



**A Future Trump Administration:
Extreme Climate Denialists and an Oil Company Boardroom**

On Tuesday, the American people will have the opportunity to hear from the Vice Presidential candidates, Tim Kaine and Mike Pence, in their only scheduled debate.

Both candidates provide a snapshot of a future Clinton or Trump administration. Other than Tim Kaine – her choice for vice president – Hillary has not indicated who would be a part of her administration. Trump, on the other hand, has made many statements about who he would include – and you can judge people best by the company they keep. According to the candidate himself, a future Trump administration would be full of climate denialists and could practically be an oil company’s boardroom. Like Trump, they could be counted on to parrot the talking points of the fossil fuel industry and staunchly oppose protections for our clean air and water. It would be a who’s who of anti-environment, anti-climate action advisers.

Read on to learn more about a future Hillary or Trump administration.

HILLARY CLINTON’S ADMINISTRATION

Vice President: Sen. Tim Kaine

As Governor of Virginia, Tim Kaine set [bold](#) benchmarks to develop renewable energy and reduce air pollution. He [worked](#) with state legislators to “put more than \$1 billion into wastewater treatment plant upgrades to clean up our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay,” and, fulfilling a promise he made “shortly after taking office in 2006,” [preserved](#) more than 400,000 acres of land in Virginia. Tim Kaine [knows](#) that climate change is a serious issue with national security implications, which is why he brought government agencies, climate experts, and the U.S. Navy Corps of Engineers together to develop a plan to address rising sea levels. His “practical, no nonsense” approach to climate change “seems to have made Kaine effective on the issue.” In the U.S. Senate, he strongly supported the [Clean Power Plan](#) and the [Paris Climate Agreement](#). Kaine has a 91% lifetime score on LCV’s *National Environmental Scorecard*.

DONALD TRUMP’S ADMINISTRATION

Vice President: Gov. Mike Pence

As Donald Trump’s vice president, Mike Pence would yield much influence on the policies and decisions of a Trump administration. As LCV has [detailed](#) before, Pence’s record is littered with climate science denial, repeatedly supporting Big Oil and their tax breaks, increasing his constituents’ energy costs, and weakening clean air and clean water safeguards. As Governor of Indiana, Pence infamously opposed efforts to fight carbon pollution by refusing to comply with the Clean Power Plan. And, because he refused to act on energy efficiency legislation, he effectively allowed Indianans’ energy rates to increase. As a member of Congress, Pence regularly denied and voted against the reality of climate change. His voting record also reads like a polluter’s wish list: handouts and tax breaks for Big Oil, repeated support for offshore drilling, approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, and weakening or delaying the EPA’s clean air and clean water protections, and opposing renewable energy and energy-efficient funding and standards. Pence has a 4% lifetime score on LCV’s *National Environmental Scorecard*.

Energy Secretary: Oil Billionaire Harold Hamm

Donald Trump is [considering](#) longtime oil magnate Harold Hamm to be his energy secretary. Hamm would be the first Secretary of Energy “drawn directly from the oil and gas industry” since the post was created, bolstering Trump’s pro-



drilling energy agenda. Speaking at the Republican National Convention, Hamm “called for expanded drilling and said too much environmental regulation threatened to limit U.S. oil production and increase the country's dependence on Middle Eastern oil producers.”

Secretary of the Interior: Oil Executive Forrest Lucas

Forrest Lucas, an oil industry executive, is on Trump’s [frontrunner](#) list for Secretary of the Interior. Lucas would be in charge of a department that “oversees national parks and wildlife refuges,” and makes decisions about “offshore drilling, fracking regulations and protections for endangered species.” Just like the possibility of putting Harold Hamm in charge of the Department of Energy, the selection an oil executive to lead the Department of the Interior would be “nearly unprecedented ... Lucas’ nomination would be a coup for the oil and gas industry, which has battled President Barack Obama’s Interior Department for years over everything from Endangered Species Act listings to access to federal lands for drilling. Trump has cultivated close ties to the oil industry.”

Energy Advisor: Climate Skeptic Rep. Kevin Cramer

In May, Trump brought on Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-North Dakota), an outspoken climate change [skeptic](#), as his energy adviser. Wasting no time, Rep. Cramer urged Trump to get rid of the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Rule, and the newly-minted federal standards on methane emissions. He also [suggested](#) that Trump reduce environmental regulations, and get rid of tax incentives for clean and renewable energy. Rep. Cramer, after all, is “basically a [representative](#) of the oil and gas industries.” Maybe that’s why the oil and gas industry [expected](#) Trump to offer a “full-throated endorsement” of its dangerous activities. Cramer has a 1% lifetime score on LCV’s *National Environmental Scorecard*.

Senior Policy Advisor: Former Spkr. Newt Gingrich

Newt Gingrich has been [pegged](#) as a senior policy adviser in a potential Donald Trump administration. The former speaker has [long stated](#) that he doesn’t know whether climate change is occurring. He said that greenhouse gases are [not harmful](#), and that they should not be regulated. And when asked, years later, about his 2007 [ad](#) with then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi urging action to combat climate change, Gingrich [called](#) it “the dumbest single thing I’ve done in years.”

EPA Transition Chief: “Top Climate Skeptic” Myron Ebell

Donald Trump has tapped Myron Ebell, a “[top climate skeptic](#),” to oversee the EPA’s transition to the Trump administration. Ebell is “known for his prolific writings” questioning climate change “alarmism,” and believes that the Clean Power Plan is illegal. Perhaps that’s why it’s no surprise that his “views appear to square with Trump’s when it comes to EPA’s agenda.” Perhaps most troubling is that Ebell “appears to relish criticism from the left” on his views on climate change.

Energy Department Transition Chief: Energy Lobbyist Mike McKenna

Trump reportedly called on “[well-connected](#) energy lobbyist” Mike McKenna to lead the Energy Department’s transition to a potential Trump administration. McKenna is a “prominent skeptic of climate science and a regular critic of the Obama administration’s environmental policies.”

Silver Medal: Former AK Gov. Sarah Palin

Trump would “make room” for former vice presidential nominee and governor of Alaska [Sarah Palin](#) in his administration. Palin immediately [welcomed](#) the idea, so that she could Drill, Baby, Drill and have the “opportunity to dismantle” the department altogether. As a refresher, Palin is a bona fide climate change [denier](#) who believes there’s a “political agenda” emanating from those who accept the science. In the past, she brushed off climate change as “junk science,” and [compared](#) those who warned about its threats to the early 20th century eugenics movement.



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