions – the consequence of that to the folks I am running my campaign on, which are folks that are blue-collar Americans who’re losing jobs to China, losing jobs to Mexico.

[Real Time with Bill Maher YouTube Channel, [8/28/15](#)]

**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 minor factor is 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: “It’s Really Cold Outside ... We Could Use A Big Fat Dose Of Global Warming!”** On October 19, 2015, Trump tweeted, “It’s really cold outside, they are calling it a major freeze, weeks ahead of normal. Man, we could use a big fat dose of global warming!” [Donald Trump Twitter, [10/19/15](#)]

**Wall Street Journal Headline: “Donald Trump: I Don’t Believe In Climate Change.”** [Wall Street Journal, [9/24/15](#)]

**Asked Whether He Agreed With Pope Francis’s Call To Act On Climate Change, Trump Said No; “I Am Not A Believer In Climate Change.”** In September 2015, [Politico](#) reported, “Donald Trump is at odds with Pope Francis when it comes to climate change. In his White House address ... the pope called climate change ‘a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation.’ Asked whether he agreed with that on CNN’s ‘New Day,’ Trump said no. ‘I think that clean air is a

pressing problem. You want to have clean air, clean water. That's very important to me, and I've won many environmental awards. I am not a believer in climate change,' Trump said." [Politico, [9/24/15](#)]

- **Politico Headline: "Trump: Pope Is Wrong On Climate Change."** [Politico, [9/24/15](#)]

**Trump Said He Would "Actually Talk" With Pope Francis And "See If He's Serious" About Climate Change.** In September 2015, CNN reported, "If Donald Trump found himself in a private meeting with the Pope ... the Republican businessman would want to talk climate change. 'He seems to be getting extremely political,' Trump said of Pope Francis, who will visit the United States for a historic trip ... and has made addressing global warming one of his pet issues. 'I would actually talk to him about it to see if he's serious.' Trump, who is skeptical of the idea that humans are causing climate change, told Fox News' Greta van Susteren that he disagreed with the Pope and would look to gauge why he might be speaking out about it." [CNN, [9/21/15](#)]

**Trump: Climate Change Is "Not A Big Problem At All ... It's A Big Planet."** In a September 2015 interview on MSNBC's Morning Joe, following the second GOP presidential debate, Trump said, "I consider climate change to be not one of our big problems. I consider it to be not a big problem at all. I think it's weather. I think it's weather changes. It could be some man-made something. But, you know, you look at China, they're doing nothing about it. Other countries are doing nothing about it. It's a big planet." [MSNBC Morning Joe, [9/17/15](#)]

**Trump: "I'm Not A Huge Believer In The Global Warming Phenomenon"; Manmade Contribution To Climate Change Is "Not Nearly To The Extent" That President Obama Says It Is.** During a June 2015 interview with CNN's Jake Tapper, Trump said, "I'm not a huge believer in the global warming phenomenon ... There could be some manmade too, I mean, I'm not saying there's zero, but not nearly to the extent — when Obama gets up and said it's the number one problem of our country, and if it is, why is it that we have to clean up our factories now when China doesn't have to do it for another 30 to 35 years?" [CNN, [6/28/15](#)]

**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](#)]

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

### HILLARY CLINTON (D)

**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: Having Republicans Like Ted Cruz “Who Say Climate Change Is Not Science ... Can Be Pretty Dispiriting, But It Can Also Be Galvanizing.”** On November 9, 2015, Sec. Clinton filed her candidacy for president with the New Hampshire Secretary of State. In talking with the media during the filing process, Sec. Clinton said, “In 2008, the Republican Party platform had a long section about climate change. And now we have candidates like Ted Cruz who say climate change is not science. That can be pretty dispiriting, but it can also be galvanizing.” [New York Times, [11/9/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: Unclear Whether GOP Candidates’ Denial Of Climate Change Is Political Or True Belief, But It’s “Hurting Our Country.”** On November 5, 2015, Sec. Clinton appeared on ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live. During the interview, she had the following exchange with the show’s host, Jimmy Kimmel:

**KIMMEL:** I find it interesting that the vast majority of the [Republican] candidates, and people who are Republicans, believe that man-made climate change is a myth, or some sort of conspiracy designed to hurt our economy. Do you think that most people genuinely believe that, or are they towing the party line?

**SEC. CLINTON:** “I think it’s both, Jimmy. I think some people do believe it. When you hear them say, as they often do, “I’m not a scientist,” my response that that is, “Go talk to one, and maybe you could get some information that would enlighten you or educate you about the problems that climate change is confronting us with,” because it IS an existential crisis. I think some [candidates] are doing it because they have strong supporters, people who are maybe from the fossil fuel industry, for example, and they don’t want to cross them. So, they adopt that position, and whether they really believe it, or it’s just political opportunism, I can’t tell. But, the fact is, it’s hurting our country, and what I don’t understand is, there are huge economic opportunities here. If we were the clean energy superpower of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we would create millions of new good jobs and businesses, and we would transition away from fossil fuels, and help the climate at the same time.

[ABC, [11/5/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: “Significant” Bilateral Agreement Between United States And China Needs To Go Further; At Paris Talks, “We Must Get Verifiable Commitments To Fight Climate Change From Every Country There.”** During the October 13, 2015 Democratic primary debate, Sec. Clinton said, “When we met in Copenhagen in 2009 ... President Obama and I were hunting for the Chinese, going throughout this huge convention center because we knew we had to get them to agree to something, because there will be no effective efforts against climate change unless China and India join with the rest of the world. They told us they’d left for the airport. We found out they were having a secret meeting. We marched up, we broke in and said we’ve been looking all over for you, let’s sit down and talk about what we need to do and we did come up with the first international agreement that China has signed. Thanks to President Obama’s leadership, it has gone much further. I do think that the bilateral agreement President Obama made with the Chinese

was significant. It needs to go further, and there will be an international meeting at the end of this year, and we must get verifiable commitments to fight climate change from every country there ... I have been on the forefront of dealing with climate change starting in 2009 when President Obama and I crashed a meeting with the Chinese and got them to sign up to the first international agreement to combat climate change that they'd ever joined. So, I'm not taking a back seat to anybody on my values, my principles and the results that I get." [CNN Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton Op-Ed: "Pope Francis Is Right ... We Must Lead The Charge" To Act On Climate Change.** In a September 2015 [National Catholic Recorder](#) op-ed, Sec. Clinton wrote, "Pope Francis is right. All countries and all people are responsible for preventing the worst impacts of climate change. But countries like the United States have a particular role. We are rich, powerful, and blessed with many advantages. We must lead the charge." [Hillary Clinton op-ed, [National Catholic Reporter](#), [9/25/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton Thanked Pope Francis For His Call To "Protect Our Environment."** In September 2015, Sec. Clinton tweeted, "Gracias, @Pontifex. Tenemos que cuidar el medio ambiente, crear oportunidades económicas y defender los derechos y la dignidad de todos." Translated, the statement reads, "Thank you, @Pontifex. We need to protect our environment, create economic opportunities and defend the rights and the dignity of all." [HillaryClinton Twitter, [9/24/15](#)]

**Sec. Clinton: "Hard To Believe" Some Presidential Candidates Don't Accept "Settled Science Of Climate Change."** In a July 2015 campaign video Sec. Clinton said, "It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they're not a scientist than listen to those who are. You don't have to be a scientist to take on the urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act." [Hillary Clinton YouTube Channel, [7/26/15](#)]

**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: Virtually All Young People Agree That Climate Change Is Real, And Government Has A Role In Dealing With It.** On October 24, 2015, Gov. O’Malley spoke at the Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Iowa. He said, “If you want to know where our country is headed, talk to our young people under 30, because you will rarely find among them anyone who denies that climate change is real, or things their government shouldn’t do anything about it.” [Martin O’Malley YouTube Channel, [10/25/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: “We Must Square Our Shoulders To The Great Challenge Of Climate Change And Make This Threat Our Opportunity.”** During the October 13, 2015 Democratic primary debate, Gov. O’Malley said, “We must square our shoulders to the great challenge of climate change and make this threat our opportunity. The future is what we make of it. We are all in this together. The question in this election is whether you and I still have the ability to give our kids a better future. I believe we do.” [CNN Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: “Climate Change, Of Course, Makes Cascading Threats Worse.”** During the October 13, 2015 Democratic primary debate, Gov. O’Malley was asked about the greatest national security threat to the United States, he responded, “I believe a nuclear Iran, along with the spread of ISIL, and climate change, of course, makes cascading threats worse.” [CNN Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley Op-Ed: People All Over “Are Energized By Pope Francis’ Message ... He Inspires Millions ... To Act Now To Head Off The Devastation Of Climate Change.”** In a September 2015 [National Catholic Reporter](#) op-ed, Gov. O’Malley wrote, “This, I believe, is why so many people — not only Catholics, but people of so many creeds and faiths, and those who profess to not have religious faith — are energized by Pope Francis’ message. He is a reformer, but one who creates change by ‘letting the light in’ so all of us can see the truth and act upon that truth. As he works to heal wounds and divisions within his own church, he inspires millions of others: to embrace those who have been marginalized by poverty or discrimination; to act now to head off the devastation of climate change for the sake of our “common home,” this one earth; and to reach out and help those most in need.” [Gov. O’Malley op-ed, [National Catholic Reporter](#), [9/21/15](#)]

**Gov. O’Malley: Defense Dept. Agrees With Assertion That Megadroughts, Caused By Climate Change, Helped Usher In Unrest And Humanitarian Crises That Gave Way To The Rise Of ISIS.** During a July 2015 interview on Iowa Public Radio, Gov. O’Malley was asked, “You turned some heads recently, some ears perked up when you linked climate change to the Islamic State. Are you suggesting that preventing climate change can be key to stopping terrorism?” He answered, “We need a new foreign policy of engagement and collaboration and a new national security strategy that recognizes and anticipates rising threats before they rise to a level where it seems the only options we have are boots on the ground or not. And, as an example of that, I pointed out that because of the erratic weather patterns brought about by climate change, and I do agree with 98% of scientists who say that that’s driven by human activity, we have seen megadroughts in parts all over the world. The megadrought that California is going through right now. But there was also a megadrought in Syria, that preceded the collapse of that nation state and that preceded the rise of ISIL. And that

megadrought drove people off of the land, into cities, the government did not respond very well to that humanitarian and that drought crisis. They responded instead, when people were expressing their displeasure and that they had nothing to eat or drink, they responded with oppression and repression. That brought about, ultimately, the unrest that led to a civil war that led to the chaos that led to the vacuum that led to the rise of ISIL. But don't believe me, people in the Defense Department would agree with that scenario as well. That's why when you look at a new foreign policy of engagement and collaboration, it is not just against terror groups and non-state actors. It is against the very real human threats posed by climate change, the threats posed to humanity by pandemic coming out of West Africa. And these are the places where we need to forge new alliance and be smarter as people in anticipating these threats, dialing up our power of diplomacy, development, and collaboration with like-minded people to mitigate these conditions before they lead to a situation that becomes a security threat." [Iowa Public Radio, [7/30/15](#)]

**Gov. O'Malley: Rise Of Climate Change In Syria "Wiped Out Farmers, Drove People To Cities, Created A Humanitarian Crisis That Created The ... Conditions Of Extreme Poverty That Has Now Led To The Rise Of ISIS."** In July 2015, Gov. O'Malley said, "One of the things that preceded the failure of the nation state of Syria and the rise of ISIS was the effect of climate change and the mega-drought that affected that nation, wiped out farmers, drove people to cities, created a humanitarian crisis that created the symptoms—or rather, the conditions—of extreme poverty that has led now to the rise of ISIS and this extreme violence." [Bloomberg, [7/22/15](#)]

**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: “We Must Take Bold Action To Transform Our Energy System” In Order To Tackle Climate Change.** On November 13, 2015, Sen. Sanders tweeted, “We cannot let our grandchildren wonder why we did nothing about climate change. We must take bold action to transform our energy system now.” [ @SenSanders Twitter, [11/13/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Climate Change Endangers The World, And Republicans Refuse To Acknowledge It.** During an October 25, 2015 interview with PBS’s Charlie Rose, Sen. Sanders said, “The world’s future is being endangered by climate change that a Republican party refuses to acknowledge.” [PBS, [10/25/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Any Republican Who Said That Climate Change Is Real, And “Bold Action” Is Needed To “Transform Our Energy System” Would Be “Primarily By Big Energy Money And Likely Defeated.”** On October 21, 2015, Sen. Sanders sat down with MSNBC’s Chris Hayes for an interview. During the interview, Sen. Sanders said, “I would 99 percent guarantee ... that any Republican who said climate change is real, we have got to take bold action to transform our energy system, that person would be primaried by big energy money and likely defeated.” [MSNBC, [10/21/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: “Public Consciousness Is Growing That Climate Change Is Real ... People Are Saying, Yes, We Better Do Something About It.”** On October 21, 2015, Sen. Sanders sat down with MSNBC’s Chris Hayes for an interview. During the interview, Sen. Sanders said, “I think public consciousness is growing that climate change is real. People are seeing it with their own eyes. They’re seeing it in California in the droughts. They’re seeing it in the southwest and other areas in terms of forest fires, which are worse and more numerous than used to be the case. They’re seeing it in a heat wave in Pakistan. They’re seeing it with their own eyes, and people are saying, yes, we better do something about it ... I think the issue of climate change is on the minds than a lot more people than the pundits think. And I think it is growing. I think people are just very, very concerned. The evidence scientifically and what people are saying it’s so real that people are saying, hey, I’m worried about my kids and grandchildren and what kind of planet they will be living in.” [MSNBC, [10/21/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Man-Made Climate Change Is Real, And “We Have A Moral Responsibility” To Transition From Fossil Fuels To Sustainable Energy.** During the October 13, 2015 Democratic primary debate, Sen. Sanders said, “Today, the scientific community is virtually unanimous: climate change is real. It is caused by human activity, and we have a moral responsibility to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel to energy efficiency and sustainable energy and leave this planet a habitable planet for our children and our grandchildren.” [CNN Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: “I Believe Climate Change Is Absolutely Real.”** In October 2015, Sen. Sanders said, “What I’ve found in Vermont and around the country is that we go to people and say, ‘Look, we do have differences. I believe in gay marriage. I’m not going to change your view if you don’t. I believe climate change is absolutely real, and some of you do not. But how many of you think we should give hundreds of billions in tax breaks to the richest 1 percent?’” [Washington Post, [10/4/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Pope Francis Sent Proud And Significant Message That “God’s Earth” Must Be Protected From Climate Change.** In September 2015, CNN reported, “Sanders, who is Jewish and ... was observing the important Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, said he also appreciates that the Pope is speaking ‘very proudly and significantly about climate change,’ sending a message that ‘God’s earth’ must be protected. The displeasure with that message from conservatives also doesn’t surprise Sanders. ‘That’s the pushback from the Koch brothers, and Exxon Mobil and the fossil fuel industry. But that’s his courage,’ Sanders said. ‘That’s what I admire about him, his audacity and his courage.’” [CNN, [9/23/15](#)]

**Sen. Sanders: Climate Change Is The “Greatest Threat” To Our Planet; “Scientific Community Is Virtually Unanimous” That Climate Change Is Real.** During an August 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Sen. Sanders said, “Climate change is the greatest threat facing the planet.” He added, “The scientific community is virtually unanimous: climate change is real. Climate change is caused by human activity.” [Daily Signal, [8/1/15](#)]

**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](#)]