



# PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP’S ADMINISTRATION **CLIMATE, AIR & WATER, ENERGY, AND CONSERVATION ISSUES**

Updated: May 5, 2017

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*Since Donald Trump began his presidential campaign in June 2015, he has clearly denied the settled science of climate change, and repeatedly announced his intentions to roll back commonsense environmental safeguards for the air we breathe and the water we drink. As we did during the 2016 election cycle, the League of Conservation Voters will continue to hold Trump accountable now that he occupies the White House. Below is a summary of Trump's statements – in his own words – regarding the critical issues of climate change, clean air and clean water, energy, and conservation.*

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### CLIMATE DENIAL

#### DONALD TRUMP

**Trump Spokesman Did Not Deny That The President Still Believes Climate Change Is A Hoax.** During a March 2017 White House press briefing, Press Secretary Sean Spicer had the following exchange with a reporter:

**QUESTION:** Does the president still believe climate change is a hoax?

**SPICER:** You'll hear more today about the climate and what he believes. I think he understands -- he does not believe that as I mentioned at the outset that there is a binary choice between job creation, economic growth, and caring about the environment and that's what we should be focusing on. At the end of the day, where we should be focusing on is making sure that all Americans have clean water, clean air and we do what we can to preserve and protect our environment.

[White House Press Briefing, 3/28/17]

**Donald Trump Denied That He Thinks "Climate Change Is A Hoax Perpetrated By The Chinese."** During the first presidential debate in September 2016, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton had the following exchange:

**CLINTON:** They've looked at my plans and they've said, OK, if we can do this, and I intend to get it done, we will have 10 million more new jobs, because we will be making investments where we can grow the economy. Take clean energy. Some country is going to be the clean- energy superpower of the 21st century. Donald thinks that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese. I think it's real.

**TRUMP:** I did not. I did not. I do not say that.

**CLINTON:** I think science is real.

**TRUMP:** I do not say that.

[Washington Post, [9/26/16](#)]

**Trump: "I'm Not A Big Believer In Manmade Climate Change ... We'll See What Happens."** During an August 2016 interview, Trump said, "I'm not a big believer in manmade climate change. There could be some impact, but I don't believe it's a devastating impact ... I would say that it goes up, it goes down, and I think it's very much like this over the years. We'll see what happens. I mean, we'll see what happens. Maybe you and I – even you, as young as you are – you won't be around to see. But certainly, climate has changed. You know, they used to call it global warming. They've had many different – they call it extreme weather. They always change the name to encapsulate everything. The problem we have is our businesses are suffering. Our businesses are unable to compete in this country because other countries aren't being forced to do what our businesses are being forced to do and it makes us noncompetitive, which is something that I feel very strongly about. And I feel that it puts at a great economic disadvantage for jobs and other things." [Miami Herald, [8/11/16](#)]

**Trump: If Local Governments Want To Invest In Raising Roads Due To Rising Sea Levels, "They Should Do It ... That's**

**Probably Not The Worst Thing I've Ever Heard.**" During an August 2016 interview, Miami Herald reported Patricia Mazzei asked Trump for his thoughts on the local government in Miami spending "millions of dollars to lift the roads and the sidewalks to raise them" due to rising sea levels." Trump responded, "I think local government, if they feel that way, they should do it. I mean, if the local government feels that way, they should do it. If they're doing the roads and if they want to make them higher, I think that's probably not the worst thing I've ever heard, if you're going to do them anyway." [Miami Herald, [8/11/16](#)]

**Trump: In the 1920s, We Had Global Cooling; "Now They Think The Planet Is Getting Warmer ... Nobody Knows For Sure. Nobody Knows For Sure."** During an August 2016 interview, Trump said, "You have a change in weather patterns and you've had it for many years. You know, many years ago, I believe it was in the 1920s, they talked about the phenomena of global cooling. They thought the planet was getting cooler. Now they think the planet is getting warmer and I have a feeling it's sort of this ... *\*makes hand gestures mimicking waves\** But nobody knows for sure. Nobody knows for sure. But I do say this. We have to be careful because our companies are being put at a tremendous disadvantage in terms of the world markets." [Miami Herald, [8/11/16](#)]

**Trump Submitted A Plan To Build A Wall On His Golf Course To Prevent Additional Erosion From Climate Change.** According to an article from Politico, "After failing to win special approval from the national government for the structure, Trump re-submitted a planning application with the Clare County Council seeking permission to build the wall, which would consist of 200,000 tons of rock distributed along two miles of beach. As part of the application, Trump International Golf Links submitted an environmental impact statement — prepared by an Irish environmental consultancy — which argues that erosion is likely to accelerate as sea levels rise more quickly. The statement acknowledges one Irish government study that assumes a steady rate of erosion through 2050, but argues that the study fails to account for the effects of climate change: 'If the predictions of an increase in sea level rise as a result of global warming prove correct, however, it is likely that there will be a corresponding increase in coastal erosion rates not just in Doughmore Bay but around much of the coastline of Ireland. In our view, it could reasonably be expected that the rate of sea level rise might become twice of that presently occurring. ... As a result, we would expect the rate of dune recession to increase.'" [Politico; [5/23/16](#)]

- **Politico Headline: Trump Acknowledges Climate Change — At His Golf Course** [Politico; [5/23/16](#)]

**Trump Was "Not A Big Fan" Of The Paris Climate Accord, And Would Renegotiate "At A Minimum."** In a May 2016 interview with Reuters, Trump "said he is 'not a big fan' of the Paris climate accord, which prescribes reductions in carbon emissions by more than 170 countries. He said he would want to renegotiate the deal because it treats the United States unfairly and gives favorable treatment to countries like China. 'I will be looking at that very, very seriously, and at a minimum I will be renegotiating those agreements, at a minimum. And at a maximum I may do something else,' he said. A renegotiation of the pact would be a major setback for what was hailed as the first truly global climate accord, committing both rich and poor nations to reining in the rise in greenhouse gas emissions blamed for warming the planet." [Reuters, [5/18/16](#)]

**Trump: Global Warming "Of The Nuclear Variety" Is "The One We Have To Be Careful Of."** During a May 2016 campaign stop in Terre Haute, Indiana, Trump said, "We have Obama — you know, global warming, to him, is the single biggest problem in our country, if you can believe that one. I believe global warming is the single biggest problem in our country, but it's made of the nuclear variety. That's the one we have to be careful of. We better be damn, damn tough, and damn careful, because nuclear is your problem with global warming. We have a president that talks about global warming and he doesn't talk about all these other problems." [American Bridge, 160501\_PH\_871\_A (12:30), 5/1/16 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Trump: "Our Military Is Depleted, And We're Asking Our Generals And Military Leaders To Worry About Global**

**Warming.”** During An April 2016 foreign policy speech, Trump said, “Our military is depleted, and we’re asking our generals and military leaders to worry about global warming. We will spend what we need to rebuild our military. It is the cheapest investment we can make. We will develop, build and purchase the best equipment known to mankind. Our military dominance must be unquestioned.” [Trump Campaign Website, [4/27/16](#)]

**Trump: “The Only Global Warming I’m Worried About Is Nuclear Global Warming.”** During a May 2016 Republican presidential town hall, Donald Trump said, “When I hear Obama get up and say the biggest threat to the world today is global warming, I say, is this guy kidding? The only global warming - the only global warming I'm worried about is nuclear global warming because that's the single biggest threat. So it's not that I'm a fan - we can't afford it anymore. We're sitting on a tremendous bubble. We're going to be - again, \$21 trillion. We don't have money.” [CNN, [3/29/16](#)]

**Trump: “I Am Not A Great Believer In Man-Made Climate Change ... I Think Our Biggest Form Of Climate Change We Should Worry About Is Nuclear Weapons.”** On March 21, 2016, Donald Trump met with the editorial board of the Washington Post. During the meeting, he had the following exchange with Washington Post editorial page editor Fred Hiatt and editorial writer Stephen Stromberg:

**HIATT:** You think climate change is a real thing? Is there human-caused climate change?

**TRUMP:** I think there’s a change in weather. I am not a great believer in man-made climate change. I’m not a great believer. There is certainly a change in weather that goes – if you look, they had global cooling in the 1920s and now they have global warming, although now they don’t know if they have global warming. They call it all sorts of different things; now they’re using “extreme weather” I guess more than any other phrase. I am not – I know it hurts me with this room, and I know it’s probably a killer with this room – but I am not a believer. Perhaps there’s a minor effect, but I’m not a big believer in man-made climate change.

**STROMBERG:** Don’t good businessmen hedge against risks, not ignore them?

**TRUMP:** Well I just think we have much bigger risks. I mean I think we have militarily tremendous risks. I think we’re in tremendous peril. I think our biggest form of climate change we should worry about is nuclear weapons. The biggest risk to the world, to me – I know President Obama thought it was climate change – to me the biggest risk is nuclear weapons. That’s – that is climate change. That is a disaster, and we don’t even know where the nuclear weapons are right now. We don’t know who has them. We don’t know who’s trying to get them. The biggest risk for this world and this country is nuclear weapons, the power of nuclear weapons.

[Washington Post, [3/21/16](#)]

**Trump: Climate Change Is A Hoax, And A “Money-Making Industry.”** During a December 30, 2015 campaign rally in Hilton Head, SC, Trump said, “So Obama is talking about all of this with the global warming and ... a lot of it is a hoax. It’s a hoax. I mean, it’s a money making industry, okay? It’s a hoax.” [News Universe, [12/30/15](#) (35:18)]

**Trump: “It’s Really Cold Outside ... We Could Use A Big Fat Dose Of Global Warming!”** On October 19, 2015, Trump tweeted, “It’s really cold outside, they are calling it a major freeze, weeks ahead of normal. Man, we could use a big fat dose of global warming!” [Donald Trump Twitter, [10/19/15](#)]

**Donald Trump Declared, “You Can’t Get Hurt By Extreme Weather,” Then Tweeted His Support For The More Than 12 People Killed By Flooding In South Carolina.** “Donald Trump sent out prayers to those affected by the deadly flooding in South Carolina on Monday, just weeks after telling voters people aren’t hurt from extreme weather. As of Monday night, there have been a total of 13 storm related deaths in South Carolina and North Carolina combined. ‘Thoughts and prayers for those in the floods affecting the great people of South Carolina,’ Trump tweeted Monday in the wake of the floods. But two weeks ago in Dallas, Trump told supporters ‘you can’t get hurt with extreme weather,’ as he dismissed President Barack Obama’s argument that extreme weather as a result of climate change poses a threat to America.” [CNN, [10/5/15](#)]

**Wall Street Journal Headline: “Donald Trump: I Don’t Believe In Climate Change.”** [Wall Street Journal, [9/24/15](#)]

**Asked Whether He Agreed With Pope Francis’s Call To Act On Climate Change, Trump Said No; “I Am Not A Believer In Climate Change.”** In September 2015, [Politico](#) reported, “Donald Trump is at odds with Pope Francis when it comes to climate change. In his White House address ... the pope called climate change ‘a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation.’ Asked whether he agreed with that on CNN’s ‘New Day,’ Trump said no. ‘I think that clean air is a pressing problem. You want to have clean air, clean water. That’s very important to me, and I’ve won many environmental awards. I am not a believer in climate change,’ Trump said.” [[Politico, 9/24/15](#)]

- **[Politico](#) Headline: “Trump: Pope Is Wrong On Climate Change.”** [[Politico, 9/24/15](#)]

**Trump Said He Would “Actually Talk” With Pope Francis And “See If He’s Serious” About Climate Change.** In September 2015, CNN reported, “If Donald Trump found himself in a private meeting with the Pope ... the Republican businessman would want to talk climate change. ‘He seems to be getting extremely political,’ Trump said of Pope Francis, who will visit the United States for a historic trip ... and has made addressing global warming one of his pet issues. ‘I would actually talk to him about it to see if he’s serious.’ Trump, who is skeptical of the idea that humans are causing climate change, told Fox News’ Greta van Susteren that he disagreed with the Pope and would look to gauge why he might be speaking out about it.” [CNN, [9/21/15](#)]

**Trump Surveyed Rally Participants, Asking If Anyone Believed In Climate Change; “Wow, Not Much, Huh? Nobody?”** During a September 2015 campaign rally, a League of Conservation Voters member asked Trump, “I’m here to ask you what your plan is to reduce pollution that is driving climate change and endangering public health.” Trump, in turn, asked the audience, “Let me ask you a question, how many people here believe in global warming? Who believes in global warming? Who believes in global warming, raise your hand? Wow. Not much, huh? Nobody? One person? Huh.” [Huffington Post, [9/18/15](#); LCV, [9/18/15](#)]

**Trump: Climate Change Is “Not A Big Problem At All ... It’s A Big Planet.”** In a September 2015 interview on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, following the second GOP presidential debate, Trump said, “I consider climate change to be not one of our big problems. I consider it to be not a big problem at all. I think it’s weather. I think it’s weather changes. It could be some man-made something. But, you know, you look at China, they’re doing nothing about it. Other countries are doing nothing about it. It’s a big planet.” [MSNBC Morning Joe, [9/17/15](#)]

**Trump: “I’m Not A Huge Believer In The Global Warming Phenomenon”; Manmade Contribution To Climate Change Is “Not Nearly To The Extent” That President Obama Says It Is.** During a June 2015 interview with CNN’s Jake Tapper, Trump said, “I’m not a huge believer in the global warming phenomenon ... There could be some manmade too, I mean, I’m not saying there’s zero, but not nearly to the extent — when Obama gets up and said it’s the number one problem of our country, and if it is, why is it that we have to clean up our factories now when China doesn’t have to do it for another 30 to 35 years?” [CNN, [6/28/15](#)]

**Trump: “I’m Not A Believer” In Manmade Climate Change; “This Planet Is So Massive.”** In a June 2015 Fox News interview with Sean Hannity, Trump said, “I’m not a believer in manmade -- look, this planet is so massive. And when I hear Obama saying that climate change is the number one problem it is just madness. And by the way it started this global cooling, I mean we went through global warming.” [Fox News, [6/17/15](#)]

**Trump: If There Are Low Temperatures And Snow, “Where The Hell Is Global Warming?”** In February 2015, Trump tweeted, “Record low temperatures and massive amounts of snow. Where the hell is GLOBAL WARMING?” [Donald Trump Twitter, [2/14/15](#)]

**Trump: Global Warming “Hoaxers” Are Using “Any And All Weather Events ... To Justify Higher Taxes.”** In January 2014, Trump tweeted, “Any and all weather events are used by the GLOBAL WARMING HOAXSTERS to justify higher taxes to save our planet! They don't believe it \$\$\$\$!” [Donald Trump Twitter, [1/26/14](#)]

**Trump: Global Warming Is A Hoax.** In January 2014, Trump tweeted, “NBC News just called it the great freeze - coldest weather in years. Is our country still spending money on the GLOBAL WARMING HOAX?” [Donald Trump Twitter, [1/25/14](#)]

**Trump Referred To Climate Change As “Bullshit,” Adding, “Our Planet Is Freezing, Record Low Temps, And Our [Global Warming] Scientists Are Stuck In Ice.”** In January 2014, Trump tweeted, “This very expensive GLOBAL WARMING bullshit has got to stop. Our planet is freezing, record low temps, and our GW scientists are stuck in ice.” [Donald Trump Twitter, [1/1/14](#)]

**Trump: “Concept Of Global Warming Was Created By And For The Chinese” To Make U.S. Less Competitive.** In November 2012, Trump tweeted, “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.” [Donald Trump Twitter, [11/6/12](#)]

## **SCOTT PRUITT**

**Pruitt: Issue Is “How Much We Contribute” To Climate Change, “And What Can Be Done About It From A Process Perspective.”** In an April 2017 Fox News Sunday interview, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told Chris Wallace: “CO2 contributes to greenhouse gas, it has a greenhouse gas effect and global warming, as methane does and other types of gases. The issue is, how much we contribute to it from the human activity perspective and what can be done about it from a process perspective.” [FOX News Sunday, [4/2/17](#)]

**Pruitt: “Determining The Specific Risks To Specific Companies Of A Global Phenomenon Like Climate Change Amounts To No More Than Speculative Guess Work.”** According to E&E News, “Fourteen Republican attorneys general are fighting the Securities and Exchange Commission's plan to beef up climate change disclosure. The top prosecutors -- all from states suing to block U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan -- argued in a letter to the SEC that they believe current disclosure rules are sufficient and that the regulators are forwarding a political agenda by considering the topic. ‘Determining the specific risks to specific companies of a global phenomenon like climate change amounts to no more than speculative guess work,’ the officials said in a July 21 letter organized by Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt (R).” [E&E News, [7/28/16](#)]

- **Pruitt: “The Commission Should Not Attempt To Unnecessarily Inject Itself Into Partisan Battles, Including The One Of Climate Change.”** According to E&E News, “‘It is clear that such mandatory disclosure suggestions have not been the result of massive public uproar about investors being unaware that the activities of fossil-fuel producing companies might impact the environment,’ the attorneys general wrote. ‘Nor have large swathes of investors been hoodwinked by coastal real-estate corporations whose assets have now all disappeared under the sea.’ They added, ‘The Commission should not attempt to unnecessarily inject itself into partisan battles, including the one of climate change.’ The law enforcement officials also appeared to issue a warning of potential lawsuits.” [E&E News, [7/28/16](#)]

**Pruitt: “Reasonable Minds Can Disagree About The Science Behind Global Warming, And Disagree They Do.”** According to Bloomberg, “‘Reasonable minds can disagree about the science behind global warming, and disagree they do,’ Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange said in a statement Wednesday.” [Bloomberg, [3/30/16](#)]

**Pruitt: “I Think The Question About Climate Action ... Is Something That’s A Policy Consideration Of This Congress.”** According to The Oklahoman, “I think the question about climate action ... is something that’s a policy consideration of this Congress,” Pruitt said. ‘If you want EPA to address that in a direct way, you can amend the Clean Air Act to provide that authority and the statutory power to do so ... so that the states can know how to conduct themselves in a way that is consistent with statutory construction.’” [The Oklahoman, [5/6/15](#)]

**Pruitt Said Climate Change Debate Was “Far From Settled.”** According to a column co-authored by Scott Pruitt, “We won’t be joining this coalition, and we hope that those attorneys general who have joined will disavow it. Healthy debate is the lifeblood of American democracy, and global warming has inspired one of the major policy debates of our time. That debate is far from settled.” [National Review, [5/17/16](#)]

**Pruitt: “Scientists Continue To Disagree About The Degree And Extent Of Global Warming And Its Connection To The Actions Of Mankind... Dissent Is Not A Crime.”** According to a column co-authored by Scott Pruitt, “Scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connection to the actions of mankind. That debate should be encouraged — in classrooms, public forums, and the halls of Congress. It should not be silenced with threats of prosecution. Dissent is not a crime.” [National Review, [5/17/16](#)]

## PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

**Pruitt: Paris Climate Agreement “Represents A Bad Deal” For The United States ... “We Can Burn Coal In Clean Fashion. We Shouldn’t Have This Commitment By The U.S. Government To Say That Fossil Fuels Are Bad.”** In an April 2017 Fox News Sunday interview, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt had the following exchange with Chris Wallace:

**WALLACE:** You talk about the Paris Accords, which do call for reductions by China and other countries by 2030. And, in fact, China has already begun reducing its carbon emissions from coal power plants as you well. President Xi in January said that the Paris Climate Accord should remain enforced. As the chief environmental officer for the Trump administration, can you make the same commitment to the Paris climate accords?

**PRUITT:** Engagement internationally is very important. To demonstrate the leadership that we have shown on this issue with China and India and other nations is very important. Those discussions should ensue. But what Paris represents is bad deal for this country. We frontloaded our costs. China and India backloaded theirs. That caused a contraction in our economy. Look, we've shown leadership on this issue in the key way, Chris, and we're going to continue that ... We've demonstrated through the steps we've taken already, the pre-1994 levels, because of that technology. We can burn coal in clean fashion. We shouldn't have this commitment by the U.S. government to say that fossil fuels are bad. Renewables are good. The U.S. EPA and the U.S. government should not pick winners and losers, Chris. And that's what happened in the last several years.

[FOX News Sunday, [4/2/17](#)]

**Trump Spokesman Could Not Say Whether The President Wants To Stay In The Paris Climate Agreement.** During a March 2017 White House press briefing, Press Secretary Sean Spicer had the following exchange with a reporter:

**REPORTER:** The President did not mention the Paris agreement yesterday when he went to the EPA. Can you update us on his current thinking about that? Does he want the United States to stay in? And if he does, how does he expect the United States to meet its commitments without the Clean Power Plan?

**SPICER:** The Paris agreement is still under discussion within the administration.

**REPORTER:** ...when you will know?

**SPICER:** I can try to look into that. I don't have one at this time.

[White House Press Briefing, 3/29/17]

**Trump: Paris Climate Agreement “Gives Foreign Bureaucrats Control Over How Much Energy We Use Right Here In America.”** In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said, “President Obama entered the United States into the Paris Climate Accords – unilaterally, and without the permission of Congress. This agreement gives foreign bureaucrats control over how much energy we use right here in America. These actions have denied millions of Americans access to the energy wealth sitting under our feet.” [Donald Trump speech, [5/26/16](#)]

**Trump Would “Cancel The Paris Climate Agreement,” And “Inaccurately” Stated That Foreign Nations Would Have Control Over How America Uses Energy.** In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said that in his first 100 days in office, he would “cancel the Paris Climate Agreement and stop all payments of U.S. tax dollars to U.N. global warming programs.” The [New York Times](#) reported, “In his speech, he complained, inaccurately: ‘This agreement gives foreign bureaucrats control over how much energy we use on our land, in our country. No way.’ In fact, at the heart of the Paris Agreement are voluntary pledges put forward by the governments of over 190 nations, laying out plans to lower emissions. No government has control over the emissions-reduction plans of other governments. [Donald Trump Press Release, [5/26/16](#); [New York Times](#), [5/27/16](#)]

## CLEAN AIR & CLEAN WATER

### CLEAN AIR

#### CLEAN POWER PLAN

**When Chris Wallace Asked How Repealing The Clean Power Plan Would Prevent Asthma Attacks, Work/School Absences, And Premature Deaths, Pruitt Didn’t Give A Public Health Answer, But A “Political Answer.”** In an April 2017 Fox News Sunday interview, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt had the following exchange with Chris Wallace:

**WALLACE:** When the Obama EPA announced its Clean Power Plan, it said that the reduction in carbon pollution would have the following health benefits. I want to put them up on the screen. By 2030, it said there would be 90,000 fewer asthma attacks a year, 300,000 fewer missed work and school days, and 3,600 fewer premature deaths a year. Without the Clean Power Plan, how are you going to prevent those terrible things?

**PRUITT:** Well, Chris, I think what's important this past week is to recognize that the president is keeping his promise to the American people to rollback regulatory overreaches that have been occurring the last couple of years ... It doesn't mean that clean air and clean water is not going to be the focus in the future. We're just going to do it right within the consistency of the framework that Congress has passed. Now, I think that's very important to recognize.

**WALLACE:** But, sir, you're giving me a regulatory answer, a political answer. You're not giving me a health answer. I talked about 90,000 fewer asthma attacks, 300,000 fewer missed days in school and work.

[FOX News Sunday, [4/2/17](#)]

**When Asked How Doing Away With The Clean Power Plan Would Improve Air Quality, Pruitt Responded By Saying That The EPA Has Limited Authority.** In an April 2017 Fox News Sunday interview, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt had the following exchange with Chris Wallace:

**WALLACE:** You think that rewriting, in effect, doing away with the Clean Power Plan is going to improve air quality which you say is a major goal?

**PRUITT:** Look -- look, Chris, I mean, I think what we have to keep in mind is that EPA only possesses authority that the Congress gets it. The EPA has tried twice to regulate CO2. One, with the tailoring rule, and the Supreme

Court struck it down in the UR decision, and secondly, the Clean Power Plan that the president introduced in 2015, which is subject to a U.S. Supreme Court stay. As much as we want to see progress made in clean air and clean water, with an understanding that we can also grow jobs, we had to do so within the framework of what Congress has passed. The tools have to be in a tool box.

[FOX News Sunday, [4/2/17](#)]

**Pruitt: President Trump Has “Shown Great Leadership” And Is Pro-Environment.** In an April 2017 Fox News Sunday interview, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told Chris Wallace: “We have nothing to be apologetic about as with respect to leadership that we’ve shown as a country with respect to these key issues. And the president doesn't either. He shown great leadership and pro-growth, pro-jobs, and pro-environment, and we can do both.” [FOX News Sunday, [4/2/17](#)]

**Pruitt Said That Rolling Back The Clean Power Plan Will Create Job Growth.** During an interview with ABC on March 26, 2017 Pruitt said, “For too long, over the last several years, we have accepted a narrative that if you're pro-growth, pro-jobs, you're anti-environment; if you're pro-environment, you're anti-jobs or anti-growth. And that's just not where we have been as a country throughout our existence. We have made tremendous progress on our environment. And we can be both pro-jobs and pro-environment. And the executive order will address the past administration's efforts to kill jobs across this country through the clean power plan.” [ABC News, [3/26/17](#)]

**Pruitt: Clean Power Plan Provided “Uncertainty. You’re Not Advancing The Environment,” Because It Led To Litigation, Which “Causes Uncertainty In The Marketplace.”** During a March 2017 interview with Hugh Hewitt, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, “Well, what we’ve had in the last several years – uncertainty. You’re not advancing the environment. You’re not actually advancing clean air and clean water, because when you do those things, you have litigation. Litigation causes uncertainty in the marketplace. Those that are regulated don’t know what’s expected of them, so they can’t invest and meet the obligations to achieve clean air and clean water. So it’s a mess. And so really what happened yesterday with the Clean Power Plan is cleaning up the mess, you know, clearing the decks, if you will.” [Hugh Hewitt, [3/29/17](#)]

**Pruitt: Obama Administration “Reimagined Its Authority Under The Clean Air Act To Regulate CO2” And Ended Up With The Clean Power Plan, Which Is Probably Unlawful.** During a March 2017 interview with Hugh Hewitt, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, “The U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay against the Clean Power Plan because of its likely unlawfulness. The previous administration reimagined its authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate CO2 with stationary sources in a way that just isn’t consistent with the framework that Congress passed.” [Hugh Hewitt, [3/29/17](#)]

**Pruitt: “We Can Be Both Pro-Jobs And Pro-Environment,” Which Is Why Trump Administration Will Roll Back The Clean Power Plan.** During a March 2017 interview with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos, Pruitt said, “For too long, over the last several years, we have accepted a narrative that if you're pro-growth, pro-jobs, you're anti-environment; if you're pro-environment, you're anti-jobs or anti-growth. And that's just not where we have been as a country throughout our existence. We have made tremendous progress on our environment. And we can be both pro-jobs and pro-environment. And the executive order will address the past administration's efforts to kill jobs across this country through the Clean Power Plan.” [ABC News, [3/26/17](#)]

**Trump Proposed A Moratorium On Waters Of The United States Rule And Clean Power Plan, Adding That The Regulations Would Eliminate Jobs, Reduce Economic Output, And Reduce Incomes.** During a September 2016 speech at the Economic Club of New York, Trump said, “Every year, overregulation costs our economy \$2 trillion a year and reduces household wealth by almost \$15,000. I propose a moratorium on new federal regulations that are not compelled by Congress or public safety, and I will eliminate all needless and job-killing now on the books – and there are plenty of them. This includes eliminating some of our most intrusive regulations, like the Waters of the U.S. rule. It also means scrapping the EPA’s so-called Clean Power Plan, which the government itself estimates will cost \$7.2 billion a

year. This Obama-Clinton directive will shut down most, if not all, coal-power electricity plants – all over the country, they’re shutting down ... Energy reform is central to our plan as well. According to Heritage Foundation, by 2030, President Obama’s energy restrictions will eliminate another half a million manufacturing jobs, reduce economic output by \$2.5 trillion, and reduce incomes by \$7,000 per person.” [Donald Trump speech (48:05), [9/15/16](#)]

**Trump: “I Am A Huge Believer In Clean Water And Clean Air. Crystal Clean Water And Air.”** During an August 2016 interview, Trump said, “I am a huge believer in clean water and clean air. Crystal clean water and air. I’m a very big believer in that and we have a lot to do with that – keeping our water clean, and keeping our air clean.” [[Miami Herald, 8/11/16](#)]

**Trump: We Want Clean Air And Clean Water, But “You Don’t Have To Destroy Our Country And Destroy Our Businesses.”** During an August 2016 rally in Wilmington, NC, Trump said, “We want safety regulations. We want environmental regulations. We’re not people that don’t want these things. We have to have that. We want clean air. We want clean water. We want clean water. To do that ... you don’t have to destroy our country and destroy our businesses.” [American Bridge, 160809\_ARB\_218\_A (54:50), 8/9/16 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Trump: “Anti-Energy” Clean Power Plan Have Shut Down Power Plants “Entirely” Or Forced Them To Undergo “Expensive Conversions.”** During an August 2016 economic policy speech, Trump said, “The Obama-Clinton Administration has blocked and destroyed millions of jobs through their anti-energy regulations, while raising the price of electricity for both families and businesses. As a result of recent Obama EPA actions coal-fired power plants across Michigan have either shut down entirely or undergone expensive conversions. The Obama-Clinton war on coal has cost Michigan over 50,000 jobs.” [NPR, [8/8/16](#)]

**Trump Would “Rescind” The Clean Power Plan.** In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said that in his first 100 days in office, he would “rescind all the job-destroying Obama executive actions including the Climate Action Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule.” [Donald Trump Press Release, [5/26/16](#)]

**Pruitt: “The EPA Was Never Intended To Be Our Nation’s Frontline Environmental Regulator. The States Were To Have Regulatory Primacy. The EPA Was To Be A Regulator Of Last Resort.”** In May 2016, Pruitt testified before the House Committee on House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Environment, saying, “I believe the EPA has a role to play in our republican form of government. Air and water quality issues can cross state lines, and can sometimes require federal intervention. At the same time, the EPA was never intended to be our Nation’s frontline environmental regulator. The States were to have regulatory primacy. The EPA was to be a regulator of last resort.” [Scott Pruitt House Subcommittee Testimony, [5/26/16](#)]

**Instead Of Govt. Regulators “Picking Winners And Losers,” Pruitt Asked Congress To “Pass A Bill”; “We Didn’t Get Democracy, We Got A Regulatory Cramdown.”** In May 2016, Pruitt testified before the House Committee on House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Environment, saying, “We don’t think that government regulators should be in the business of picking winners and losers in the energy sector. But all of that is for you to decide. And therein lies our objection to the Plan: this body did not decide. So to the members of this committee who strongly support the Clean Power Plan as a matter of policy, I say to you: pass a bill. Let democracy decide whether the Clean Power Plan is right for America. But we didn’t get democracy, we got a regulatory cramdown-- a cramdown done over the objection of no less than 29 States who believe the Plan is unlawful.” [Scott Pruitt House Subcommittee Testimony, [5/26/16](#)]

**Pruitt: Clean Power Plan “Violates The Constitution.”** In May 2016, Pruitt testified before the House Committee on House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Environment, saying, “The Rule violates the Constitution. Cooperative federalism programs must provide States with a meaningful opportunity to decline implementation. But the

Rule does not do so; States that decline to take legislative or regulatory action to ensure increased generation by EPA's preferred power sources face the threat of insufficient electricity to meet demand. The Rule is thus an act of commandeering that leaves States no choice but to alter their laws and programs governing electricity generation and delivery to accord with federal policy.” [Scott Pruitt House Subcommittee Testimony, [5/26/16](#)]

**Pruitt: “The President Could Announce The Most ‘State Friendly’ Plan Possible, But It Would Not Change The Fact That The Administration Doesn’t Have The Legal Authority Under The Clean Air Act To Regulate Carbon Emissions.”**

According to an article in Scripps Media, “Attorney General Scott Pruitt on Monday said the final version of the Clean Power Plan announced by the Administration is unlawful because the EPA does not have the legal authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon emissions from the electricity generating plants covered by the final rule. ‘The president could announce the most ‘state friendly’ plan possible, but it would not change the fact that the administration doesn’t have the legal authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon emissions from these sources because these sources are already being regulated and the Act prohibits this sort of double regulation. The most important detail left out today, however, is the fact the Clean Power Plan threatens the reliability and affordability of power for consumers and business across this country. Oklahoma is suing the EPA over the Clean Power Plan because we are asking the federal government to comply with the Clean Air Act, not because we need more time and flexibility to implement this unlawful plan. My office will continue to challenge the EPA as long as the administration continues to pursue this unlawful rule,’ Attorney General Pruitt said.” [Scripps Media, [8/3/15](#)]

**Pruitt: EPA Does Not Have The Authority To “Dictate To The States” Their Emission Standards For The Clean Power Plan.**

During a February 2013 testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Power, Pruitt said, “While the Clean Air Act gives the EPA the authority to develop the framework for the states to establish emission standards for existing power plants, the EPA may not dictate to the states what those standards should be. The states are allowed to engage in a cost benefit analysis, and consider a wide range of factors in setting those standards.” [GPO, [2/13/13](#)]

**Pruitt: I Sued The EPA Over The Clean Power Plan Because It Was “Going To Force Utility Companies In The State Of Oklahoma” To Spend \$2-3 Billion And, In Effect, Raise Utility Rates By 15 To 20 Percent.**

In an October 2012 interview with [The Daily Oklahoman](#), Pruitt explained why “he was one of several attorneys general who sued the federal Environmental Protection Agency over its efforts to override state-proposed regional haze standards and impose its own, more stringent, antipollution standards.” Pruitt said, “That federal plan, at the time, was going to force utility companies in the state of Oklahoma to spend approximately \$2 billion-plus over a 3-year period, which would have caused utility rates to be raised during that same 3-year period by 15 to 20 percent.” [[The Daily Oklahoman](#), [10/7/12](#)]

## **METHANE EMISSIONS**

**Zinke: Methane Rule “Duplicative And Unnecessary...Clean Air And Clean Water Are Absolute Top Priorities When We Talk About Responsible Energy Development, However The Final Rule Issued By The Obama Administration Does Nothing To Further Protect Our Resources.”**

According to the Washington Post, “Zinke recently criticized an Interior Department rule aimed at curbing inadvertent releases of methane from oil and gas operations on federal land as ‘duplicative and unnecessary.’ ‘Clean air and clean water are absolute top priorities when we talk about responsible energy development, however the final rule issued by the Obama administration does nothing to further protect our resources,’ he said in a statement. ‘This rule is a stark reminder that we need to invest in infrastructure projects like the Keystone pipeline, so we don’t need to flare excess gas.’” [Washington Post, [12/13/16](#)]

## **CROSS-STATE AIR POLLUTION**

**Pruitt: SCOTUS Upholding Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Made It “Even More Important” To “Fight The Attempts Of Federal Agencies To Ignore The Law And Encroach Upon State Sovereignty.”** In April 2014, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which “covers upwind emissions from power plants and their downwind effects on other states.” The state of Oklahoma is “covered by a supplemental part of the rule on nitrogen oxides that can cause ozone in the summer months.” Expressing his disappointment with the ruling, Pruitt said, “Congress passed environmental laws giving states primacy in this instance and others, but over the years has deferred its authority to federal agencies like the EPA, which have rushed in to fill the vacuum and expand their authority. Until Congress reclaims its oversight and authority, it makes it even more important for states like Oklahoma and my office to continue our efforts to fight the attempts of federal agencies to ignore the law and encroach upon state sovereignty.” [[The Oklahoman](#), 4/29/14]

## CLEAN WATER

### WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

**According To Pruitt The Greatest Hindrance To National Growth Has Been Federal Overreach With Rules Like WOTUS.** At a conference with the Farm Bureau on February 28, Pruitt said, “When you look at what we’ve dealt with over the last several years, the greatest impediment to our national economic growth has been regulatory uncertainty agencies at the federal level taking a statute and reimagining it, and looking at it and saying you know what that gives us the authority that were going to use in this way. The Waters of the United States rule was a great example of that.” [Farm Bureau; 2/28/17; [9:45](#)]

**Pruitt Wanted To Clarify That Repealing The WOTUS Rule Would Be Just The Beginning.** At a conference with the Farm Bureau on February 28, Pruitt said, “I commit to you that this is just the first step to fixing what’s wrong with our environmental regulations. There are going to be many steps ahead and we are going to make sure we do so with a mind toward ... protecting our water protecting our air protecting our natural resources.” [Farm Bureau; 2/28/17; [12:24](#)]

**Trump Proposed A Moratorium On Waters Of The United States Rule And Clean Power Plan, Adding That The Regulations Would Eliminate Jobs, Reduce Economic Output, And Reduce Incomes.** During a September 2016 speech at the Economic Club of New York, Trump said, “Every year, overregulation costs our economy \$2 trillion a year and reduces household wealth by almost \$15,000. I propose a moratorium on new federal regulations that are not compelled by Congress or public safety, and I will eliminate all needless and job-killing now on the books – and there are plenty of them. This includes eliminating some of our most intrusive regulations, like the Waters of the U.S. rule. It also means scrapping the EPA’s so-called Clean Power Plan, which the government itself estimates will cost \$7.2 billion a year. This Obama-Clinton directive will shut down most, if not all, coal-power electricity plants – all over the country, they’re shutting down ... Energy reform is central to our plan as well. According to Heritage Foundation, by 2030, President Obama’s energy restrictions will eliminate another half a million manufacturing jobs, reduce economic output by \$2.5 trillion, and reduce incomes by \$7,000 per person.” [Donald Trump speech (48:05), [9/15/16](#)]

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**Pruitt Celebrating A Federal Appeals Court Blocking The WOTUS Rule, And Wanted To Roll It Back Altogether.** In October 2015, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily blocked the Waters of the United States rule. Pruitt said that the ruling was "certainly a win for Oklahoma but the legal fight moves forward as we work diligently to roll back this unlawful rule." [Wall Street Journal, [10/9/15](#)]

**Pruitt: Waters Of The United States Was An "Executive Overreach" While Violated Americans' Property Rights.** In July 2015, Pruitt filed a lawsuit against the EPA over the Waters of the United States rule. Announcing the lawsuit, Pruitt stated, "Respect for private property rights have allowed our nation to thrive, but with the recently finalized rule, farmers, ranchers, developers, industry, and individual property owners will now be subject to the unpredictable, unsound, and often byzantine regulatory regime of the EPA. I, and many other local, state and national leaders across the country, made clear to the EPA our concerns and opposition to redefining the 'Waters of the U.S.' However, the EPA's brazen effort to stifle private property rights has left Oklahoma with few options to deter the harm that its rule will do." [Pruitt Press Release, [7/8/15](#)]

**Pruitt: Clean Water Rule Is "An Egregious Power Grab By The EPA."** In May 2015, Pruitt said of the Clean Water Rule, "This is an egregious power grab by the EPA and an attempt to reach beyond the scope granted to it by Congress. This rule renders the smallest of streams and farm ponds subject to EPA jurisdiction. This means that the first stop for property owners is the EPA." [Washington Times, [5/27/15](#)]

**Pruitt Op-Ed: Clean Water Rule Was "The Greatest Blow To Private Property Rights The Modern Era Has Seen."** In a joint March 2015 op-ed for [The Hill](#), Pruitt and Sen. Rand Paul wrote, "President Obama's Environmental Protection Agency currently stands poised to strike the greatest blow to private property rights the modern era has seen, through a proposed rule that radically expands EPA jurisdiction by placing virtually all land and water under the heavy regulatory hand of the federal government ... Unhappy with the limited scope of the jurisdiction given to it by Congress, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have simply redefined the meaning of 'navigable waters' in an extraordinary way, to include virtually every body of water in the nation right down to the smallest of streams, farm ponds and ditches." [Pruitt op-ed, [The Hill](#), [3/4/15](#)]

**Pruitt Op-Ed: Clean Water Rule Means Property Owners Will Be "Subject To The Unpredictable, Unsound, And Often Byzantine Regulatory Regimes Of The EPA"; Moreover, States And Congress Don't Get A Say.** In a joint March 2015 op-ed for [The Hill](#), Pruitt and Sen. Rand Paul wrote, "The result of this startling grab is that virtually every property owner in the nation will now be subject to the unpredictable, unsound and often Byzantine regulatory regimes of the EPA. Worse yet, the states are cut out of the loop altogether, leaving landowners to lobby distant federal bureaucrats when the system wrongs them — and wrong them it will. Simply put, the proposed rule is breathtaking in its overreach, and flatly contrary to the will of Congress, which, with the passing of the Clean Water Act, decided that the states should plan the development and use of local land and water resources." [Pruitt op-ed, [The Hill](#), [3/4/15](#)]

**Pruitt Op-Ed: Under Clean Water Rule, Farmers, Builders, And "Energy Producers" Must Seek Approval From The EPA To Perform Standard Functions.** In a joint March 2015 op-ed for [The Hill](#), Pruitt and Sen. Rand Paul wrote, "We have both taken action to stop this proposed rule, including filing comments with the EPA urging it to abandon the idea, and introducing legislation in the U.S. Senate that would block the rule. If we fail, we will all live in a regulatory state where

farmers must go before the EPA to seek permission to build a farm pond to keep their livestock alive, where homebuilders must seek EPA approval before beginning construction on a housing development that contains a dry creek bed, and where energy producers are left waiting for months or even years to get permits from the EPA, costing the producers tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars that inevitably will be passed on to consumers.” [Pruitt op-ed, [The Hill](#), [3/4/15](#)]

## **STREAM PROTECTION RULE**

**Trump Administration “Strongly Supports” Congress Voting To Overturn The Stream Protection Rule.** In February 2017, both chambers of Congress used the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn an Obama-era regulation “aimed at preventing coal mining debris from being dumped into nearby streams.” The CRA “hastens the process for bringing legislation to the floor and removes the hurdle of a 60-vote threshold in the Senate. Regulations imposed since June 13 can be invalidated on a simple majority vote of both GOP-led chambers and the president's signature. What's more, the law prevents the executive branch from imposing substantially similar regulations in the future ... The Interior Department said in announcing the rule in December that it would protect 6,000 miles of streams and 52,000 acres of forests, preventing coal mining debris from being dumped into nearby waters.” Responding to Congressional action, the White House released a statement, saying, “The administration strongly supports the actions taken by the House to begin to nullify unnecessary regulations imposed on America’s businesses.” [TIME, [2/1/17](#); [New York Times](#), [2/4/17](#)]

## **FLINT, MICHIGAN**

**Trump: “I Shouldn’t Be Commenting On Flint.”** In January 2016, Trump said, “It’s a shame what’s happening in Flint, Michigan. A thing like that shouldn’t happen but, again, I don’t want to comment on that. They’ve got a very difficult problem and I know the governor’s got a very difficult time going. But, you know, I shouldn’t be commenting on Flint.” [Frank Thorp Twitter, [1/19/16](#)]

# **ENERGY & PUBLIC LANDS**

## **OIL & COAL**

**Pruitt: U.S. Has Burned Coal “In A Clean Fashion ... Better Than Anybody In The World ... We Have Nothing To Be Apologetic About.”** In an April 2017 Fox News Sunday interview, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt had the following exchange with Chris Wallace:

**WALLACE:** But don't you think the fact that we have these coal power plants belching carbon emissions into the air, you don't think that had -- plays a role?

**PRUITT:** I think that we've done it better than anybody in the world at burning coal clean, in a clean fashion. The innovative and technological advances that we've seen along with natural gas production and generating electricity, it all contributed to a CO2 footprint that's pre-1994. Again, we have done better than anybody in the world, and growing our economy and also being a good steward of our environment. We have nothing to be apologetic about. We're going to operate within the framework of the Clean Air Act to deal with these issues and make sure that we advance clean air, clean water, not just with this respect to CO2, but with those key air pollutants under the ambient air quality standard program that we have.

[FOX News Sunday, [4/2/17](#)]

**Trump Spokesman Could Not Say Whether The Coal Industry Would Be Able To Create Jobs Due To The Executive Orders Signed By The President.** During a March 2017 White House press briefing, Press Secretary Sean Spicer had the following exchange with a reporter:

**QUESTION:** The White House is saying they're going to reverse President Obama's so-called war on coal. But a lot of people in the coal industry suggest that jobs are just not going to come back in that industry based on the way the industry has changed and technology and other things. Does this administration have an estimate of how many jobs would be created as a result of the actions it's taken today?

**SPICER:** I'm not aware of one, of an estimate. The president has met with some of the coal miners the other day and Senators Manchin and Capito from West Virginia and others from Kentucky that were here when we did the EO signing a few days ago. From a mining perspective, the miners and the owners are very, very bullish on this. So the people who are actually in the business, applaud this effort, believe that it will do a lot to revive the industry. It's, obviously, a private industry so I'm not going to get into who does what, but I know that the industry itself said so.

[White House Press Briefing, 3/28/17]

**Pruitt Said Trump's New Executive Order Will Create Coal Jobs Across The Country.** During an interview with ABC on March 26, 2017 Pruitt said, "It will bring back manufacturing jobs across the country, coal jobs across the country. Across the energy sector, we have so much opportunity, George. And the last administration had an idea of keeping it in the ground. We need to [be] more independent, less reliant upon foreign energy sources." [ABC News, [3/26/17](#)]

**Trump: "We Are Going To Put Our Coal Miners Back To Work."** During a March 2017 rally in Louisville, KY, President Trump said, "We are going to put our coal miners back to work. They have not been treated well, but they're going to be treated well now. Clean coal, right? Clean coal ... The miners are coming back." [American Bridge, 170320\_BF\_1485\_A (14:40), 3/20/17 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Trump: Environmental Regulations Put The U.S. "At A Tremendous Disadvantage"; Energy Industry Has "So Many Regulations They Can't Breathe."** During an August 2016 interview, Trump had the following exchange with reporter Patricia Mazzei:

**TRUMP:** They have so many environmental regulations that you go to other countries, where they don't have that, it puts us at a tremendous disadvantage.

**MAZZEI:** So those regulations that are in place here – are they necessary?

**TRUMP:** Well, not all of them, no. Not all regulations. If you look at what's happening in the energy industry, if you look at what's happening in certain industries, they're being made to be noncompetitive. They've taken everything out of them. They have so many regulations that they can't breathe. They have people who handle nothing but regulations.

[Miami Herald, [8/11/16](#)]

**Trump Criticized Environmental Restrictions That Prevented The U.S. From Tapping Its Coal And Natural Gas Resources.** TRUMP: "First of all, they're also going very heavy into coal. If you look at what China is doing, they're going heavy into coal whereas the environmental restrictions make it almost impossible for us to do the coal thing anymore. We are a tremendous source of coal. We are called the Saudi Arabia of coal, but it's Saudi Arabia times 100. So, you know, we don't use our natural resources. Whether it is clean or not, the fact is clean coal is coming along and it is a great source of energy. So many other things we're not using, natural-gas, to the extent that we should be. You know, if you look at certain countries in the Mideast, they are getting rid of their gas. They're selling us oil because they don't want to use it because we're paying a lot and they're using natural gas. And we have a tremendous natural gas reserves. So there are so many things, Eric, that we are not doing, and it is inconceivable that they are not started." [Follow The

Money, Fox Business, 6/28/11]

**Trump Opposed Restrictions On Drilling For Oil.** KILMEADE: “Donald, do you have an opinion on the fracking and the natural gas, who you be going at? Do you have an opinion on drilling here at home?” TRUMP: “Well, I think we should just drill. I mean this is crazy. They can't drill in the Gulf. They can't drill in Alaska. They can't drill anywhere and in the meantime, we're being held hostage by all of these foreign nations that are ripping us. So I think we should just open it up. I understand the environmental, I understand it probably better than any. I've received many, many environmental awards. But they are holding this country to a level that is impossible for us to do anything and if we're going to get back on track, we have to get oil down to \$45, \$50 or \$60 a barrel. And right now, it looks like it's going up to \$150. So we can never come back if oil is at these levels.” [Fox & Friends, Fox News, 4/25/11]

**Trump Said He Would “Absolutely” Drill On ANWR.** In April 2011, Trump had the following exchange with Fox News host Sean Hannity:

**HANNITY:** You would drill on ANWR, you drill in the 48 states.

**TRUMP:** Absolutely.

[Hannity, Fox News, [4/14/11](#)]

**Trump: My Energy Plan – Powered By “Beautiful, Clean Coal” – Will “Make Your Energy Bill Much Less Expensive ... Hillary Clinton’s Anti-Energy Agenda Is A Massive Tax On The Poor.”** During an August 2016 campaign speech in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Trump said, “According to the Energy Information Administration, the United States has the largest recoverable coal resources in the world. We’re talking clean coal – beautiful, clean coal ... Over 90 percent of U.S. coal is used for electricity. In other words, my plan will make your energy bill much less expensive – much, much cheaper. Hillary Clinton’s anti-energy agenda is a massive tax on the poor.” [American Bridge, 160820\_CJS\_429\_A (15:00), 8/20/16 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Trump Reaffirmed Support For Keystone XL Pipeline, Pledging To Re-Apply For A Permit.** In August 2016, CTV news reported that Trump would “end American participation in the global climate treaty, scrap the current president's climate-change regulations and, according to a campaign document he released Monday, invite TransCanada Corp. to re-apply for a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.” [CTV News, [8/9/16](#)]

**Trump Would “Unleash An Energy Revolution” By “Lifting The Restrictions On All Sources Of American Energy.”** During an August 2016 economic policy speech, Trump said, “A Trump Administration will end this war on the American worker, and unleash an energy revolution that will bring vast new wealth to our country. According to the Institute for Energy Research, lifting the restrictions on all sources of American energy will: Increase GDP by more than \$100 billion dollars annually, add over 500,000 new jobs annually, and increase annual wages by more than \$30 billion dollars over the next 7 years; Increase federal, state, and local tax revenues by almost \$6 trillion dollars over 4 decades; Increase total economic activity by more than \$20 trillion dollars over the next 40 years. The reforms I have outlined today are only the beginning. When we reform our tax, trade, energy and regulatory policies, we will open a new chapter in American Prosperity. We can use this new wealth to rebuild our military and our infrastructure.” [NPR, [8/8/16](#)]

**Trump: “We Are Going To Lift The Restrictions On The Production Of American Energy.”** In a July 2016 speech at the RNC convention Trump said, “We are going to lift the restrictions on the production of American energy. This will produce more than \$20 trillion in job-creating economic activity over the next four decades. My opponent, on the other hand, wants to put the great miners and steelworkers of our country out of work and out of business. That will never happen with Donald J trump as president. Our steelworkers and are miners are going back to work again.” [Vox, [7/22/16](#)]

**Trump: Hillary Clinton Wants To “Shut Down The Mines ... I Want To Do Exactly The Opposite.”** During a June 2016 speech in Monessen, Pennsylvania, Trump said, “Hillary Clinton wants to shut down energy production and shut down the mines, and she wants to shut down – she said it just recently – she wants to shut down the miners. I want to do exactly the opposite.” [American Bridge, 160628\_MD\_593\_A (31:55), 6/28/16 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Trump Would Revitalize Coal.** In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said that in his first 100 days in office, he would “save the coal industry and other industries threatened by Hillary Clinton’s extremist agenda.” [Donald Trump Press Release, [5/26/16](#)]

**Trump: “If I Am Elected President I Will Immediately Approve The Keystone XL Pipeline. No Impact On Environment & Lots Of Jobs For U.S.”** [@realDonaldTrump, Twitter, [8/18/15](#)]

**Trump: “Keystone Pipeline Should Be Approved Immediately ... But We Don’t Even Need It.”** In an August 2015 interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity, Trump “discussed energy policy,” saying, “The Keystone Pipeline should be approved immediately. Not that I want it, because we’re bringing in oil from Canada, but you know what, it’s a lot easier than Saudi Arabia and some of these other places, and Canada’s been a great neighbor, et cetera, et cetera. But they should approve it. Number one, it’s jobs. Immediately, you’re building it, it’s jobs, it’s good. It’s not going to hurt anything in terms of environmentally. It’s hard to believe that that has not been approved. But get it approved. More oil coming in, the more we can have where we don’t have to go to foreign places, really foreign places to get the oil. So, there’s a simple one. it’s going to create jobs. It’s overall good. But we don’t even need it, in one sense, because we have so much under our own land we can do it, but we have to get rid of some of the restrictions.” [Breitbart, [8/12/15](#)]

**Pruitt Believed That An “Attempt To Punish Those Who Disagree On The Science Behind Global Warming” Was “An Effort To Criminalize Free Speech.”** According to Houston Chronicle, “Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt described the investigation into Exxon as an attempt to punish those who disagree on the science behind global warming and said he would likely file a court brief in support of Paxton. ‘It seems to be an effort to criminalize free speech,’ he said. ‘They’re basically alleging Exxon has minimized the supposed impact of fossil fuels. But if the minimization is fraud, as they claim, then the exaggeration is fraud, too.’” [Houston Chronicle, [5/16/16](#)]

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

**Perry Said He Does Not Support A Nuclear Dump In Yucca Mountain If The People Of Nevada Do Not Want It.** At the CNN Western Debate on October 18, 2011 Rick Perry said he agreed with a statement made by Mitt Romney that if Nevada does not want a nuclear waste dump in Yucca Mountain, then they should not have it. Perry said, “You know, from time to time, Mitt and I don’t agree. But on this one, he’s hit it, the nail, right on the head. And I’ll just add that when you think about France, who gets over 70 percent of their energy from nuclear power, the idea that they deal with this issue, that their glassification [sic], and that the innovation -- and, Congressman Paul, you’re correct when it comes to allowing the states to compete with each other. That is the answer to this.” [CNN, Western Debate, [10/18/11](#)]

**Perry Supported Nuclear Energy Because Texas Does Not Have Tsunamis.** Speaking at an event in New Hampshire on August 13, 2011 Rick Perry said he supported nuclear energy, and that Texas does not have Tsunamis. Perry said unequivocally, “I am a supporter of nuclear energy.” According to the Austin-American Statesman, Perry “said his heart goes out to the people of Japan who suffered nuclear catastrophe following an earthquake and tsunami earlier this year. “We don’t have tsunamis in Texas,” Perry said to subdued chuckles from the crowd.” [Austin American-Statesman, [8/13/11](#)]

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Trump: American Energy Policy Is “Putting A Lot Of People Out Of Work,” And They “Are A Disaster.”** During the first presidential debate in September 2016, Trump said, “We invested in a solar company, our country. That was a disaster. They lost plenty of money on that one. Now, look, I'm a great believer in all forms of energy, but we're putting a lot of people out of work. Our energy policies are a disaster. Our country is losing so much in terms of energy, in terms of paying off our debt.” [[Washington Post, 9/26/16](#)]

**Trump: Wind Projects Are Killing “More Than 1 Million Birds A Year.”** In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said, “The administration fast-tracked wind projects that kill more than 1 million birds a year.” [Donald Trump speech, [5/26/16](#)]

**Trump Was “Fine” With The Production Tax Credit For Wind Energy, Adding That Wind Is “Very Expensive,” And Will Need Subsidies.** During a November 2015 campaign stop in Newton, Iowa, Trump was asked for his stance on the wind energy tax credit. He responded, “I’m fine with it. Any form of energy – we’ve got to get away from the Middle East. I will say, wind is a problem because it’s very expensive to build the towers – very, very expensive. As you know, when you have \$40 oil, it’s not economic, so they’re going to have to do a subsidy, otherwise wind isn’t going to work. Wind is a very expensive form of energy, and it’s got problems of storage, and lots of other things. But, I want to see whatever you can do – ethanol, I’m totally in favor ... Wind will need subsidies. It’s going to have to have subsidies.” [American Bridge, 151119\_DMT\_459\_A (43:00), 11/19/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

**Trump, On Wind Energy: “Windmills Look Nice, But They Kill A Lot Of Birds. Did You Know That?”** During a November 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Donald Trump took questions from the audience, including one from “twelve-year-old Annabelle Watson, a homeschooled student accompanied by her mother, who asked Trump about the benefits of fracking versus using wind energy. ‘Well, the windmills look nice,’ Trump told her. ‘But they kill a lot of birds. Did you know that?’” [[National Review, 11/4/15](#)]

**Trump Called Windmills “Industrial Monstrosities.”** According to Never Enough: Donald Trump And The Pursuit Of Success, “Trump said that Salmond had assured him the windmills would not be built. He insisted that he was fighting not just for himself, but for the country, because windmills were a bad technology. ‘We have to save Scotland,’ he declared. ‘You cannot allow these industrial monstrosities.’” [Never Enough: Donald Trump And The Pursuit Of Success, 1/1/2015]

**Trump On Wind Turbines: “A Lot People Say They Cause Sickness.”** Trump “These are industrial turbines. They make noise. They create shadows. It’s called the flickering effect. And for miles around, the sun comes through and you have shadows, every second a different shadow. A lot of people say they cause sickness because of what happens and probably because of the anguish.” [“Real Sports with Bryant Gumble,” HBO, 8/20/13; 130820\_JEG\_704]

**Trump Urged Scottish Parliament To Cancel Proposal For Offshore Wind Farm Because They The Turbines Would Spoil The View At His Golf Resort; “They Are Ugly, They Are Noisy ... If Scotland Does This, Scotland Will Be In Serious Trouble.”** In April 2012, Trump urged Scotland’s parliament to “end plans for an offshore wind farm he fears will spoil the view at his exclusive new \$750-million-pound (\$1.2-billion) golf resort ... ‘Scotland, if you pursue this policy of these monstrous turbines, Scotland will go broke,’ he said. ‘They are ugly, they are noisy and they are dangerous. If Scotland does this, Scotland will be in serious trouble and will lose tourism to places like Ireland, and they are laughing at us.’ ... When challenged to produce hard evidence about his claims on the negative impact of turbines, Trump said: ‘I am the evidence, I am a world class expert in tourism.’” In September 2012, Trump tweeted, “English taxpayers should stop subsidizing the destruction of Scotland by paying massive subsidies for ugly wind turbines.” [Associated Press, [4/26/12](#);

Donald Trump Twitter, [9/26/12](#)]

**Trump, 2012: “Wind Farms Are Hurting The Country.”** According to On The Record on Fox News, “Trump: Right now, green energy is way behind the times. You look at the windmills that are destroying shorelines all over the world. Economically, they’re not good. It’s a very, very poor form of energy. Solar, as you know, hasn’t caught on because, I mean, a solar panel takes 32 years -- it’s a 32-year payback. Who wants a 32-year payback? The fact is, the technology is not there yet. Wind farms are hurting the country.” [Fox News - On The Record, [3/16/12](#)]

## FEDERAL LANDS

### SELLING OFF PUBLIC LANDS

**Zinke Congressional Website: “As A Fifth Generation Montanan, Ryan Understand How Important Our Public Lands Are To Our Local Economies, Communities, And More Importantly, Our Very Way Of Life...It Is Of Utmost Importance That We Preserve The Public’s Access To These Lands.”** According to Ryan Zinke’s Congressional website, “As a fifth generation Montanan, Ryan understand how important our public lands are to our local economies, communities, and more importantly, our very way of life. In Montana, our land IS our way of life. Our wealth of natural resources creates jobs, supports families, and promotes recreation. It is of utmost importance that we preserve the public’s access to these lands.” [Ryan Zinke, accessed [12/13/16](#)]

**Zinke In January 2015: “I Will Not Tolerate Selling Our Public Lands.”** According to Ryan Zinke’s Congressional website, “In January 2015, Congressman Zinke told the Montana State Legislature, ‘I will not tolerate selling our public lands.’” [Ryan Zinke, accessed [12/13/16](#)]

**GOP Platform Says Federal Lands Should Be Turned Over To States, But “There’s Nothing In The Text That Would Stop A State From Turning A Wildlife Refuge Into A Walmart ... Or A Trump Golf Course.”** In July 2016, the Huffington Post reported, “The Republican platform states that ‘certain’ federally controlled lands should be given to states to control — though it doesn’t stipulate which lands, or whether there’d be any restrictions on what states could do with them. There’s nothing in the text that would stop a state from turning a wildlife refuge into a Walmart, for example, or a Trump golf course. ‘The residents of state and local communities know best how to protect the land where they work and live,’ the platform states.” [Huffington Post, [7/21/16](#)]

- **Trump Was “Pleased” With The GOP’s Platform.** In July 2016, NBC News reported, “Republicans tasked with drafting a policy document that guides and defines the GOP has completed its work, effectively moving the party further to the right on issues of guns, immigration, and traditional marriage ... After the committee completed its work Tuesday, aides to Trump said they are pleased with the product.” [NBC News, [7/12/16](#)]

**Zinke On Federal Land Transfer: “Quite Frankly, Most Republicans Don’t Agree With It And Most Montanans Don’t Agree With It...What We Do Agree On Is Better Management.”** According to the Billings Gazette, ‘Zinke said he supports better management of federal land but doesn’t support transferring those lands to the states. Surrogates for both presidential candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, have said the presumptive nominees won’t support a transfer of federal lands. ‘Quite frankly, most Republicans don’t agree with it and most Montanans don’t agree with it,’ Zinke said of transferring federal lands to the states. ‘What we do agree on is better management.’” [Billings Gazette, [7/15/16](#)]

**Adviser: Trump “Supports Easing The Transfer Of Federal Lands To State And Local Governments To Allow Development.”** In instances where growing cities are hemmed in by federal lands, Clovis said Trump supports easing the

transfer of federal lands to state and local governments to allow development. Trump supports the transfer to local and state government when it is appropriate and when proper stewardship is guaranteed, Clovis said, adding ‘Congress needs to get on board with that.’” [Associated Press, [5/6/16](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: “Selling Off Our Public Lands Is A Non-Starter.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, ‘When you sent me to Washington, protecting Montana’s public lands was, and remains, one of my top priorities. Party leaders and I don’t always see eye-to-eye on conservation issues, but they always know where I stand. Selling off our public lands is a non-starter. I’ve voted against budget resolutions and bucked party leadership on more than a couple occasions to defend our lands. [Billings Gazette, [4/24/16](#)]

**Adviser: Trump Supports “Shared Governance” Of Federal Lands Between Federal & State/Local Govts., Citing The Ability To Preserve Access To The Land For Hunters, For Grazing, And To Access Natural Resources.** Trump supports ‘shared governance’ of federal lands between federal agencies and state and local governments in many circumstances, Clovis said. Under such management, he said state and local government would benefit from better access to minerals on federal lands and would retain revenues coming off the properties above what’s required for maintenance of the land. ‘The whole federal land issue is one where we can preserve the sportsmen’s access to that land, we can preserve grazing land, and at the same time we can get to a shared governance structure on other aspects of that where state and local governments can benefit from access to minerals, from access to other things,’ Clovis said.” [Associated Press, [5/6/16](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: “I’m A Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist. Like Teddy, I Believe Our Lands Are Worth Cherishing.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, ‘I’m a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist. Like Teddy, I believe our lands are worth cherishing. We’re all in this together. While there is a lot that separates folks as Republicans and Democrats, there’s also a lot that binds us together as Montanans. Preserving and conserving our public lands, I think, is one of those values. I’m calling on my colleagues to work on the things that bring us together. Let’s work toward better stewardship and management so our public lands can be enjoyed for generations to come.’ [Billings Gazette, [4/24/16](#)]

**Trump: Federally-Owned Land Should Be Divided Up Among Everybody “Or Something ... It’s Not A Subject I Know Anything About.”** During a February 2016 campaign event in Las Vegas, Donald Trump said, “I am backing the federal government to keep the land that’s owned by the federal government, and we should give that land to everybody and divvy it up or something. I’m saying to myself, well, it’s not a subject I know anything about.” [The Blaze, [2/23/16](#)]

**Trump Didn’t “Like The Idea” Of Federal Lands Being Transferred To States’ Care; “Are They Going To Sell [The Land] If They Get Into A Little Bit Of Trouble?”** In a January 2016 interview with Field & Stream magazine, Trump had the following exchange with interviewer Anthony Licata:

**Licata:** I’d like to talk about public land. Seventy percent of hunters in the West hunt on public lands managed by the federal government. Right now, there’s a lot of discussion about the federal government transferring those lands to states and the divesting of that land. Is that something you would support as President?

**Trump:** I don’t like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don’t know what the state is going to do. I mean, are they going to sell if they get into a little bit of trouble? And I don’t think it’s something that should be sold. We have to be great stewards of this land. This is magnificent land. And we have to be great stewards of this land. And the hunters do such a great job—I mean, the hunters and the fishermen and all of the different people that use that land. So I’ve been hearing more and more about that. And it’s just like the erosion of the Second Amendment. I mean, every day you hear Hillary Clinton wants to essentially wipe out the Second Amendment. We have to protect the Second Amendment, and we have to protect our lands.

[Field & Stream, [1/21/16](#)]

**When Asked If He Would Advocate Greater Or Less Funding For Managing Public Lands, Trump Offered To Better Maintain Federal Lands, Which He Had Heard Were Not Very Well Kept.** In a January 2016 interview with Field & Stream magazine, Trump had the following exchange with interviewer Anthony Licata:

**Licata:** One of the things that we've found is so much of this campaign—not your campaign, but this election cycle—has talked about cutting budgets and reducing the federal government. And what the budget is for managing public lands right now is at one percent. In 1970, it was two percent. Would you continue to push that number down for wildlife conservation or would you look to invest more?

**Trump:** I don't think there's any reason to. And I will say—and I've heard this from many of my friends who are really avid hunters and I've heard it from my sons who are avid hunters—that the lands are not maintained the way they were by any stretch of the imagination. And we're going to get that changed; we're going to reverse that. And the good thing is, I'm in a family where I have—I mean, I'm a member of the NRA, but I have two longtime members of the NRA. They've been hunting from the time they were five years old and probably maybe even less than that. And they really understand it. And I like the fact that, you know, I can sort of use them in terms of—they know so much about every single element about every question that you're asking. And one of the things they've complained about for years is how badly the federal lands are maintained, so we'll get that changed.

[Field & Stream, [1/21/16](#)]

**Trump Op-Ed: Pres. Obama “Encourages Faceless, Nameless Bureaucrats To Manage Public Lands.”** In a January 2016 Reno Gazette Journal op-ed, Donald Trump wrote, “How is it that we have a president who will not enforce some laws and who encourages faceless, nameless bureaucrats to manage public lands as if the millions of acres were owned by agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Energy?” [Trump op-ed, Reno Gazette Journal, [1/7/16](#)]

**Trump Op-Ed: Federal Govt. Is “Reluctant To Release Land To Local Disposition In Nevada,” Resulting In Cost Of Land And Cost Of Living To Rise.** In a January 2016 Reno Gazette Journal op-ed, Donald Trump wrote, “Because the BLM is so reluctant to release land to local disposition in Nevada, the cost of land has skyrocketed and the cost of living has become an impediment to growth. Where are the city and county to get the land for schools, roads, parks and other public use areas if they have to beg Washington for the land and then pay a premium price for it? How are people who see a future in Nevada to find housing and employment if the federal government is inhibiting economic development? How are businesses to find the employees to fill the jobs that could be created if there were better leadership in Washington?” [Trump op-ed, Reno Gazette Journal, [1/7/16](#)]

**Trump Op-Ed: Bureau Of Land Mgmt. Owns Over 85 Percent Of Nevada’s Land; Nevadans Are Forced To Deal With Government Bureaucrats Who “Bend To The Influence That Is Closest To Them.”** In a January 2016 Reno Gazette Journal op-ed, Donald Trump wrote, “The BLM controls over 85 percent of the land in Nevada. In the rural areas, those who for decades have had access to public lands for ranching, mining, logging and energy development are forced to deal with arbitrary and capricious rules that are influenced by special interests that profit from the D.C. rule-making and who fill the campaign coffers of Washington politicians. Far removed from the beautiful wide open spaces of Nevada, bureaucrats bend to the influence that is closest to them. Honest, hardworking citizens who seek freedom and economic independence must beg for deference from a federal government that is more intent on power and control than it is in serving the citizens of the nation.” [Trump op-ed, Reno Gazette Journal, [1/7/16](#)]

**Zinke In 2014: “From Every Side The State Is Doing A Better Job [Of Managing State Lands], And We Have To Look At Why And What’s The State Doing That The Feds Aren’t Doing.”** According to the Billings Gazette, “Republican candidate for the U.S. House seat and former state Sen. Ryan Zinke touted Montana’s management of its state lands. ‘From every side the state is doing a better job, and we have to look at why and what’s the state doing that the feds aren’t doing,’ he

said.” [Billings Gazette, [8/31/14](#)]

**2014: Zinke On Selling Public Lands: “I’m Not There Yet — I’ve Never Seen A Path Forward On It That We Can Get There Where It Matters To People In The Short Term. I’m Absolutely Opposed To Selling, But I Do Think We Should Force, If Necessary, Federal Policy To Return To A Much Better Balance.”** According to the Billings Gazette, “When it came to the question of transferring or selling public lands to alleviate management shortfalls, Zinke said it’s not an option he endorses at this point in time. ‘I’m not there yet — I’ve never seen a path forward on it that we can get there where it matters to people in the short term,’ he said. ‘I’m absolutely opposed to selling, but I do think we should force, if necessary, federal policy to return to a much better balance.’” [Billings Gazette, [8/31/14](#)]

## **ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

**Trump Called For “Opening Federal Lands For Oil And Gas Production,” And “Opening Offshore Areas” For Drilling, Too.** During a September 2016 speech at the 2016 Shale Insight Conference, Trump said that his “America first” energy approach meant “opening federal lands for oil and gas production, opening offshore areas, and revoking policies that are imposing unnecessary restrictions on innovative new exploration technologies.” [Donald Trump Speeches & Events YouTube, [9/22/16](#) (30:00)]

**Trump’s Energy Plan Suggested That He Would Tap Into “Oil And Gas Reserves On Federal Lands [That] Equal An Estimated \$50 Trillion.”** Donald Trump’s energy policy states: “A Trump Administration will develop an America First energy plan. Here is how this plan will make America Wealthy Again: American energy dominance will be declared a strategic economic and foreign policy goal of the United States ... Our total untapped oil and gas reserves on federal lands equal an estimated \$50 trillion.” [Donald Trump campaign website, [accessed 9/1/16](#)]

**Trump Wants To Re-Allow Drilling On Federal Lands.** In a May 2016 speech to the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Trump said that in his first 100 days in office, he would “lift moratoriums on energy production in federal areas. We’re going to revoke policies that impose unwarranted restrictions on new drilling technologies.” [Donald Trump Press Release, [5/26/16](#)]

**Zinke: “There’s Places To Mine. I Just Can’t See Where Mining Around Yellowstone National Park Or Glacier Meets The Greater Good.”** According to the Associated Press, “To quote U.S. House Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., in a recent interview with The Enterprise: ‘There’s places to mine. I just can’t see where mining around Yellowstone National Park or Glacier meets the greater good.’” [Associated Press, 7/13/16]

**Trump Campaign Sr. Adviser: As President, Trump Could “Extract The Energy From Government Lands.”** In April 2016, NBC News reported, “As president, Donald Trump would sell off \$16 trillion worth of U.S. government assets in order to fulfill his pledge to eliminate the national debt in eight years, senior adviser with the campaign Barry Bennett said. ‘The United States government owns more real estate than anybody else, more land than anybody else, more energy than anybody else,’ Bennett told Chris Jansing Sunday on MSNBC. ‘We can get rid of government buildings we’re not using, we can extract the energy from government lands, we can do all kinds of things to extract value from the assets that we hold.’” [NBC News, [4/3/16](#)]

**Trump Campaign Sr. Adviser, When Asked How The U.S. Could “Sell Off \$16 Trillion Worth Of Assets”, Said: “Do You Know How Much Land We Have? You Know How Much Oil Is Off Shore? And In Government Lands? Easily.”** In April 2016, NBC News reported, “When pressed on whether the United States could sell off \$16 trillion worth of assets, [Trump campaign senior adviser Barry] Bennett responded affirmatively on Sunday. ‘Oh, my goodness,’ he said. ‘Do you know how much land we have? You know how much oil is off shore? And in government lands? Easily.’ The federal

government's assets totaled \$3.2 trillion as of September 2015, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. However, that does not include stewardship assets or natural resources." [NBC News, [4/3/16](#)]

**Trump Would "Make Sure That Useful Development" Of Federally-Owned Lands "For Cities, Counties And The State Will Not Be Hidebound In Needless Bureaucratic Red Tape."** In a February 2016 candidate questionnaire, Donald Trump stated, "Over 80% of the State of Nevada is 'owned' by the federal government. The issue is not that so much of the state is public land; it is how that land is managed. The Department of Energy and the Department of Interior must find ways to work with state and local governments to make sure that public lands are used to the best purpose. As President, I will make sure that the Department of Interior and the Department of Energy give as much access to the people of this country as possible and that these departments will make sure that useful development of the land for cities, counties and the state will not be hidebound in needless bureaucratic red tape. Congress should address this issue on a much larger scale and make the determination on how federal lands should be managed by the executive branch, state and local governments." [[Reno Gazette Journal](#), [2/17/16](#)]

**Trump Is "Very Much Into" Drilling And "Energy Exploration, As Long As We Don't Do Anything To Damage The Land."** In a January 2016 interview with Field & Stream magazine, Trump had the following exchange with interviewer Anthony Licata:

**Licata:** How would you balance energy exploration and extraction on public lands? How would you balance that with the need for recreation and multiple use? Right now, gas prices are low, but they might not stay that way.

**Trump:** Well, I'm very much into energy, and I'm very much into fracking and drilling, and we never want to be hostage again to OPEC and go back to where we were. And right now, we're at a very interesting point because right now there's so much energy. And I've always said it—there's so much energy. And new technology has found that. And maybe that's an advantage and maybe—actually, it's more of an advantage in terms of your question, because we don't have to do the kind of drilling that we did. But I am for energy exploration, as long as we don't do anything to damage the land. And right now we don't need too much; there's a lot of energy.

[Field & Stream, [1/21/16](#)]