



TO: Interested Parties in North Carolina
FROM: Clay Schroers, LCV Victory Fund National Campaigns Director
DATE: September 30, 2016
SUBJECT: Richard Burr is Wrong for North Carolina

Sen. Richard Burr consistently votes in favor of his Big Polluter backers, instead of representing the people of North Carolina. He's received nearly \$1.7 million from his polluter allies to prop up his campaigns and, in return, has made sure to protect the billions they receive in taxpayer handouts.

Burr's positions directly align with Trump, who he has endorsed – even in the face of the presidential candidate's incendiary and divisive statements. Like Trump, Burr is dangerously outside the mainstream on the critical issue of climate change. He disagrees with climate scientists, NASA and the Department of Defense, who all recognize the significant threat of climate change fueled by human activities. Instead, he's toed the line of his campaign contributors, like Exxon – which has allegedly, for decades, actively [worked](#) to undermine *its own scientists* who said that burning fossil fuels would negatively impact our climate. Already, North Carolina is feeling the impacts of climate change, which is hurting the economy by contributing to rising temperatures and more intense droughts, to the detriment of the agricultural sector. In the future, North Carolina's coastal communities and low-lying areas will be particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels. North Carolina could bear a heavy price for Burr's opposition to climate action.

Burr's pro-polluter agenda doesn't stop there. In further agreement with Trump, Burr has introduced a bill to abolish the EPA, which would put our families' health at risk. He has fought the Clean Water Rule, which would restore safeguards for the clean drinking water supply for half of North Carolinians. Burr has also steadfastly opposed the Clean Power Plan, which sets in place the first ever federal limits on the amount of carbon pollution power plants can spew into our air, a welcome reprieve for the 640,000 people in North Carolina that suffer from asthma. Burr's strong opposition to critical clean air and water protections has led to his dismal seven percent lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

LCV and LCV Victory Fund are ready to stand up to Burr, who we have named to our signature Dirty Dozen List. Read on to learn more about Burr's support from Big Polluters, his anti-environmental agenda, and his awkward embrace of Trump.

BIG POLLUTERS POURED IN NEARLY \$1.7 MILLION TO ELECT BURR; NO WONDER HE WHOLLY SUPPORTS THEIR DIRTY AGENDA

The Dirty Energy Industry & Their Lobbyists Contributed Nearly \$1.7 Million To Burr's Campaigns; In Return, He's Voted To Protect Billions In Taxpayer Subsidies For Them. Over the course of Richard Burr's career in Congress, he has [received](#) nearly \$1.7 million from "the coal, oil and natural gas industries, along with executives and lobbyists for electric utilities and nuclear power companies" that he has "stood by." He [repeatedly voted](#) to protect billions in taxpayer-funded handouts for Big Oil, instead of investing that money in [energy efficiency](#) and deficit reduction, or [extending](#) alternative energy tax credits. Now, it's no secret that the Koch brothers are among the [biggest polluters](#) in the country. It's hardly surprising, then, that Burr has voted their way [91 percent](#) of the time, including 100 percent on issues related to energy and the environment.

Richard Burr Sees No Problem With Giving Oil Companies License To Drill Offshore, Even In ANWR And The Great Lakes. Richard Burr [voted](#) to [expand](#) or [incentivize offshore drilling](#) at least [seven times](#), including three times in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and once in the Great Lakes. In 2008, he [claimed](#) that increased offshore drilling would



help reduce the price of gas, adding that if Congress had simply been “brave enough” to open up those areas for drilling before, the cost of gas would not be as high.

CLIMATE SCIENTISTS, NASA, AND THE PENTAGON ALL AGREE ON THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT NOT RICHARD BURR

Climate Scientists, NASA, And The Defense Dept. All Agree That Climate Change Is Real And Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor, But Richard Burr Doesn't See It That Way. 2016 is [slated](#) to be the warmest year on record, thanks to rising temperatures brought on by climate change. 2015 currently owns that [record](#), followed by 2014. 97 percent of climate scientists [agree](#) that warmer temperature trends over the past century are “very likely due to human activities.” Even the Pentagon has [warned](#) that climate change is a threat to national security. What's more, nearly two-thirds of the American people – a [record high](#) – believe that man-made climate change is real. Richard Burr [voted three times](#) against stating that manmade climate change is real, however.

- **In North Carolina, Climate Change Is Hurting The Agriculture Sector, And Will Continue To Threaten Crucial Infrastructure In Our Communities.** In [North Carolina](#), the agriculture industry is already suffering the negative effects of climate change. The 2002 drought resulted in a loss of nearly \$400 million for the state's agricultural industry, and rising temperatures continue to adversely affect dairy and livestock production. Looking ahead, “large numbers” of cities, roads, ports, and water supplies at low elevations are vulnerable to increased storm surges and sea level rise, which will lead to more flooding. Communities across the state are already planning for the consequences of climate change, including land-use planning, building and bridge construction, and emergency response and recovery preparation.

Richard Burr Suggested That The Historic Paris Climate Agreement, Signed By Nearly 200 Countries, Was “Both Meaningless And Potentially Harmful.” In December 2015, [195 nations](#) – including the United States – came together for “an historic agreement to combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future ... The Paris Agreement for the first time brings all nations into a common cause based on their historic, current and future responsibilities.” Richard Burr signed a [letter](#) to the Obama administration, [suggesting](#) that the historic agreement was “both meaningless and potentially harmful.”

BURR HAS REPEATEDLY OPPOSED THE EPA AND ITS HISTORIC EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE AIR WE BREATHE AND THE WATER WE DRINK

Richard Burr Introduced A Bill To Abolish The EPA, Which Helps Protect Our Air And Water, And Preserves Our Environment. The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) works to ensure that Americans have access to clean air and clean water, and are “protected from significant risks to human health.” Over the past year, the agency finalized two landmark regulations – the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Water Rule – to expand these protections to all Americans. Unfortunately, Richard Burr doesn't seem to get the importance of protecting our environment, which is why he has “[persistently](#) voted” to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions. Perhaps it's also why he introduced legislation to [abolish](#) the EPA altogether, and [voted](#) against confirming Gina McCarthy to become the agency's administrator.

Richard Burr Has Tirelessly Worked To Undo The Clean Power Plan. The Clean Power Plan will [prevent](#) 3,000 premature deaths from heart attacks and respiratory illnesses, 90,000 [fewer](#) asthma attacks in children, and 300,000 missed work and school days. Furthermore, we are now at a point where the economy is growing but [carbon emissions are not](#). Richard Burr, however, tried to prevent the Clean Power Plan from taking effect. He [voted](#) to prevent the EPA from enacting the rule, and [signed a letter](#) – authored by Mitch McConnell – urging the president to scrap it altogether. He



voted for [two pieces](#) of legislation to block the Clean Power Plan. He had previously [voted twice](#) to allow power plants to continue spewing unlimited greenhouse gases into the air we breathe.

- **In North Carolina, The Clean Power Plan Will Improve People’s Health, Reduce Carbon Pollution, And Lower Electricity Bills.** In [North Carolina](#), the Clean Power Plan will help grow economy, create new jobs, and protect future generations from the dangers of climate change, which is a “clear and present danger to North Carolinians’ health and communities,” and a “threat to the state’s economy and public safety.” In fact, climate-related disasters cost the state’s taxpayers approximately \$1,100 each. Reducing carbon pollution will be a welcome development for the more than 8 percent of North Carolinians (nearly 640,000) who have [asthma](#).

Richard Burr Repeatedly Voted Against The Clean Water Rule, Which Preserves Streams And Wetlands, Protects Safe Drinking Water, And Supports The State’s Robust Fishing And Brewery Industries. The [Clean Water Rule](#) protects the clean drinking of one in three Americans – that’s 117 million people. In North Carolina, the rule [protects](#) nearly 7,400 miles of streams that feed into the state’s drinking water sources. Moreover, nearly 50 percent of North Carolinians get their drinking water from sources that are protected by the rule. The Clean Water Rule will provide up to \$570 million in economic benefits, protect the streams and wetlands that support the fish and wildlife industry, and support the state’s thriving brewing industry – including its more than 10,000 jobs. Richard Burr [voted](#) to limit the impact of the Clean Water Rule, and [voted twice](#) to nullify the rule altogether.

When Unsafe Drinking Water In Flint, Michigan Threatened A Whole Community, Including Nearly 10,000 Children, Richard Burr Voted To Gut Funding For Critical Infrastructure Repairs. The [drinking water](#) crisis in Flint underscores the need for access to clean drinking water for all Americans as attention to Flint has also lead to exposure of similar problems across the country. Unfortunately, Richard Burr [voted](#) to gut [critical funding](#) which could have been used for infrastructure repairs in Flint, including replacing corroded pipes that were “exposing as many as 9,000 children to health and neurological problems.”

BURR’S DISMISSALS OF CRUCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS AND COMMON SENSE ENERGY REGULATIONS SOUND AN AWFUL LOT LIKE THE UNINFORMED “POLICIES” OF DONALD TRUMP

Donald Trump Believes Climate Change Is A “B***t” Hoax Invented By The Chinese.** Donald Trump has said that the “concept of global warming was [created](#) by and for the Chinese” to make the United States less competitive. He has also referred to climate change as “[b*****t](#),” a [hoax](#), and a [money-making industry](#). If elected, Donald Trump would be the only head of state to deny the reality of climate change, and has threatened to tear up the Paris Climate Accord – the single most important step ever taken to meet the challenge of climate change – and the result of successful American international leadership under Pres. Obama.

Donald Trump Would Cancel The Paris Climate Agreement Upon Taking Office, Based On An Inaccurate Understanding Of The Deal. Initially, Donald Trump said he would, “[at a minimum](#),” renegotiate the Paris climate agreement. Not satisfied with the degree to which he opposed the historic negotiations, Trump then said he would “[cancel](#)” the Paris agreement, stating – [inaccurately](#) – that foreign nations would have control over how America uses energy.

Donald Trump Would Immediately Cut The EPA, Rescind The Clean Power Plan, And Eliminate The Clean Water Rule. He Also Remained Notably Silent On The Water Crisis In Flint, Michigan. Trump has said he would [cut the EPA right away](#), adding that “we can leave a little bit” of the environment, “but you can’t destroy businesses.” Trump would [rescind](#) the Clean Power Plan in his first 100 days in office. Trump would also [eliminate](#) the Clean Water Rule, putting the



clean drinking water of 117 million Americans at risk for pollution. Donald Trump also decided that it was best for him [not to comment](#) on the clean water crisis in Flint, Michigan altogether.

DESPITE THE REPEATED DISQUALIFYING ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS, RICHARD BURR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DONALD TRUMP’S CANDIDACY

Over the course of the past few months, Trump has repeatedly demeaned Americans of all stripes, demonstrating that he lacks the temperament and judgment to be president of the United States. Yet, Richard Burr continues to excuse Trump’s [outlandish behavior and statements](#) while simultaneously trying to disassociate himself from the GOP presidential candidate. Despite Trump’s unconscionable miscues, Burr has reiterated his intention to support Trump’s candidacy.

December 7, 2015	Trump called for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”
December 19, 2015	Trump said it was a “ great honor ” to be praised by Russian President Vladimir Putin. “If (Putin) says something positive, that’s a good thing. That’s not a bad thing,” Trump said.
February 28, 2016	Trump refused to condemn an endorsement from former KKK grand wizard David Duke. He also defended a Mussolini quote that was posted on his Twitter account.
March 10, 2015	Burr said he was open to supporting Trump.
May 2, 2016	Burr said he would support a Donald Trump nomination.
May 5, 2016	Burr announced his endorsement of Donald Trump.
May 10, 2016	Burr : “It is absolutely crucial to our future that we elect a Republican that’s going to be Donald Trump ... There’s a point in time where having our preferences is no longer an option. And getting behind a candidate is absolutely essential.” When Burr was asked if he would campaign for Trump, he said he planned on focusing on his own election. Burr affirmed that he would campaign with Donald Trump.
May 27, 2016	Trump attacked federal Judge Gonzalo Curiel and said he should recuse himself from Trump University case because of his “Mexican” heritage.
June 3, 2016	Burr : “The American people are pretty mad, and I think they would like to see change and that’s what Donald Trump’s entire campaign is about.”
June 6, 2016	Burr said that he had learned to take Donald Trump “at his word.” Burr rejected comments made by Donald Trump on Judge Curiel.
June 8, 2016	Burr said he believed Trump was doing his best to walk back his statements about Judge Curiel, adding that Trump “didn’t intend that to be a racist remark.”
July 5, 2016	Trump praised Saddam Hussein, saying, “He killed terrorists. He did that so good. They didn’t read them the rights. They didn’t talk. They were terrorists.”
July 27, 2016	Trump hoped Russian intelligence hacked Hillary Clinton’s email and encouraged them to publish whatever they found.
July 29, 2016	Trump suggested mother of fallen U.S. soldier Humayun Khan could not talk on stage at the DNC due to her religion.
August 2, 2016	Burr : “Capt. Khan is an American hero in every sense of the term, and the Khans deserve our sincerest gratitude.”

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