



“THE BREAKS”

VISUALS	AUDIO	FACTS
<p>CG: Mark Harris</p>	<p>You can tell a lot about a politician by who they think should get the breaks...</p> <p>Take Mark Harris.</p>	
<p>CG: Harris: billions in tax cuts for big polluters <i>Cite: Charlotte Observer, 1/25/18; Pacific Standard, 3/27/18</i></p>	<p>Harris supports tax breaks for big polluters...making <u>them</u> billions.</p>	<p>Mark Harris Supported The Trump Tax Overhaul Bill. On September 28, 2017, Mark Harris posted to Facebook, saying: “Ronald Reagan said, ‘Simple fairness dictates that government must not raise taxes on families struggling to pay their bills.’ That statement is so true. That’s one reason I’m proud to support the President’s tax reform which will reduce some of the unnecessary burden on ordinary Americans and allow working families to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. The proposal will also bring relief to small business owners who have oftentimes struggled to keep up with the larger corporations as well as lowering the tax rate for American businesses which will allow them to better compete with foreign companies. This is a great first step to stimulate our economy and create an environment for job growth and investment!” [Mark Harris Facebook Post, 9/28/2017]</p>



Spokesperson Said Mark Harris Likes The Republican Tax Bill. In a January, 2018 story on the recently-passed republican tax legislation, the Charlotte Observer reported: “Andy Yates, a spokesman for Republican Mark Harris, the former Charlotte pastor challenging Pittenger in the May primary, said Harris likes the tax bill - but not Congress. ‘It’s great that Congress has been able to accomplish one thing in the last year,’ Yates said. ‘They can take a victory lap for the one thing they accomplished.’” [Charlotte Observer, 1/25/2018]

Just 17 American Oil And Gas Companies Reported A Combined \$25 Billion In Direct One-Time Benefits From The 2017 Tax Cuts And Jobs Act. In March of 2017, Pacific Standard magazine reported: “Just 17 American oil and gas companies reported a combined total of \$25 billion in direct one-time benefits from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Many of the companies will also receive millions of dollars in income tax refunds this year. Looking forward, the Tax Act then reduces all corporate annual tax bills by a minimum of 40 percent every year in perpetuity, while adding new benefits that function as government subsidies for the oil and gas industry. The companies’ activities in the United States are made less expensive, thereby encouraging a further expansion of oil and gas operations.” [[Pacific Standard, 3/27/2018](#)]

GOP Tax Plan Included A Specially-Crafted Loophole To Allow Lower Tax Rates For Oil And Gas Operators, Former Joint Committee on Taxation Chief Of Staff Said: “This IS A Working Definition Of A Tax Boondoggle.” In December of 2012, the New York Times reported on the republican tax legislation, saying: “Investments in mortgages held by real estate

investment trusts would be able to take advantage of the lower pass-through rate instead of being taxed at ordinary income rates, which are higher. Thanks to an amendment offered by Senator John Cornyn, Republican of Texas, certain income from gas and oil operators could also qualify for the new, lower rate. Industry representatives said they would have been excluded from the intended benefits that the real estate investment trusts and other publicly traded industries were getting. ‘The Senate went out of its way to confirm that passive investors in these publicly traded investment vehicles get the benefit of the pass-through discount tax rate,’ said Edward D. Kleinbard, a professor of tax law at the University of Southern California and a former chief of staff for the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation. ‘This is a working definition of a tax boondoggle.’” [[New York Times, 12/2/2017](#)]

GOP Tax Plan Preserved Tax Benefits For Incentivizing Coal Production. In December of 2017, The New Republic reported: “But there’s also something to be said about what the tax bill didn’t change: the billions of dollars in permanent, century-old tax subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. According to Oil Change International, the U.S. federal government provides a combined \$14.7 billion in various annual subsidies for the fossil fuel industry, the vast majority of which remained untouched in the tax bill. And while the majority of those subsidies favor the oil and gas industry, 20 percent go toward incentivizing coal consumption and production. What’s more, the effective tax rate for coal—which is less than 1 percent—stays the same. In other words, the government still sacrifices billions in revenue every year to prop up coal, an industry that most energy analysts agree is dying. ‘The coal industry fares incredibly well [with the tax bill],’ said Janet Redman, the U.S. policy director of Oil Change

		<p>International. ‘None of the handouts that they get now are taken away. They chug ahead with every tax break they’ve enjoyed last year, the year before, and some that have been in the books for decades. They’ve lost nothing.’” [The New Republic, 12/25/2017]</p> <p>Under The GOP Tax Plan, Low- And Middle-Income North Carolinians Would Eventually Face Tax Increases While The Wealthiest Get Tax Cuts. According to an analysis by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, by the year 2027, the poorest 20% of North Carolina taxpayers will see an average take hike of \$280, the second 20% of North Carolina taxpayers will see an average tax hike of \$300, the middle 20% would see an average tax hike of \$300, the fourth 20% would see an average tax hike would see an average tax increase of \$110. Meanwhile, the top 1% would get an average tax cut of \$4,970. [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, “How the Final GOP-Trump Tax Bill Would Affect North Carolina Residents’ Federal Taxes” 12/16/2017]</p>
<p>CG: Harris: gut protections for pre-existing conditions <i>Cite: Roll Call, 8/1/17</i></p>	<p>But Pollution can make people sick.</p> <p>And if you get sick, more bad news:</p>	<p>American Lung Association: Particle Pollution From Vehicle Exhaust And Power Plants Can Cause Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, And Asthma Attacks. According to the American Lung Association: "Lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer of both men and women in the U.S. When you think of risk factors for lung cancer, what comes to mind? Most of us think about the risk associated with smoking cigarettes, but did you know that air pollution can also cause lung cancer? Overwhelming evidence shows that particle pollution in the outdoor air we breathe—like that coming from vehicle exhaust, coal-fired power plants and other industrial sources—can cause lung cancer. Particle pollution increases the risk of dying early, heart disease and asthma attacks, and it can</p>

also interfere with the growth and function of the lungs."
[\[American Lung Association, 6/21/2016\]](#)

Volatile Organic Compounds Leaking From Natural Gas Wells Alongside Methane Can Cause Serious Health Issues Including Cancer And Birth Defects. In a 2015 story on the health effects of leaking gases in Aztec, NM, The Guardian, citing a study by University of Colorado professor Dr Detlev Helmig. The Guardian pointed out: "And it is not only methane that is leaking out of these gas wells but a host of other dangerous gasses, collectively known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). They read like a devil's cookbook of nastiness, for example benzene, which causes leukemia and other health problems; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that can cause cancer; and toluene, which is known to cause birth defects at high doses." [\[The Guardian 8/14/2015\]](#)

Citing Asthma And Lung Disease Concerns, American Lung Association President Called Repealing Ozone Standard "A Dangerous Step In The Wrong Direction." "Delaying the process to clean up ozone pollution harms the health of millions of Americans and puts lives at risk, especially children living with asthma and others with lung disease," said Harold P. Wimmer, National President and CEO of the American Lung Association. "The EPA's job is to implement the Clean Air Act to ensure the air is safe to breathe for all, especially the most vulnerable. Stalling implementation of the 2015 ozone standard is a dangerous step in the wrong direction." [\[American Lung Association Press Release, 7/12/2017\]](#)

18 National Medical Organizations Criticized Efforts To Repeal The Clean Power Plan, Noting The Plan Would Have

Prevented An Estimated 90,000 Pediatric Asthma Attacks And 3,600 Premature Deaths Each Year.

In October of 2017, a coalition of 18 national health and medical organizations issued a joint press release, saying: "Today's proposal to revoke the Clean Power Plan is inconsistent with EPA's core mission of protecting public health and the environment. The Clean Power Plan, adopted in 2015, would have substantially reduced carbon pollution and other emissions from power plants, and prevented an estimated 90,000 pediatric asthma attacks and 3,600 premature deaths each year once fully implemented. Revoking this lifesaving plan denies Americans these health protections and removes crucial tools to reduce pollution that causes climate change." [[American Public Health Association Press Release, 10/10/2017](#)]

Clean Power Plan Would Have Limited Sulfur Dioxide, Which Can Cause Respiratory Illnesses, Heart Disease, and Cancer.

In November of 2017, The Weather Channel reported: "An Environmental Protection Agency analysis of the Obama-era Clean Power Plan found that even more lives could be saved by the climate rule than the Obama administration predicted, yet efforts to repeal the plan continue to move forward. According to the draft analysis released in October, the Clean Power Plan could, at least in one scenario, prevent up to 4,500 premature deaths per year by 2030. The rule calls for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants to help reduce global warming. An added benefit of the plan is the elimination of other harmful pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, which can cause a slew of respiratory illnesses, heart disease and cancer." [[The Weather Channel, 11/2/2017](#)]



CG: Harris: gut protections for pre-existing conditions
Cite: Roll Call, 8/1/17

Mark Harris wants to let insurance companies stop covering pre-existing conditions...

Conditions pollution can make worse.

Mark Harris Called For An End To Obamacare. In August of 2017, Roll Call reported: "Harris outlined several campaign priorities including term limits, a strong military, an end to Obamacare, more patient control in health care, cuts to federal spending, tax reform, fewer regulations, and lower taxes." [[Roll Call 8/1/2017](#)]

Mark Harris Wants To Repeal And Replace Obamacare. In the issues section of his congressional campaign website, Mark Harris says: "Congress must keep its promise to the American People and repeal and replace Obamacare! We need to look at reform that is market-based and patient driven. A market-based approach would foster competition and empower individuals to make personal healthcare decisions between them and their doctor. Opening the market up to buy insurance across state lines and encouraging HSA's should be at the heart of any major healthcare reform." [[Mark Harris campaign website accessed 5/30/2018](#)]

Current Law Under The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) Prevents Insurance Companies From Refusing To Cover Patients With Pre-Existing Conditions Such As Asthma, Diabetes, Or Cancer. A website for the Department of Health and Human Services explains: "Under current law, health insurance companies can't refuse to cover you or charge you more just because you have a "pre-existing condition" — that is, a health problem you had before the date that new health coverage starts. These rules went into effect for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014." According to the HHS website, "Health insurers can no longer charge more or deny coverage to you or your child because of a pre-existing health condition like asthma, diabetes, or cancer. They cannot limit



		<p>benefits for that condition either. Once you have insurance, they can't refuse to cover treatment for your pre-existing condition." [HHS, About the ACA, Pre-Existing Conditions accessed 9/14/2018]</p>
<p>CG: Mark Harris CG: special interests before North Carolina</p>	<p>So that's who Mark Harris thinks should get the breaks.</p> <p>Special interests before North Carolina.</p>	
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