This Week in Climate (In)Action

Check out the League of Conservation Voters' 2016 primers to stay up to date on what all of the presidential candidates are saying about <u>climate change</u>, the <u>Clean Power Plan</u>, and <u>renewable energy</u> – and be sure to follow LCV on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

Quote of the week:

"When it comes to climate change, big wins do not come often or easily. This is a rare opportunity to make genuine progress."

Secretary Kerry on the upcoming global climate talks in Paris

Speed-read: Climate change: The \$44 trillion question the GOP wouldn't answer (MSNBC)

A roundup of this week's most important stories:

Republicans Fail to Present Climate Solutions for Third Consecutive Debate

The Republican presidential candidates gathered in Colorado, a state that has suffered from increasingly devastating wildfires <u>linked to climate change</u>, for their third presidential debate Wednesday evening.

Although scientists and military experts are warning us about the economic and national security threats posed by climate change, the candidates did little to address the threats posed by this critical challenge or offer up meaningful solutions.

In fact the only three candidates who stated their *belief* in climate change were Chris Christie, Lindsey Graham and George Pataki—who combine for less than five percent in the polls.

Marco Rubio, whose commanding debate performance catapulted him to frontrunner status in the eyes of many commentators, did not offer up any clarification on his previous climate denials, such as "I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it."

"We were sorely disappointed that the Republican candidates failed to present solutions for the expensive threat posed by climate change, and failed to stand up to big polluters," <u>said</u> LCV Senior Vice President of Campaigns Daniel J. Weiss.

Hillary Clinton Voices Support For Exxon Investigation

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined environmentalists in calling for a federal investigation into climate research sponsored by Exxon Mobil.

"There's a lot of evidence they misled people," Clinton said.

Recent <u>news investigations</u> found evidence that Exxon spent millions downplaying the climate threat—and even funding climate denial—after their own research warned of its significant, negative effects on the environment.

LCV Urges Speaker Ryan To "Chart A Vastly Different Course" On Climate

As the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Paul Ryan has a significant opportunity to lead on climate change—and bring congressional action in line with the views of the American people.

"We hope he will heed the widespread support from both Democrats and Republicans for protecting the environment and public health, including addressing the climate crisis, promoting clean energy, and safeguarding our air, land, and water," Said LCV Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld.

Ryan has previously voiced serious climate scepticism—causing many environmentalists to doubt his commitment to the action we need.

"I don't know the answer to that question," said Ryan in 2014. "I don't think science does, either."

Republican Senators Form Green Working Group

Four Republican Senators came together to form a loose "green coalition" of Republicans interested in building support for protecting the environment and climate while promoting cleaner energy production.

Sittenfeld described the coalition's emergence as encouraging and expressed LCV's hope that it would "up the ante on Republican leadership to abandon their radical attacks on common sense and widely popular environmental protections like the Clean Water Rule and the Clean Power Plan."

A look at next week:

Oct 31: Iowa GOP Growth and Opportunity Party, Des Moines, IA

lowa GOP hosts its first ever growth and opportunity party on Halloween night, with a large number of candidates confirmed as guests, including Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz. Full details can be viewed here.

Nov 3 – 5: 2015 Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference, Idaho

This annual climate conference is the region's premier opportunity for a cross-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas, bringing together up to 400 researchers, resource managers and policy makers from a variety of fields. More information can be found https://example.com/here/beta-bases/

Nov 6 & 7: Freedom 2015 Conference, Des Moines, IA

Over 20 nationally known speakers (including Republican candidate Ted Cruz) will attend the nation's largest religious liberties conference next weekend. Further details available here .