



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

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

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

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

JEB BUSH (R)

Gov. Bush: “I Think We Need To Repeal Every Rule That Barack Obama Has,” Including The Clean Power Plan. During a November 10, 2015 Fox Business Republican primary debate, Gov. Bush said, “On the regulatory side, I think we need to repeal every rule that Barack Obama has in terms of work-in-progress – everyone of them, and start over. For those that are already in existence, the regulation of the internet, we have to start over but we ought to do that. The Clean Power Act [sic], we ought to repeal that and start over on that. The Waters of the United States Act, which is going to be devastating for agriculture and many industry, we should repeal that we should repeal the rules because the economic costs of this far exceed the social benefit.” [Fox Business, [11/10/15](#)]

Gov. Bush: “Massively Confusing” Clean Power Plan Will be Most Hurtful For “Low-Income People, Middle Class People, And People Who Want A Job.” In October 2015, Gov. Bush had the following exchange with an audience member in Bedford, New Hampshire:

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Governor, you’ve said you wanted to remove EPA regulations and give it back to the states.

GOV. BUSH: Yup.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: What happens if a state’s regulators don’t believe in man-made climate change?

GOV. BUSH: ... For the first time, the Clean Air Act is being defined where, instead of just inside the fence, which is how all pollutants have been regulated by EPA, now it’s outside the fence and they’re requiring states to create these massively confusing plans, by next year I think, to be able to say, ‘How are you going to reduce carbon emissions?’ And here’s the deal: without the government being involved, we’ve had a ten percent reduction in carbon emissions in this country in the last ten years. It’s happened because of the fracking revolution ... A ten percent reduction because natural gas is being used for power generation now. And so I trust New Hampshire to make these decisions rather than creating massive costs. You know who gets hurt with the massive costs, with the EPA regulations? Low-income people, middle class people, and people who want a job. Other than that, it’s a great way to create regulations. Can’t we find common ground in the way that has a lighter touch on regulations so that we can actually create income for people? That would be my mission, is to find that proper balance.

[American Bridge, [10/1/15](#)]

Gov. Bush: “Heavy-Handed” Clean Power Plan “Will Increase Electricity Prices For Everyone.” In September 2015, the [Pittsburgh Tribune](#) reported, “Bush argues that Obama’s ‘excessive rules’ go beyond what’s necessary to ensure energy development ‘in a way that protects human health and the environment,’ he said. Some rules discourage investment in domestic oil and gas operations, he said. The ‘heavy-handed’ carbon rule ‘will increase electricity prices for everyone and threaten the system’s reliability.’” [Pittsburgh Tribune, [9/30/15](#)]

Gov. Bush: Clean Power Plan Will Cost Jobs And “Increase Everyone’s Energy Prices.” In an August 2015 statement, Gov. Bush said, “President Obama’s Carbon Rule is irresponsible and overreaching. The rule runs over state governments, will throw countless people out of work, and increases everyone’s energy prices. The fact is, U.S. emissions of greenhouse gasses are down to the same levels emitted in the mid-1990s, even though we have 50 million

more people. A chief reason for this success is the energy revolution which was created by American ingenuity – not federal regulations. Climate change will not be solved by grabbing power from states or slowly hollowing out our economy. The real challenge is how do we grow and prosper in order to foster more game-changing innovations and give us the resources we need to solve problems like this one.” [Jeb Bush 2016, [accessed 8/4/15](#)]

Gov. Bush: Clean Power Plan Is A “Disaster” That Will Kill Jobs And Stunt Economic Growth, So “We Should Fight It.” In August 2015, Gov. Bush spoke at the Freedom Partners Policy Leaders Forum, a gathering organized by the Koch brothers. Asked about President Obama’s Clean Power Plan, Gov. Bush said, “I think it’s a disaster. It’s typical of the Obama administration – taking executive power he doesn’t have. Up until now, the last 45 years, the Clean Air Act has been about inside-the-fence pollution. Now, for the first time, they’ve extended this to require states, in a very coercive way, in a very confusing, convoluted way, to deal with this issue. I believe it’s unconstitutional, and I believe in a relatively short period of time, the courts will determine that as well. But in the interim, this has now been fast-forwarded. This rule will be official tomorrow. I think it’s going to be a disaster for high-sustained economic growth where people have a chance at earned success. This is going to be a job killer. It’s particularly hard for lower-income Americans that are already suffering mightily with higher costs and lower income, lower wages. Now we’re going to place on them, higher utility costs. It doesn’t solve the carbon issue that President Obama’s so preoccupied with, but it hollows out our industrial core. We should be doing something different ... This is going to be a disaster, and we should fight it.” [Jeb Bush YouTube Page, [8/2/15](#)]

Gov. Bush: Clean Power Plan Is “Irresponsible And Ineffective ... Oversteps State Authority” And Would Increase Energy Costs. In a July 2015 interview with Bloomberg News, Gov. Bush said, “Obama’s carbon rule is irresponsible and ineffective. First, it does virtually nothing to address the risk of climate change. Second, it oversteps state authority. Third, EPA has gone far beyond its statutory authority, regulating how people consume energy. Fourth, it threatens the reliability of the electricity grid. Finally, as proposed, it will unnecessarily increase energy costs on hard-working families and will cause job losses in many states.” [Bloomberg News, [7/30/15](#)]

BEN CARSON (R)

Dr. Carson: EPA Should Work With Businesses And Communities To “Find The Most Eco-Friendly Ways Of Developing Our Energy Resources.” In November 2014, Dr. Carson said, “Our Environmental Protection Agency should be told to work in conjunction with business, industry and universities to find the most eco-friendly ways of developing our energy resources.” [Bloomberg, [11/26/14](#)]

CHRIS CHRISTIE (R)

Gov. Christie: “I Agree With” Sen. Rubio, Who Said That He Was “Not In Favor” Of “The Decisions That The Left Wants Us To Make” To Address Climate Change. During the September 2015 CNN Republican presidential debate, Sen. Rubio said, “Every proposal they put forward will be proposals that make it harder to do business in America, that will make it harder to create jobs in America. single parents are already struggling across this country to provide for their families. Maybe a billionaire here in California can afford an increase in their utility rates, but a working family in Tampa, Florida, or anywhere across this country cannot afford it. So we're not going to destroy our economy. We're not going to make America a harder place to create jobs. In order to pursue policies that will do absolutely nothing, nothing to change our economy, to change our climate, our weather, because America is a lot of things, the greatest country in the world, absolutely. But America is not a planet. We are not even the largest carbon producer anymore, China is. They're drilling a hole and digging anywhere in the world that they can get a hold of. So the bottom line is, I am not in favor of any policies that make America a harder place for people to live, or to work, or to raise their families.” In response, Gov. Christie had the following exchange with moderator Jake Tapper:

TAPPER: Gov. Christie, you have that climate change is real, and that humans help contribute to it. Without getting into the issue of China versus the United States, which I understand you've talked about before, what do you make of skeptics of climate change such as Sen. Rubio?

CHRISTIE: I don't think Sen. Rubio is a skeptic of climate change. What Sen. Rubio said, I agree with.

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

Gov. Christie: “Fundamentally Flawed” Clean Power Plan Was The “Latest Overreach Of Obama’s EPA.” On September 2, 2015, Gov. Christie tweeted, “The EPA's Clean Power Plan is fundamentally flawed and NJ is acting to stop the latest overreach of Obama's EPA.” [GovChristie Twitter, [9/2/15](#)]

Gov. Christie Was “Totally Opposed” To Clean Power Plan. During an August 2015 Fox News interview, Gov. Christie was asked whether he supported the Clean Power Plan. He responded, “No, I'm totally opposed to it. We've already gone on record in New Jersey with a letter to the EPA opposing it. This is, again, the overregulation of the Obama administration ... Last year they issued 81,000 pages of new federal regulation in one year. This is the greatest regulating administration in the history of the United States and it is going to kill American businesses and jobs, as it has.” [Star-Ledger, [8/3/15](#)]

TED CRUZ (R)

Sen. Cruz Became An Original Cosponsor Of Two Pieces Of Legislation That Would Block The Clean Power Plan. On October 27, Sen. Cruz signed on as an original cosponsor of two Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions that would “kill” the Clean Power Plan. One resolution, introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Democrat Joe Manchin, would “block the administration’s rules limiting carbon emissions from new power plants.” The other resolution, introduced by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Heidi Heitkamp, would “stop the rules for existing power plants.” [National Journal, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.23, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.24, [10/26/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: “Flatly Unconstitutional” Clean Power Plan Was A “Lawless And Radical Attempt To Destabilize The Nation’s Energy System.” In an August 2015 press release, Sen. Cruz stated, “The President’s lawless and radical attempt to destabilize the Nation’s energy system is flatly unconstitutional and—unless it is invalidated by Congress, struck down by the courts, or rescinded by the next Administration—will cause Americans’ electricity costs to skyrocket at a time when we can least afford it. I urge leaders of both parties, including Democrats who represent communities that will be devastated by this reckless policy, to stand up against this Administration’s dangerous agenda of economic decline.” [Ted Cruz 2016 Press Release, [8/3/15](#)]

CARLY FIORINA (R)

If Elected President, Fiorina Would “Repeal The Entire Package” Of Clean Power Plan Regulations. During a June 2015 forum hosted by RealClearPolitics, Fiorina, discussing the Clean Power Plan, indicated that she “would repeal the entire package of Environmental Protection Agency emission rules once in the White House,” saying, “They're terrible. Every single one of them should be repealed.” [Washington Examiner, [8/4/15](#)]

JIM GILMORE (R)

Gov. Gilmore does not appear to have made any specific statements about the Clean Power Plan yet.

LINDSEY GRAHAM (R)

Sen. Graham Became An Original Cosponsor Of Two Pieces Of Legislation That Would Block The Clean Power Plan. On October 27, Sen. Graham signed on as an original cosponsor of two Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions that would “kill” the Clean Power Plan. One resolution, introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Democrat Joe Manchin, would “block the administration’s rules limiting carbon emissions from new power plants.” The other resolution, introduced by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Heidi Heitkamp, would “stop the rules for existing power plants.” [National Journal, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.23, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.24, [10/26/15](#)]

August 2015: Sen. Graham Did Not Offer His Thoughts On The Finalized Clean Power Plan. In August 2015, Bloomberg News reported, “South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, a rare Republican who accepts the science of man-made climate change, has not been vocal about Obama’s new plan. An inquiry to his campaign spokeswoman ... went unanswered.” [Bloomberg News, [8/3/15](#)]

Sen. Graham: If Elected President, “I Would Replace The EPA Regulation On Carbon With Something More Business-Friendly.” During a July 2015 campaign stop in Derry, NH, Sen. Graham was asked about EPA regulations. He answered, “The next president’s going to appoint all the people in charge of the federal government ... Pick your business partner wisely. The federal government is your business partner whether you like it or not. Choose someone who’s actually walked in your shoes, who’s actually run a business. You know, President Obama’s never run a lemonade stand, and he’s never bought a car. This is all coming back to haunt us. The EPA regulatory system has limited oversight by Congress. One of the great problems in America is that the bureaucratic side of government has almost the same effect on you as the elected side. So what would I do? I would replace the EPA regulation on carbon with something more business-friendly. I believe that climate change is real. I just don’t want to destroy the economy in the process of fixing it.” [American Bridge, 7/27/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

December 2014: Sen. Graham Wrote To EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Calling On The Agency To Completely Withdraw The Clean Power Plan. In December 2014, Sen. Graham signed on to a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to “express deep concern about the impact that the agency’s proposed clean power plan would have on electricity prices and power grid reliability.” The letter stated, “As proposed, the rule would have sweeping impacts that would not only raise Americans’ electricity prices, but also jeopardize the reliability of our nation’s power grid. Among the biggest problems with the rule are the unrealistic interim targets, severely constrained timeline for implementation, and the complications related to multi-state resources ... Unfortunately, EPA’s ESPS proposal will constrain Americans’ energy choices and inflict significant economic harm without producing any tangible environmental benefits. We urge you to address the wide range of issues raised by stakeholders regarding this proposal, including the three key concerns we have identified above, should you choose to proceed with issuing any final rule. However, we strongly believe the best way to address the aforementioned concerns is by withdrawing this ill-conceived and overreaching rule in its entirety.” [Sen. Graham Press Release, [12/10/14](#)]

MIKE HUCKABEE (R)

August 2015: Gov. Huckabee Believed That With Clean Power Plan, President Obama Showed He Was “More Committed To Confronting Coal Miners Than Iranian Clerics Who Chant ‘Death To America.’” In August 2015, Gov. Huckabee tweeted, “Obama’s carbon crusade shows he’s more committed to confronting American coal miners than Iranian clerics who chant 'death to America'. #EPA” [Gov. Mike Huckabee Twitter, [8/3/15](#)]

July 2012: Gov. Huckabee Warned That The Proposed Clean Power Plan Would “Bankrupt Families.” During a July 2012 interview on Fox Business, Gov. Huckabee said of the proposed rule to limit carbon pollution from power plants, “I

think what the president said, we want to bankrupt them. You know who he's going to bankrupt? He's going to bankrupt families. Moms and dads and two-kid households. He's going to bankrupt single moms. He is going to bankrupt college students. Because when energy is increasingly expensive it is not just the price of heating your home. It's the price of reaching for a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk because it's going to cost more to get it to your house and cost more to take care of your house. That's why I don't think this president understands - he champions himself as the, you know the guy that loves the little guy. He is killing the little guy with these policies." [Media Matters, [4/2/12](#); Fox Business, The Willis Report, 3/30/12]

BOBBY JINDAL (R)

Gov. Jindal Had "Strong Concerns" About The Clean Power Plan, Saying It Would Raise Costs And Move Louisiana Jobs Overseas; He Has Indicated To The Courts That He's "Likely To Be Involved In Litigation Against It." During an August 2015 interaction with a League of Conservation Voters volunteer at the Iowa State Fair, Gov. Jindal said, "I've got strong concerns with [the Clean Power Plan]. When you look at the impact on my state, for example ... I think it's going to raise costs. I think it's something Congress needs to be involved with. I don't think it's something the EPA should be doing on their own. So I have great concerns with it. I'll be honest with you - we're likely to be involved in litigation against it. Not right yet, because it hasn't formally been published as a rule. But we've already indicated to the courts, along with several other states - we're not doing this alone, but with several other states - we're likely to be in litigation. I don't think they filed the proper procedures ... So I have worries that it can raise utility costs, it can cause jobs in our state to go overseas, so we've got concerns about the consequences." When asked for his plan, as president, to mitigate carbon pollution, Gov. Jindal responded, "A couple of things. One, I think we can have affordable energy, I think we can have a strong economy, I think we can have a clean environment - I don't think they're mutually exclusive. I think it's also important that whatever we do, we do in concert with the countries we trade with and compete with. One of the concerns, for example, with what this president did with China was, we commit that we're making all these cuts on the front end, but they didn't have to make cuts until the end ... well, regardless of your views on the science, the reality is, that's not really going to be effective." [Iowa State Fair, LCV Video (available upon request), 8/21/15]

Gov. Jindal: "Rein In The EPA" And Its Regulations. During an August 2015 candidates' forum in New Hampshire, Gov. Jindal said, "We've got a lot to do domestically. Yes, we've got to repeal Obamacare. Yes, energy independence. Yes, a lower, flatter tax code. We have to rein in the EPA and the regulations." [CSPAN, [8/3/15](#)]

JOHN KASICH (R)

Gov. Kasich: "Extreme Regulations" Like The Clean Power Plan Must Be Scrapped. In October 2015, Gov. Kasich released a fact sheet detailing his energy plan. Under his plan, Gov. Kasich "scrap extreme regulations like the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan." He added, "This extreme regulatory proposal will drive needed electrical generation offline before it can be replaced. It will also force costly and unnecessary controls on remaining plants that will drive up electricity costs and make entire economic sectors uncompetitive. It must be scrapped and not replaced. Regulations on energy production which are counterproductive, extreme should be repealed." [Gov. Kasich Fact Sheet, [10/15/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich Urged President Obama Not To Implement Clean Power Plan Until "All Legal Appeals Are Resolved." In August 2015, Gov. Kasich wrote to President Obama asking him to "suspend implementation of the Clean Power Plan ... until all legal appeals are resolved." The letter stated, "Access to reliable, abundant, and low-cost electricity is critical to Ohio's economy. For that reason, we have pursued an 'all fuels' approach, which includes coal, natural gas, hydro, energy efficiency and renewables. Unfortunately, the final plan appears to move away from such a balanced plan ... I am concerned about the significant legal uncertainty surrounding this plan, especially in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision remanding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury and Air Toxic Standards to the D.C.

Circuit court for further consideration.” [Gov. Kasich Letter, [8/28/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich Opposed EPA’s New Carbon Emissions Rules, Saying They Would “Put People Out Of Work.” During an August 2015 speech in Belmont, NH, Gov. Kasich said, “The EPA is too punitive. And now they’re trying to impose a whole bunch of things on the environment and put people out of work. I’m not for that.” [American Bridge, 8/12/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Gov. Kasich “Worked With Utilities” In Ohio To Fight “Tougher Rules” For Coal-Fired Power Plants. In July 2015, the [Toledo Blade](#) reported, “The Clean Power Plan has major implications for Ohio, one of the nation’s most coal-reliant states and traditionally a swing state in presidential elections. It calls for tougher rules on coal-fired power plants, which Gov. John Kasich, a potential GOP presidential candidate in 2016, has worked with utilities to fight.” [[Toledo Blade, 7/6/15](#)]

GEORGE PATAKI (R)

Gov. Pataki Opposed Clean Power Plan, Saying It Would “Result In Higher Costs Of Energy, Increase ... The Vulnerability Of The Electrical Supply,” And Penalize Customers. During an August 2015 Bloomberg News interview, Gov. Pataki was asked if he supported the Clean Power Plan. He answered, “No. This is a classic top-down, government-imposed solution. It will result in higher costs of energy, an increase in the vulnerability of the electrical supply, and I think it's just completely wrong. One of the approaches I had when I was governor was that environmental protection and economic growth are not inconsistent. In fact, they're synergistic when done in an intelligent way. When I left, we not only had led the nation with environmental initiatives, including numerous initiatives in energy, but we had the lowest unemployment rate—4.3 percent in New York state—since they started keeping records. This approach from the EPA is the opposite. It will hurt the economy, it will drive up energy costs and it doesn't encourage innovation. It just penalizes consumers. I also think it's of questionable constitutionality and legality.” [Bloomberg News, [8/3/15](#)]

Gov. Pataki: If President, I Will “Stop The EPA” From “Trying To Shut Down American Energy.” During a May 2015 speech at the South Carolina Freedom Summit, Gov. Pataki said, “Let me tell you one of the first things I would do: reduce the size of the federal workforce by at least 15 percent. It is too big ... When we stop the EPA trying to shut down American energy, we won’t need as many bureaucrats in the EPA.” [CSPAN, [5/9/15](#)]

RAND PAUL (R)

Sen. Paul: “The First Thing I Would Do As President” Is Repeal The Clean Power Plan. During a November 10, 2015 Fox Business Republican primary debate, Sen. Paul said, “The first thing I would do as president is repeal the regulations that are hampering our energy that the president has put in place, including the Clean Power Act [sic].” [Fox Business, [11/10/15](#)]

Sen. Paul Became An Original Cosponsor Of Two Pieces Of Legislation That Would Block The Clean Power Plan. On October 27, Sen. Paul signed on as an original cosponsor of two Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions that would “kill” the Clean Power Plan. One resolution, introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Democrat Joe Manchin, would “block the administration’s rules limiting carbon emissions from new power plants.” The other resolution, introduced by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Heidi Heitkamp, would “stop the rules for existing power plants.” [[National Journal, 10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.23, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.24, [10/26/15](#)]

Sen. Paul: “I Will Do Everything I Can To Repeal” The Clean Power Plan. During a June 2014 Fox News interview, host Neil Cavuto asked Sen. Paul about the then-new proposal to curb carbon emissions from power plants. Sen. Paul said,

“The thing is, is we had a vote on cap and trade. The Democrats tried to pass it and they didn't have enough votes, so now they're going to try to do this through executive edict, and I don't think that's legal. I think if you want to pass legislation, try to get it through Congress. Come and talk to us. Try to convince us it's a good idea. But in my state, this is going to be higher electric bills and it's going to be more unemployment. So we're steadfast against it, and I will do everything I can to repeal this rule.” [Fox News, 6/3/14; Think Progress, [6/3/14](#)]

MARCO RUBIO (R)

Sen. Rubio Became An Original Cosponsor Of Two Pieces Of Legislation That Would Block The Clean Power Plan. On October 27, Sen. Rubio signed on as an original cosponsor of two Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions that would “kill” the Clean Power Plan. One resolution, introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Democrat Joe Manchin, would “block the administration’s rules limiting carbon emissions from new power plants.” The other resolution, introduced by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Heidi Heitkamp, would “stop the rules for existing power plants.” [National Journal, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.23, [10/26/15](#); S.J.Res.24, [10/26/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: Clean Power Plan Makes “No Meaningful Impact On Climate Change ... As President, I Will stop This Massive, Illegal Mandate That Will Raise Costs For Americans.” On October 16, 2015, Sen. Rubio released a detailed energy plan. In the plan, Sen. Rubio promised to “limit the power of unelected regulators.” He added, “The EPA’s carbon mandates make energy less affordable – for no meaningful impact on the global climate. The final rule will result in the closure of coal-fired power plants around the country, hurting the communities that depend on affordable energy for their livelihoods. It also threatens the reliability of electricity delivered to our homes by inducing power shortages and even blackouts ... As president, I will stop this massive, illegal mandate that will raise costs for Americans. I will ensure that rules and regulations implemented under the Clean Air Act not only protect the air we breathe, but do so in a reasonable, cost-effective manner, under timelines that recognize the difficulty that states often have in meeting Washington-imposed rules.” [Sen. Rubio Fact Sheet, [10/16/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: Addressing Climate Change – In Ways That President Reagan Did – Would “Destroy Our Economy”; “America Is Not A Planet ... I Am Not In Favor Of Any Policies” That Would Tackle The Issue. During the September 2015 CNN Republican presidential debate, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with moderator Jake Tapper:

TAPPER: Sen. Rubio, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of State George Schultz reminds us that when Reagan was president, he faced a similar situation to the one that we’re facing now. There were dire warnings from the mass consensus of the scientific community about the ozone layer shrinking. Schultz says Ronald Reagan urged skeptics in industry to come up with a plan. He said, do it as an insurance policy in case the scientists are right. The scientists were right. Reagan and his approach worked. Secretary Schultz asks, why not take out an insurance policy approach climate change the Reagan way?

RUBIO: Because we're not going to destroy our economy the way the left-wing government that we are under now wants to do.

TAPPER: Citing George Schultz.

RUBIO: He may have lined up with our positions on this issue. Here is the bottom line. Every proposal they put forward will be proposals that make it harder to do business in America, that will make it harder to create jobs in America. single parents are already struggling across this country to provide for their families. Maybe a billionaire here in California can afford an increase in their utility rates, but a working family in Tampa, Florida, or anywhere across this country cannot afford it. So we're not going to destroy our economy. We're not going to make America a harder place to create jobs. In order to pursue policies that will do absolutely nothing, nothing to change our economy, to change our climate, our weather, because America is a lot of things, the greatest country in the world, absolutely. But America is not a planet. We are not even the largest carbon producer

anymore, China is. They're drilling a hole and digging anywhere in the world that they can get a hold of. So the bottom line is, I am not in favor of any policies that make America a harder place for people to live, or to work, or to raise their families.

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

Sen. Rubio: “Radical” Clean Power Plan Will “Do Nothing For The Environment,” But Raise Utility Costs For Americans Instead; “The World’s Not Going To Get Any Cooler,” And The “Sea’s Not Going To Get Any Lower.” During an August 2015 campaign stop in Cleveland, OH – one day before the first Republican presidential debate – Sen. Rubio said, “We have regulations that are completely out of control ... We’ve been blessed with energy resources. We’ve been blessed with oil and natural gas – and everything else, too, but we’ve been blessed with these things. And we are tying our own hands. At least, this government is. Just yesterday, by the way, they released an EPA rule. Let me tell you the impact of the EPA rule. It’s not going to do anything for the environment. The world’s not going to get any cooler. The sea’s not going to get any lower. It will do nothing for the environment. But, here’s what it will do. It will increase the cost of living in this country. Now, maybe for some billionaire out in California, or in Washington, or anywhere, for that matter – maybe for some billionaire that feels guilty for all the things they did for many years, maybe they can afford for their utility bill to go up a thousand dollars a month. But if a single mother trying to raise her children in Cleveland, Ohio, or Miami, Florida, or anywhere else in this country sees that her bills go up by \$50 a month, that’s devastating. You know what that means, \$50 a month? That means the kids don’t get new shoes this month. That’s what it means. That means they don’t get new school clothes. The impact of this is devastating, and the impact on a business – again, a big corporation, they’ll figure it out – but imagine a small business with five employees, and now all of a sudden, the cost of doing business goes up. That means their workers will get paid less, they’ll hire less people, and they may even go out of business over time. That’s the impact of these radical regulations. Here’s the alternative. The alternative is that the United States of America leads the world in the production of oil and natural gas, and we will if I’m president. These are all important things, and if we do these things, we will have an economy that can compete in the global economy, and it will create the best jobs the 21st century can provide. And that’s the good news. The best jobs of this new economy, they pay more than the jobs of the old economy.” [American Bridge, 8/5/15 (video available from American Bridge); [Cleveland Plain-Dealer, 8/6/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: “Catastrophic” Clean Power Plan Would Increase Utility Costs While Doing “Nothing To Address The Underlying Issue” Of Carbon Pollution. In August 2015, Sen. Rubio spoke at the Freedom Partners Policy Leaders Forum, a gathering organized by the Koch brothers. Asked about President Obama’s Clean Power Plan, Sen. Rubio said, “Tomorrow, there will be a new carbon rule issued by the EPA, and here’s the practical impact of that new carbon rule. It will make utilities – it will make the cost of electricity higher for millions of Americans. So if there’s a billionaire somewhere, who’s a pro-environmental cap-and-trade person, yeah, they can probably afford for their electric bill to go up a couple of hundred dollars. But if you’re a single mom in Tampa, Florida, and your electric bill goes up by \$30 a month, that’s catastrophic. And that’s what these policies will do, and they will do nothing to address the underlying issue that they’re talking about. As far as I can see, China, India, and other developing countries are going to continue to burn anything they can get their hands on. And so the bottom line is, as a policy maker, we just balance our interest in ecology, which is legitimate, with our interest for the economy. And the bottom line is that American energy will allow millions of people to improve their standard of living, just the way it’s eradicated poverty for millions of people around the world.” [Marco Rubio YouTube Channel, [8/2/15](#)]

RICK SANTORUM (R)

Sen. Santorum: Clean Power Plan’s Consequences Include Losing Jobs To China And Mexico. In an August 2015 interview with HBO’s Bill Maher, Sen. Santorum said, “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: Clean Power Plan Would Be "Devastating," And Its Health Benefits Were "Spurious, At Best." In July 2015, Sen. Santorum said that Pennsylvania "used to produce a lot of coal for use all across the country, but that is becoming more and more difficult as a result of this administration, and the Obama EPA. It has had a devastating impact on our state at a time when ... coal production, as everybody knows, is down. It is further threatened by an EPA regulation that is being formulated right now on ozone, which would – I've talked to the National Association of Manufacturers, for example, and they've told me that if this ozone regulation goes into place, there won't be a single manufacturing place built almost anywhere in the United States. I think they said something like 92 percent of America, geographically would be in non-attainment, which means that you could not add any additional ozone production to that area." He added that the "health benefits" of the Clean Power Plan were "at best spurious," and that the proposed rule was a "clear attempt by this administration to continue to shut down the use of fossil fuels." [Inside Sources YouTube Channel, [7/28/15](#)]

Sen. Santorum: U.S. Should Increase Carbon Emissions By Bringing Back Manufacturing From China And India; Scientists Say That Reducing Carbon Emissions By 80% By 2050 Will Have Negligible Effect On Global Temperatures. In July 2015, members of the Pennsylvania GOP leadership endorsed Sen. Santorum. During a press conference following the endorsement, Sen. Santorum said, "I ... am concerned about the environment – not just of the world, but certainly of this country. I've made the comment repeatedly that if the United States of America complies with everything Barack Obama wants to do in addressing global warming in America, which is an 80 % reduction of emissions – if we accomplish that, I think it's by 2050, if we accomplish that, according to the EPA, we will reduce climate temperatures around the world by 0.1 degree, which, according to every scientist, is a natural variant. In other words, it's insignificant. Why? Because America has a little over 300 million people. China and India combined have 3 billion people. China and India are not participating, and, while giving nice flowery words, have no commitments to do anything to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that they're emitting. If we want to make a difference, what I would suggest is that we get rid of this standard of 80% reduction, and actually try to increase the amount of CO2 that we're making here in America by bringing more manufacturing out of China and India, where they're polluting multiple times worse for every manufacturing plant there, compared to that same manufacturing plant here, given the EPA's restrictions on emissions here. We'll do more to reduce greenhouse gases by moving production from those countries to this country. Now, our own production of CO2 may go up, but the overall production of CO2 will go dramatically down. So our objective should not be constraining manufacturing in this country, thereby exporting it to other countries that are going to produce much more CO2 in making the same product and affecting the world much more. If we really are concerned about the globe, and not concerned about killing jobs here in America – I want more manufacturing here, and that means increased emissions here, but overall in the world, dramatically lower. That's the better solution." [American Bridge, 7/15/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Sen. Santorum Would "Immediately" Do Away With Clean Power Plan. During a July 2015 campaign stop in Iowa, Sen. Santorum said that "if elected, he plans to immediately reverse Obama's executive orders regarding Environmental Protection Agency regulations. He believes these regulations hurt U.S. industries, and that most of the pollution on the West Coast is generated by China." [Daily Gate City, [7/17/15](#)]

DONALD TRUMP (R)

Donald Trump does not appear to have made any specific statements about the Clean Power Plan yet.

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

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

MARTIN O’MALLEY (D)

Gov. O’Malley Called The Clean Power Plan A “Great Step” Forward. In August 2015, Gov. O’Malley tweeted, “@POTUS’s clean power plan is a great step fwd, & I’d expand it to cover large emission sources beyond power plants.” [Martin O’Malley Twitter, [8/2/15](#)]

BERNIE SANDERS (D)

Sen. Sanders Praised Clean Power Plan. In August 2015, Sen. Sanders tweeted, “Pres Obama knows climate change is the great planetary crisis facing us & we must move boldly to transform our energy system #CleanPowerPlan” [Sen. Sanders Twitter, [8/2/15](#)]