

LAKES (WISCONSIN): AD BACKUP

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| Smokestacks | <p>ANNCR: Carbon pollution. It's changing our climate.</p> | <p>Human Activity Is Leading To “Ever Increasing Carbon Dioxide Emissions,” Which May Be “Modifying The Climate At A Rate Unprecedented In History.” According to the EPA, “Present-day concern about the atmosphere is premised on the belief that society at large, through its means of production and modes of daily activity, especially by ever increasing carbon dioxide emissions, may be modifying the climate at a rate unprecedented in history.” [EPA, 6/25/12]</p> <p>“The Subtle — But Very Real — Link Between Global Warming And Extreme Weather Events.” [Washington Post, 6/1/15]</p> |
| <p>“Closed” sign at beach CG: “elevated levels of bacteria” - Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts</p> | <p>That leads to more bacteria that can close our beaches...</p> | <p>Climate Change Results In An “Increase In Extreme Precipitation Events,” Which Leads To Increased Flooding. “There is compelling evidence that annual total precipitation has been increasing in the region, with wetter winters and springs, drier summers, and an increase in extreme precipitation events, and changes in snowfall patterns. These observations are consistent with climate model projections. Both the observed trends and climate models suggest these trends will increase in the future. Recent records also indicate evidence of a number of high-impact flood events in the region. Heavy precipitation events cause increased kinetic energy of surface water and thus increase erosion. Heavy precipitation events in the historical records have been shown to be associated with discharge of partially or completely untreated sewage due to the volumes of water overwhelming combined sewer systems that are designed to capture both domestic sewage and stormwater.” [U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2014 National Climate Assessment (must download chapter; pg. 438)]</p> <p>Increased Flooding Means Sewer Overflow, Which Leads To Sewage Contaminating Rivers, Streams, And The Great Lakes. “As ... extreme precipitation events have intensified, combined sewer overflow has degraded water quality, a phenomenon expected to continue to worsen with increased urbanization and climate change. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates there are more than 800 billion gallons of untreated combined sewage released into the nation’s waters annually. The Great Lakes, which provide drinking water to more than 40 million people and are home to more than 500 beaches, have been subject to recent sewage overflow.” [U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2014 National Climate Assessment, Midwest (Ch. 5)]</p> <p>“Elevated Levels Of Bacteria” In The Water – Due To Contamination</p> |

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| | | <p>And Stormwater Runoff And Sewer Overflow – Are Causing Wisconsin’s Beaches To Close; This Hurt The State Environmentally As Well As Economically. In 2011, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts released a study which stated, “Across the state, elevated levels of bacteria are causing beach closings. Stormwater runoff and sewer overflow can be a major component of contamination, and as heavy rainfall events increase, scientists expect beach contamination to be more frequent and widespread, with runoff depositing sediments and pathogens on the beach. Increased water temperatures and longer ice-free periods will also create an environment that supports pathogens. At the same time, we can expect that Great Lakes beaches will become more popular as refuges from summer heat waves, leading to greater risk of illness among beachgoers.” [WICCI Report, 2011]</p> <p>Rise In Great Lakes’ Water Temperature Has Paved The Way For “Lengthened Growing Seasons” Of “Blue-Green And Toxic Algae.” “The Great Lakes, North America’s largest freshwater feature, have recently recorded higher water temperatures and less ice cover as a result of changes in regional climate ... Higher temperatures, increases in precipitation, and lengthened growing seasons favor production of blue-green and toxic algae that can harm fish, water quality, habitats, and aesthetics, and could heighten the impact of invasive species already present.” [U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2014 National Climate Assessment (must download chapter; pg. 426)]</p> <p>Great Lakes Region Boasted The Highest Percentage Rate Of Beach Closing Advisory Days, Nationally, In 2012 – 10 Percent. A June 2013 Natural Resources Defense Council report found that “the number of beach closing and advisory days totaled 20,120 nationwide in 2012 — a decrease of 14% from 2011 that still exceeded 20,000 for the eighth time in the past nine years. The portion of all monitoring samples exceeding EPA health standards decreased to 7% from 8% in 2010 and 2011. The Great Lakes region had the highest percentage rate — 10% — of all regions in 2012, followed by the Gulf Coast at 8%.” [Journal-Sentinel, 6/26/13]</p> |
| <p>News footage of algae blooms</p> <p>Cut to person drinking water</p> <p>CG:</p> <p>1.6 Million Wisconsinites</p> <p>Cite: WICCI Report, 2011; Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources,</p> | <p>...and toxic algae blooms that threaten the drinking water for more than one point six million Wisconsinites.</p> | <p>Climate Change Will Lead To Warmer Water Temperatures, Which Would Lead To “Heavy Precipitation Events And Evaporation.” In 2011, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts released a study which stated, “Wisconsin’s Great Lakes coastal regions will face the same changes in climate faced by land areas plus a few that are more prevalent over large lakes than on land. These include projected increases in air temperature; precipitation during fall, winter and spring; heavy precipitation events and evaporation resulting from warmer temperatures and reduced ice cover.” [WICCI Report, 2011]</p> <p>Increased Water Temperatures, Combined With Lower Water Levels</p> |

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| 12/18/13 | | <p>By The End Of The Century, May Lead To Blue-Green Algae Producing Toxic Blooms Earlier Than Expected; “If Water Levels Become Low Enough, Drinking Water Intakes Could End Up At Depths That Are Subject To Greater Algal Abundance.” In 2011, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts released a study which stated, “The scientific consensus suggests that, on average, Great Lakes water levels will be slightly lower by the end of the century; however, the large variations that occur over decades will continue to occur, resulting in high-water decades and low-water decades ... As water temperatures increase and ice cover decreases, blue-green algae may get a jump start on producing their toxic blooms. Changes in lake currents may alter areas where pollutants concentrate, and increased storm intensity will impact stormwater volumes, increasing polluted runoff and even sewer overflows. Such changes could result in additional pollutants entering water intakes. Changing lake levels may reduce the concentration of oxygen in the lakes; lower oxygen levels would further contribute to blue-green algal blooms. If water levels become low enough, drinking water intakes could end up at depths that are subject to greater algal abundance, mussel growth or suspended sediments.” [WICCI Report, 2011]</p> <p>1.6 Million Wisconsin Residents – Close To 30 Percent – Get Their Drinking Water From The Great Lakes. According to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, “Wisconsin has more than 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and more than 20 percent of the state’s land area lies within the Great Lakes basin. Half of our population lives there. More than 1.6 million Wisconsin citizens get their drinking water from Lake Michigan or Lake Superior.” According to a 2014 U.S. Census estimate, approximately 5.7 million people reside in Wisconsin. Therefore, 28 percent of Wisconsin residents get their drinking water from the Great Lakes. [Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, 12/18/13; U.S. Census, 2014 estimate]</p> <p><i>Just last year, a large Midwestern city suffered from the harmful effects of toxic algae bloom.</i></p> <p>August 2014: 500,000 In Toledo, Ohio Were Banned From Drinking Tap Water Because A Toxic Algae Bloom Contaminated The City’s Water Intake. In August 2014, “500,000 people lost their usual source of drinking water for nearly three days ... because of a toxin generated by an algae bloom near Toledo’s water intake...” The people in Toledo’s metro area were “told to stay away from their tap water” because the “massive toxin buildup in the water went beyond the capability of the city’s Collins Park Water Treatment Plant.” [Toledo Blade, 3/26/15; 9/26/14]</p> |
| Image of Johnson CG: Unlimited Carbon Pollution | Yet Senator Ron Johnson led the fight to let polluters | <i>In August 2013, PolitiFact examined a League of Conservation Voters ad which held Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) accountable for voting to allow big oil and gas companies to “keep spewing unlimited carbon into our</i> |

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| <p>Votes: S. Amdt. 183 to S. 493 Vote 54, 4/6/11; S.Amdt.359 to S.Con.Res.8, Vote 76, 3/22/13; Senate EPW Committee, 6/3/14; S.1324, 6/10/15</p> | <p>release unlimited amounts of carbon pollution.</p> | <p><i>air.” PolitiFact ruled, “Johnson voted twice to prohibit the EPA from regulating any carbon emissions. We rate the statement True.”</i></p> <p>Sen. Johnson Voted To Continue Allowing Unlimited Carbon Pollution From Power Plants. In March 2013, Sen. Johnson voted for an amendment to the 2014 federal budget bill that “would have prohibited ‘further greenhouse gas regulations for the purposes of addressing climate change,’ which includes global warming.” PolitiFact wrote that by voting for the legislation, Sen. Johnson “supported the status quo: no federal limits on emissions of carbon dioxide, or carbon pollution, whether by oil and gas companies or other energy producers.” As health experts and scientists have extensively documented, carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases threaten public health by causing more heat waves and intense smog, spreading infectious diseases, and bringing about stronger storms, floods, and hurricanes. The amendment was rejected 47-52. [PolitiFact, 8/29/13; SA 359 to S Con Res 8, Vote 76, 3/22/13; LCV Scorecard 2013, Vote 76]</p> <p>Sen. Johnson Voted To Prevent The EPA From Regulating Any Greenhouse Gas Emissions. In April 2011, Sen. Johnson voted for legislation that “would have prohibited the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions and repealed the agency’s scientific finding that carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases are endangering human health and the environment.” PolitiFact wrote that under Sen. Johnson’s vote, “the EPA couldn’t regulate any carbon emissions, including those emitted in the extraction and refining of oil, or by gasoline-burning vehicles.” The amendment was rejected 50-50. [PolitiFact, 8/29/13; SA 183 to S 493, Vote 54, 4/6/11; LCV Scorecard 2011, Vote 54]</p> <p><i>Sen. Johnson has cosponsored legislation, written to President Obama, and spoken to the media regarding his opposition to the Clean Power Plan.</i></p> <p>Sen. Johnson Cosponsored Legislation That Would Overturn The EPA’s Proposed Clean Power Plan, And “Make It Nearly Impossible To Rewrite Them.” In May 2015, Sen. Capito (R-WV) introduced the Affordable Reliable Energy Now Act, which “would overturn the Obama administration’s landmark climate regulations for power plants and make it nearly impossible to rewrite them. The bill is the GOP’s first major legislative push against the Environmental Protection Agency’s emissions limits since Republicans seized control of the Senate in November [2014] ... The bill ... would prevent the EPA from writing rules that are ‘significantly similar’ to its current proposals unless it follows specific parameters that the bill outlines. The measure sets out different standards for the two separate regulations the EPA proposed last year on newly built power plants and existing ones. The latter regulation, which aims to cut the power sector’s carbon emissions 30 percent by 2030, is by far the most controversial.” The Huntington Herald-Dispatch reported that with the bill, Sen. Capito</p> |
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| | | <p>“wants to roll back [the] EPA plan.” Sen. Johnson cosponsored the legislation in June 2015. [The Hill, 5/13/15; Herald-Dispatch, 5/13/15; S 1324, 6/10/15]</p> <p>Just One Day After The EPA Proposed Its Clean Power Plan, Sen. Johnson Signed A Letter authored By Sen. Mitch McConnell –Urging The President To Scrap The Rule. On June 2, 2014, the EPA publicly announced the proposed Clean Power Plan. On June 3, 2014, Sen. Johnson signed a letter to President Obama – written by Sen. Mitch McConnell –that said, “We write to express our concerns with your proposed rule for existing power plants emissions of greenhouse gases ... We strongly urge you to withdraw this rule.” [Senate EPW Cmte., 6/3/14; EPA, Clean Power Plan Fact Sheet]</p> <p>Sen. Johnson Was “Totally Supportive” Of Blocking The Proposed Clean Power Plan Through The Congressional Appropriations Process. In June 2014, Talking Points Memo reported, “Senior House Republicans are considering using appropriations legislation to block the Environmental Protection Agency’s new restrictions on coal-fired power plants, aimed at cutting climate-warming pollution by 30 percent by 2030. ... Numerous Senate Republicans expressed strong support for the idea. ... Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) told TPM he’d be ‘totally supportive’ of using government funding legislation to block the EPA rules. ‘I’m a manufacturer. You actually need power if you’re going to manufacture things,’ he said. ‘Let’s not drive, artificially, the cost of power up -- that’s a self-inflicted wound. That’s what this administration is doing and I have no idea why they’d want to do that.’” [Talking Points Memo, 6/18/14]</p> |
| <p>Power plant CG: \$224,978 From Polluters Source: Center for Responsive Politics, Campaign Contributions, Accessed 6/29/15</p> | <p>...and took nearly two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars from polluters.</p> | <p>Sen. Johnson Has Taken \$224,978 From Polluters. According to the Center for Responsive Politics (which maintains records as far back as 1989), Sen. Johnson has taken \$133,600 from the oil and gas industry, \$63,428 from the mining industry, \$5,250 from the natural gas industry, and \$22,700 from the electric utility industry. [Open Secrets, Ron Johnson Industries, accessed 8/18/15]</p> |
| <p>Image of Johnson Act on Climate Logo CG: Call Sen. Johnson: 202-224-5323 Vote for the Clean Power Plan. lcv.org/cpp/johnson PAID FOR BY LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION</p> | <p>Tell Senator Johnson to stop risking Wisconsin water. Vote for the Clean Power Plan.</p> | <p><i>Among the legislative avenues for the Clean Power Plan to come up for a vote in the Senate – at which point Sen. Johnson will have a chance to cast his vote – two likely options are analyzed below.</i></p> <p>Majority Leader McConnell “Secured Language” In Senate Appropriations Bill – Which Passed Out Of Committee And Is Under Consideration By The Full Senate – To “Bar Federal Enforcement Of The EPA’s Rules Limiting Greenhouse-Gas Emissions For Existing Power Plants.” In June 2015, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Interior and Environment Subcommittee, announced that he “secured language” in the subcommittee’s FY 2016 spending bill that “would bar federal</p> |

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| <p>VOTERS</p> | | <p>enforcement of the EPA's rules limiting greenhouse-gas emissions for existing power plants. That would allow states to opt out of the rule without fear of the EPA stepping in with a federal implementation plan. The rider on the EPA's power-plant rule would represent a significant blow to President Obama's climate plan by giving states the opportunity to sit out rather than crafting an individual plan to clean up its power plants and improve energy efficiency. McConnell has been pushing his 'just say no' plan to governors, warning that the climate rule will kill jobs while delivering minimal environmental benefits ... The bill passed [out of subcommittee] by a voice vote," and passed out of the full Senate Appropriations Committee on June 18, 2015, by a vote of 16-14. On June 23, 2015, the legislation was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar, which is the protocol for legislation that has passed out of committee and is in line to be considered by the full Senate. [National Journal, 6/16/15; WKYT, 6/18/15; Senate Appropriations Cmte., 6/18/15; S.1645, 6/23/15]</p> <p>August 2015: Senate Bill That Would Overturn The EPA's Clean Power Plan And "Make It Nearly Impossible To Rewrite" The Rule Passed Out Of Committee. In August 2015, the Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works approved Sen. Capito's (R-WV) Affordable Reliable Energy Now Act, which "would overturn the Obama administration's landmark climate regulations for power plants and make it nearly impossible to rewrite them. The bill is the GOP's first major legislative push against the Environmental Protection Agency's emissions limits since Republicans seized control of the Senate in November [2014] ... The bill ... would prevent the EPA from writing rules that are 'significantly similar' to its current proposals unless it follows specific parameters that the bill outlines. The measure sets out different standards for the two separate regulations the EPA proposed last year on newly built power plants and existing ones. The latter regulation, which aims to cut the power sector's carbon emissions 30 percent by 2030, is by far the most controversial." The Huntington Herald-Dispatch reported that with the bill, Sen. Capito "wants to roll back [the] EPA plan." [Senate EPW Cmte., 6/23/15; The Hill, 5/13/15; Herald-Dispatch, 5/13/15; S.1324, 8/5/15]</p> |
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