

**“Chalk”
April 2015**

Voiceover

Citation

CHALKBOARD: 721 million = dismantling clean air and public health safeguards + delaying the Clean Power Plan + more catastrophic weather events + more severe childhood asthma attacks.

VO: Here’s what big polluters and their allies are getting for the 721 million dollars they spent to install and influence Mitch McConnell and Congress.

CAP: “Fossil-Fuel Industry Directly Invested \$721 Million...In Order To Secure A Congress Of Its Choosing And A Friendly Energy Agenda.” According to the Center for American Progress, “According to an analysis of contributions and lobbying data from the Center for Responsive Politics and advertising spending data from Kantar Media Intelligence/CMAG, as published by the Atlas Project, the fossil-fuel industry directly invested \$721 million—and perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars more through contributions to outside groups—in order to secure a Congress of its choosing and a friendly energy agenda. Of these investments, the fossil-fuel industry directly contributed more than \$64 million to candidates and political parties, spent more than \$163 million on television ads across the country, and paid almost \$500 million to Washington lobbyists in the two years leading up to the November 2014 elections.” [Center for American Progress, [12/22/14](#)]

An all-out effort to dismantle clean air and public health safeguards...

Western Journalism: “McConnell Wages War Against the EPA.” [Western Journalism, [12/31/14](#)]

McConnell Said Top Priority Of New Senate Was To Do “Whatever I Can To Get The EPA Reined In.”

“Incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) identified his top priority come January as “to try to do whatever I can to get the EPA reined in.” [The Hill, [11/9/14](#)]

McConnell: “I Fully Intend To Do Everything I Can Do To Fight These Onerous E.P.A. Regulations.” “For Mr. McConnell, fierce opposition to the E.P.A. regulations is more than just a political priority...His re-election campaign was driven by a promise to protect Kentucky from what Republicans called Mr. Obama’s ‘war on coal.’ ‘I have heard from Kentuckians across the commonwealth about the pain being inflicted on them by E.P.A.’s unilateral actions,’ Mr. McConnell said in a statement. ‘I fully intend to do everything I can do to fight these onerous E.P.A. regulations.’” [New York Times, [11/10/14](#)]

Voiceover (cont)	Citation (cont)
	<p>McConnell Voted for Bill That Would Void Clean Air Standards Mandated by the Clean Air Act; Bill Had Widespread Republican Support. In 2012, McConnell voted for “S.J.Res. 37, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval, which would void the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard for power plants, thus threatening the lives and health of thousands of Americans. Mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard is a ... public health safeguard that, for the first time, sets national limits on harmful air toxins that are emitted from oil- and coal-burning power plants, including mercury, acid gases, lead, and arsenic. The CRA resolution is a radical legislative tool that would undo these protections and prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from ever taking similar steps in the future to protect communities from this harmful power plant pollution.” The bill was supported by more than 40 Republicans. [LCV 2012 Scorecard, Accessed 3/26/15]</p> <p>McConnell Led Amendment to Repeal the EPA’s Carbon Dioxide Endangerment Finding. In 2011, McConnell offered an amendment “to repeal the scientific finding by the EPA that greenhouse gases endanger human health and the environment, to permanently block the EPA from reducing greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, and to undermine fuel economy standards. [LCV 2011 Scorecard, Accessed 4/09/15]</p> <p>Clean Air Act Has Protected Public Health And Welfare Since 1975. According to the EPA, “The Clean Air Act (CAA) is the comprehensive federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. Among other things, this law authorizes EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and public welfare and to regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants. One of the goals of the Act was to set and achieve NAAQS in every state by 1975 in order to address the public health and welfare risks posed by certain widespread air pollutants.” [EPA, Summary of the Clean Air Act, accessed 3/19/15]</p>
A call to delay the Clean Power Plan meant to limit	

carbon pollution—something 97 per cent of climate scientists agree is one of the major causes of climate change—

Paid for by League of Conservation Voters

GOP bill delays climate rule, gives states veto.

According to *The Hill*, “House Republicans are preparing a bill that would delay implementation of the Obama administration’s climate rule for power plants and let state governors veto compliance plans.” [The Hill, [3/23/15](#)]

97% Of Climate Scientists Agree Climate Change Due To Human Activity.

According to NASA, “Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities,¹ and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position. The following is a partial list of these organizations, along with links to their published statements and a selection of related resources.” [NASA, Global Climate Change Consensus, accessed [3/19/15](#)]

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Citation (cont)

National Climate Assessment: Frequency And Intensity Of Extreme Weather Events Increasing Due To Global Warming.

According to the National Climate Assessment, “Scientists who study climate change confirm that these observations are consistent with significant changes in Earth’s climatic trends. Long-term, independent records from weather stations, satellites, ocean buoys, tide gauges, and many other data sources all confirm that our nation, like the rest of the world, is warming. Precipitation patterns are changing, sea level is rising, the oceans are becoming more acidic, and the frequency and intensity of some extreme weather events are increasing. Many lines of independent evidence demonstrate that the rapid warming of the past half-century is due primarily to human activities.” [National Climate Assessment, [2014](#)]

Instituting Clean Power Plan Would Reduce Soot and Smog.

According to a June 2014 report by the White House, “Putting EPA’s proposed guidelines for carbon pollution from power plants in place will not only help reduce the health impacts from climate change; it will also lead, through the measures implemented to achieve the carbon reductions, to reduction in emissions of other air pollutants that are directly harmful to human health... From the soot and smog reductions alone, for every dollar invested through the Clean Power Plan, American families will see up to \$7 in health benefits.” [White House, Health Impacts of Climate Change on Americans, June [2014](#)]

Carbon Pollution and Warming Temperatures Worsen the Risks from Soot and Smog.

According to the American Lung Association, “Carbon pollution traps heat in our air, raising the earth's temperature. Warmer temperatures help create ozone smog, which can cause shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing, and can worsen asthma and other lung diseases. This can land people in the hospital and even result in premature death. ... And that's not all you get from power plants. There's also particle pollution, known as soot. This form of air pollution causes heart attacks and strokes and even increases the risk of early death.” [American Lung Association, Health Impacts of Carbon Pollution Explained in New American Lung Association

Meaning more catastrophic weather events....more smog...and more severe childhood asthma attacks.

Educational Video, [2/3/15](#)]

Clean Power Plan Would Reduce Childhood Asthma Attacks By 150,000. According to the EPA, “These reductions will lead to climate and health benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion per year in 2030. This includes avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children.” [EPA, Clean Power Plan Benefits, [6/2/14](#)]

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Citation (cont)

Washington Post Fact Checker: GOP lawmakers rush to cite study to discredit new EPA rule, but study assumed EPA rule would be tougher. A Chamber of Commerce study estimating that the Clean Power Plan would cost the economy 224,000 jobs and \$289 billion in higher electricity costs through 2030 earned four pinocchios from the Washington Post. [Washington Post Fact Checker, [6/03/14](#)]

National Mining Association Radio Ad Claimed Obama Regulations Would Cause “80 Percent Cost Hike.” According to an article in The Hill, “The National Mining Association is running online and radio ads in key states blasting the Obama administration’s rules aimed at curbing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. The 60-second radio ad [says]... ‘That’s the sound of people opening their electric bills to discover they’ve nearly doubled...An 80 percent cost hike is something we better get used to if extreme new Obama administration power plant regulations take effect,’ the ad states.” [The Hill, 5/20/14]

Denver Post Headline: “Radio Ad About Electric Bills Flunks Truth Test, But Still Airs.” [Denver Post, [5/28/14](#)]

Washington Post Fact Checker Called 80 Percent Statistic In NMA Ad “Bogus,” “Hyped,” “Wholly Unsupported.” According to the Washington Post Fact Checker blog, “There’s little justification for this radio ad to claim that people will see their electric bills nearly double because of the EPA rules on new coal plants. The NMA has seized upon a high-end wholesale estimate for ‘full recapture’ carbon capture and sequestration technologies which the EPA specifically rejected — and then leveraged that factoid to make a wholly unsupported claim that the same increase would be reflected in retail prices. The EPA’s proposed regulations, along with other factors, may boost the cost of electricity, but the NMA should not rely on such bogus, hyped evidence to make its case.” [Washington Post Fact Checker, 5/23/14]

The numbers don’t lie. Polluters do.

TEXT: Tell the Senate: Ignore Mitch McConnell. Put people before polluters.

April 12, 2015