



TO: Interested Parties in Wisconsin  
FROM: Clay Schroers, LCV Victory Fund National Campaigns Director  
DATE: September 1, 2016  
SUBJECT: Ron Johnson is Wrong for Wisconsin

Sen. Ron Johnson is completely out of touch with the people of Wisconsin. In Congress, he has advanced the agenda of Big Polluters, wasting no opportunity to attack the critical clean air and water protections our families depend on, earning him a dismal four percent lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*. He has repeatedly tried to block the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and in 2015, he voted against every single pro-environment action. Not only that, but his votes would put at risk clean drinking water of the Great Lakes to protect the profits of his polluter backers. In return, he has received nearly half a million dollars in campaign contributions from Big Oil polluters – while the Koch brothers have already pledged to spend millions of dollars to prop up his reelection effort.

Meanwhile, Johnson's staunch climate denialism puts him far outside the mainstream, in the company of Donald Trump – who he has embraced, even as the GOP presidential nominee continues to make outlandish and incendiary statements. It should come as no surprise that Johnson earned the [debut spot](#) on LCV's signature Dirty Dozen list in June – his second appearance on the list.

**LCV and LCV Victory Fund are ready to stand up to Johnson for the people of Wisconsin.** In July, LCV Victory Fund and EDF Action launched TV and digital ad programs totaling \$1 million detailing Johnson's support from Big Oil polluters and stubborn climate denialism. LCV Victory Fund's ad, "Where," contrasted the broad agreement that climate change is real and caused primarily by human activity with Johnson's outright denial of basic science and support from oil companies. One such polluter, Exxon – who has [given](#) Johnson \$15,000 – had allegedly, for decades, actively [worked](#) to undermine *their own scientists* who said that burning fossil fuels would negatively impact our climate. Not only that, Exxon heavily [contributed](#) to candidates who sided with them on that issue. The TV ad ran on broadcast and cable for 1000 GRPs in the Milwaukee and Madison media markets. Targeted pre-roll ads accompanied the TV campaign in the Milwaukee area. Read more [here](#).

Read on to learn more about Johnson's support from Big Polluters, his anti-environmental agenda, and awkward embrace of Trump.

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## **BIG OIL & KOCH NETWORK ARE POURING IN MILLIONS TO ELECT JOHNSON; NO WONDER HE WHOLLY SUPPORTS THEIR DIRTY AGENDA**

**The Dirty Energy Industry Has Contributed Nearly \$440,000 To Johnson's Campaigns; In Return, He's Voted To Protect Billions In Taxpayer Subsidies For Them.** Over the course of Ron Johnson's career in Congress, he has [received](#) \$436,578 from polluters, including \$364,750 from the oil and gas industry, and \$71,828 from the mining industry. Johnson has [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.

**The Koch Network Pledged Millions To Support Ron Johnson, Having Already Poured In Nearly \$750,000; He Voted Their Way 91 Percent Of The Time.** It's no secret that the Koch brothers – who see Johnson as their [model legislator](#) – are among the [biggest polluters](#) in the country. All told, they've put \$745,275 towards that effort throughout the years: \$37,350 from [Koch Industries](#); \$630,665 from [Freedom Partners](#); and \$77,260 from [Americans for Prosperity](#) (who have pledged to [spend more](#) than \$2 million dollars in this race). It's no surprise, then, that Johnson has voted their way [91 percent](#) of the time, including 100 percent on issues related to energy and the environment.



**Ron Johnson Has Never Found A Place Where Oil Companies Shouldn't Drill.** Ron Johnson has said that he wants oil companies to “make enough money” to [expand drilling](#) until they could supply “every corner of America.” In 2010, Johnson [supported](#) drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), saying that drilling there was actually safer because oil spills would be more readily accessible to emergency crews. Since then, he has [voted twice](#) to open up ANWR for oil and gas drilling. As if that wasn’t enough, Johnson [voted twice](#) to open the Atlantic and Pacific coasts for oil drilling.

## **CLIMATE SCIENTISTS, NASA, AND THE PENTAGON ALL AGREE ON THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT NOT RON JOHNSON**

**Climate Scientists, NASA, And The Defense Dept. All Agree That Climate Change Is Real And Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor.** 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.

- **In Wisconsin, Climate Change Means Increased Flooding, More Water Pollution And Toxic Algae In The Great Lakes.** In [Wisconsin](#), climate change means a “markedly accelerated” rate of warming, “very heavy” rainfall and increased flooding. It means billions in infrastructure repair and less efficient heating and cooling mechanisms. It means “degraded water quality” due to sewage overflow. And it means a higher likelihood 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” in the Great Lakes.

**Ron Johnson Believes That The Science Around Climate Change Is “Far From Settled.”** Ron Johnson, on the other hand, is a [consistent climate denier](#). Despite being told by a climatologist that his so-called facts on global warming were “[blatantly false](#),” Johnson sided with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s position that the science was “far from settled.”

**Ron Johnson 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.” Ron Johnson signed a [letter](#) to the Obama administration, [suggesting](#) that the historic agreement was “both meaningless and potentially harmful.”

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

**Ron Johnson Thinks The EPA, Which Helps Protect Our Air And Water, And Preserves Our Environment, Constitutes An Overreach By The Obama Administration.** 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, Ron Johnson doesn’t seem to get the importance of protecting our environment. He [questioned](#) the usefulness of the agency, and said that its regulations constitute an [overreach](#) by the Obama administration. He also [voted](#) against confirming Gina McCarthy to become the agency’s administrator.



**Ron Johnson 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](#). Ron Johnson, 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 helped introduce – and 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 Wisconsin, The Clean Power Plan Will Improve People’s Health, Lower Electricity Bills, And Grow The Economy.** In [Wisconsin](#), the Clean Power Plan will “have immediate health benefits” because it will reduce the amount of air pollution, a welcome development for the more than 10 percent of Wisconsinites (nearly 460,000) who have [asthma](#). The Clean Power Plan will help reduce Wisconsinites’ electricity bills by 5 percent, and will lead to “very clear and direct benefits for Wisconsin’s economy.”

**Ron Johnson Repeatedly Voted Against The Clean Water Rule, Which Preserves Streams And Wetlands, Protects Safe Drinking Water, And Supports The State’s Robust Tourism And Brewery Industries.** The [Clean Water Rule](#) protects the clean drinking water of one in three Americans – that’s 117 million people. In Wisconsin, the rule [protects](#) more than 250 miles of streams and thousands of acres of wetlands, and safeguards drinking water for approximately one in 14 Wisconsinites. It also provides great economic benefits, including protecting the streams and wetlands that support the fish and wildlife industry, and providing clean water for the state’s thriving brewing industry, which supports nearly 10,000 jobs and contributes almost \$860 million to its economy. Ron Johnson [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, Ron Johnson 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 led to exposure of similar problems across the country. Unfortunately, Ron Johnson [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.”

## **JOHNSON’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, RON JOHNSON 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, Ron Johnson continues to excuse Trump’s outlandish behavior and statements. Johnson has repeatedly stated that he will support Donald Trump, even going as far as referring to the two of them as “the Ronald and the Donald.” Despite Trump’s unconscionable miscues, Johnson has reiterated his intention to support Trump’s candidacy.*

December 7, 2015	Trump <a href="#">called</a> for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”
December 19, 2015	Trump said it was a “ <a href="#">great honor</a> ” 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 <a href="#">refused</a> to condemn an endorsement from former KKK grand wizard David Duke. He also defended a Mussolini quote that was posted on his Twitter account. Johnson <a href="#">said</a> he would “stump with Trump” as “the Ronald [and] the Donald.”
	Johnson <a href="#">said</a> he was “going to certainly endorse the Republican nominee, and obviously it looks like that will be Mr. Trump.”
May 16, 2016	Johnson <a href="#">reiterated</a> his intention to support the Republican nominee for president.
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 7, 2016	Johnson said he disagreed with Trump’s statements about Judge Curiel, but continued to <a href="#">support</a> his bid for the White House.
July 5, 2016	Trump <a href="#">praised</a> 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 7, 2016	Johnson said he <a href="#">agreed</a> with Trump on the economy, the military, ISIS, immigration, and the Supreme Court.
July 27, 2016	Trump <a href="#">hoped</a> Russian intelligence hacked Hillary Clinton’s email and encouraged them to publish whatever they found. When asked if Trump had the temperament to be commander-in-chief, Johnson <a href="#">responded</a> , “I sure hope so.”
July 29, 2016	Trump <a href="#">suggested</a> mother of fallen U.S. soldier Humayun Khan could not talk on stage at the DNC due to her religion.
August 3, 2016	Johnson <a href="#">refused</a> to withdraw his support of Donald Trump.
August 8, 2016	Johnson <a href="#">compared</a> himself to Donald Trump, saying that he was appealing in Wisconsin for the same reasons Trump was.
August 12, 2016	Johnson was an <a href="#">honorary host</a> for two Trump fundraisers in Wisconsin.

*Paid for by LCV Victory Fund, [www.lcvvictoryfund.org](http://www.lcvvictoryfund.org), and not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.*