



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Updated: March 10, 2016

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Because the next President will determine whether we continue to make progress or slide backward in the fight against the climate crisis, the League of Conservation Voters urges every presidential candidate to be explicit about their plans to combat the greatest challenge of our time. The next President must create real and lasting solutions that cut carbon pollution while creating a clean energy future that continues to improve the economy and creates jobs. As they hit the campaign trail all the presidential candidates have an opportunity to demonstrate exactly how they would do that.

Below is a selection of quotes and coverage of how the announced candidates (and potential candidates) from both parties have spoken about the science of climate change, and their plans, if any, for tackling this historic challenge.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

TED CRUZ (R)

Sen. Cruz: “Big Government Politicians” Like “Pseudoscientific Theory” Of Climate Change Because They Want “Massive Government Control Of The Energy Sector, The Economy, And Every Aspect Of Our Lives.” During a January 19, 2016 campaign stop in North Conway, New Hampshire, Sen. Cruz said, “Climate change is the perfect pseudoscientific theory because it can never, ever, ever be disproven. If it gets hotter or colder, wetter or dryer, the climate has always changed since the beginning of time, and will continue to change until the end of time. By the way, what is their solution to climate change? Massive government control of the energy sector, the economy, and every aspect of our lives. You start to suspect, when every solution is ‘give me power over your lives,’ that what they’re really interested in is power. Facts and science matter, and I’m not interested in big-government politicians that will tell a single mom, struggling to feed her kids, ‘We’re going to double your electric bill.’” [160119_CV_232_A (30:00), 1/19/16 (video available from American Bridge)]

Sen. Cruz: “No Effective Response” To Arguments That CO2 Isn’t A Pollutant; That The Earth Today “Is Greening”; And That For A Long Time, There Was More Atmospheric CO2 Prior To Industrial Revolution, “So It Could Not Have Come From The Burning Of Fossil Fuels.” On December 8, 2015, Sen. Cruz chaired a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness. During the hearing, Sen. Cruz said, “This is hearing was a hearing to discuss facts and evidence and data rather than partisan dogma and ideology. And there are at least seven facts that our witnesses have laid out here to which there have been I believe no effective response. Number one, that carbon dioxide rather than being a pollutant is good for plant life. Number two, that the Earth right now today is greening. Number three, that for significant periods in history there has been marked more CO2 in our atmosphere and that was prior to the industrial revolution. So it could not have come from the burning of fossil fuels.” [Senate Commerce Committee, [12/8/15](#); LexisNexis, 12/8/15]

Sen. Cruz: “No Effective Response” To Arguments That Satellite Data Showed No Significant Warming; That Sea Level Rise Doesn’t Correlate With Increase CO2; And That The “Profoundly Wrong” Computer Models “Are Telling Us We Need To Raise Every Hardworking American’s Electric Bills, Gas Bill, Cost Of Living.” On December 8, 2015, Sen. Cruz chaired a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness. During the hearing, Sen. Cruz said, “This is hearing was a hearing to discuss facts and evidence and data rather than partisan dogma and ideology. And there are at least seven facts that our witnesses have laid out here to which there have been I believe no effective response ... Number four, that for the last 18 years the satellite data and the weather balloon data both demonstrate no significant warming whatsoever. Number five, the satellite data and the weather balloon data are the best evidence we have of whether warming is occurring and that evidence -- the actual data demonstrate that it is not. Number six, that the seas were rising more in the first half of the 20th century prior to significant increase in carbon dioxide emissions than they are now. And number eight (sic), that the computer models -- the apocalyptic computer

models that are telling us we need to raise every hard working American's electric bills, gas bills, cost of living. We need to make it harder for single moms, for immigrants, African Americans, for Hispanics, for hard working men and women. We need to make it harder for them to make a living and make ends meet. The computer models are profoundly wrong. Not a little bit wrong but profoundly inconsistent with the data and the evidence. None of these eight facts (sic) tend to make it through the media gatekeepers that instead enforce like the inquisition a discipline on the heretics that would dare stand in the way of their political ideology of imposing trillions of dollars of cost on people who are struggling." [Senate Commerce Committee, [12/8/15](#); LexisNexis, 12/8/15]

Sen. Cruz: "There Has Been No Significant Global Warming For The past 18 Years ... The Global-Warming Alarmists Don't Like These Data. They Are Inconvenient To Their Narrative." On December 8, 2015, Sen. Cruz chaired a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness. During the hearing, Sen. Cruz said, "According to the satellite data, there has been no significant global warming for the past 18 years. Those are the data. The global-warming alarmists don't like these data. They are inconvenient to their narrative. But facts and evidence matters." [Senate Commerce Committee, [12/8/15](#); LexisNexis, 12/8/15]

Sen. Cruz: On Climate Change, "Public Policy Should Follow The Actual Science And The Actual Data And Evidence, And Not Political And Partisan Claims." On December 8, 2015, Sen. Cruz chaired a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness. In his opening statement, Sen. Cruz said, "This is a hearing on the science behind claims of global warming ... I believe that public policy should follow the actual science and the actual data and evidence, and not political and partisan claims that run contrary to the science and data and evidence." [Sen. Cruz Press Release, [12/8/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: Climate Change Is "A Perfect Pseudo-Scientific Theory" That Is "Not Science, It's A Religion"; "Liberal Politicians And Scientists" Seek "Massive Government Control Of The Economy, The Energy Sector, And Every Aspect Of Your Lives." During a November 28, 2015 campaign stop in Creston, Iowa, Sen. Cruz was asked about climate change. He stated, "I think we should follow facts and science ... I believe in science and data. When it comes to global warming, this is a debate that is almost entirely conducted free of actual science and data and evidence ... If you are a liberal politician who believes in government power, climate change is the perfect pseudo-scientific theory ... because whether it gets hotter or colder, wetter or drier, the theory is always proven right. The climate has changed from the dawn of time. What do we know? Tomorrow, the climate will change. I don't know how it'll change, but it will change. Amazingly, the same liberal politicians and scientists – their solution is massive government control of the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of your lives. You start to think, if the solution is the same for whatever problem they're talking about that given day, you start to think, gosh, maybe they just want more government power over our lives. I'll mention to you, when it comes to facts and data – and by the way? Global warming, it's not science, it's a religion. Think of the language: deniers. That's not the language of science. That's the language of a heretic, a blaspheme. 'You are a denier, I cast you in utter darkness.' I want my scientists to be deniers of everything, and testing and questioning – that's what a good scientist does ... My view is that public policy should be based on the real science and data, not on politicians' desires to control our lives." [American Bridge, 151128_MJL_470_B (7:00), 11/28/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Sen. Cruz: "Liberal Politicians And Scientists" Must Face "Inconvenient Truth" That "In The Last 18 Years, The Satellite Data Demonstrated No Significant Warming Whatsoever." During a November 28, 2015 campaign stop in Creston, Iowa, Sen. Cruz was asked about climate change. He stated, "For those of us with a little bit of historical memory, let's step back three, four decades. A number of us are old enough to remember when a bunch of liberal politicians, and scientists who agreed with them, were talking about global cooling. They said we were headed towards the next worldwide Ice Age. Their solution to this was massive government control over the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of our lives. Then, the science and data didn't back up what they were saying. It became clear the world wasn't cooling. So a few years later, many of these same liberal politicians came back with many of these same

scientists; they said, 'Okay, we've got a new theory: global warming.' Mind you, [that's] the exact opposite of what they'd been saying. They said, 'Now, the world's getting really, really hot.' Interestingly enough, their solution was massive government control over the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of our lives. Here's the interesting thing – then, they ran into a problem. The science and data didn't back them up. How many of you [asks audience] know that in the last 18 years, the satellite data demonstrated no significant warming whatsoever? We have satellites; they've launched there, and they take measurements of the atmosphere, and say, you know what, it ain't happening. That, for the global warming alarmists, is what Al Gore might call an inconvenient truth. Mind you, their computer models say it was supposed to be getting really, really hot. When they actually measure the temperature, it wasn't. That was the problem. So, what did they do? They magically transformed the theory ... one day, like they sent out a secret email, 'Okay, everyone stop saying global warming. Now we say climate change.' Sort of like the emails in schools, saying you can't say Christmas anymore – apparently it's just this silent, idiotic statement that goes out simultaneously all over the place." [American Bridge, 151128_MJL_470_B (7:00), 11/28/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Sen. Cruz: Idea That Climate Change “Should Not Be Up For Debate” Runs Contrary To “What The Evidence And Data Show.” In an October 2015 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled “Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities,” Sen. Cruz and Sierra Club president Aaron Mair had the following exchange on the science behind climate change:

SEN. CRUZ: In your written testimony you said that the science behind climate change and its effect on minority communities, quote, ‘should not be up for debate.’ I'm curious, is this a frequent practice, to declare areas of science not up for debate, not up for consideration of what the evidence and data show?

MAIR: If you are relying on the evidence and data, you know, the science, the preponderance of the evidence are there.

SEN. CRUZ: But that's a different thing than saying we should not debate a question. The Sierra Club has declared this scientific issue resolved and there should be no debate.

MAIR: Based upon the preponderance of the evidence, the science is settled. But the thing is that anything's up for debate, Senator. We can debate anything.

SEN. CRUZ: Well, you know, I would note that even the phrase ‘preponderance of the evidence,’ having been a practicing lawyer for many years, means 51 percent. That means at least 51 percent is what the preponderance means. You know, I would ask, for example, if you want to end debates you don't want to address the facts.

[Senate Judiciary Committee, [10/6/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: Statistic Citing 97 Percent Of Scientists Agree That Man-Made Climate Change Is Real Is “based On One Bogus Study.” In an October 2015 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled “Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities,” Sen. Cruz and Sierra Club president Aaron Mair had the following exchange on the science behind climate change:

MAIR: 97 percent of the scientists concur and agree that there is global warming and anthropogenic impact with regards to...

SEN. CRUZ: The problem with that statistic that gets cited a lot is it's based on one bogus study. And indeed, your response, I would point that your response is quite striking. I asked about the science and the evidence, the actual data. We have satellites.

MAIR: Correct.

SEN. CRUZ: They're measuring temperature. That should be relevant. And your answer was: Pay no attention to your lying eyes and the numbers that the satellites show. Instead, listen to the scientists, who are receiving massive grants, who tell us, “Do not debate the science.”

MAIR: Sir, this is one of the national pastimes in America, and while we're debating what 97 percent of scientists

have already settled, the 3 percent that we, as I say, have invested in with regards to the carbon industry, you know, our planet is cooking and heating up and warming. So this is one of the reasons why...

SEN. CRUZ: So hold on a second. It is the Sierra Club's position that right now the Earth is cooking up and heating and warming. Is that the Sierra Club's – I mean, I just want to quote you and understand...

MAIR: I'm saying I concur with 97 percent of the world's scientists with regards to global warming and the anthropogenic effects of mankind with regards to climate.

SEN. CRUZ: But sir, would you answer the question: Is it the Sierra Club's position, as you just testified, that the Earth is cooking up and heating and warming right now? Is that the Sierra Club's position?

MAIR: Global temperatures are on the rise, sir.

[Senate Judiciary Committee, [10/6/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: “Theory” Of Global Warming Is A “Massive Government Control Of The Economy, The Energy Sector, And Every Aspect Of Our Lives”; Data And Evidence Don’t Support The Theory Of Global Warming. During a September 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Sen. Cruz said, “30 to 40 years ago there were a group of political liberal and scientists who said we were facing global cooling. They said we were headed toward a global ice age and the solution to global cooling was increased was massive government control of the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of our lives. Then the data disproved it. It was not in fact correct that we were seeing global cooling. So that was kind of a problem. Then many of these same political liberals, and many of these same scientists they then latched on to a new theory, it’s called global warming. And the new theory of global warming interestingly enough, the solution was the exact same as the solution had been for global cooling. It was massive government control of the economy, the energy sector, and every aspect of our lives. But then the problem became the data and evidence didn’t back up global warming. In particular if you look at the satellite data.” [[The Guardian, 9/11/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: “To The End Of Time, The Climate Will Change ... You Should Follow The Evidence.” During a September 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Sen. Cruz “engaged for a few minute with Tyler McFarlane, 23, of Rye, N.H. – an organizer for an environmental group – but eventually grew impatient with is pointed questions. ‘I’m not going to be cross examined,’ he said. Surrounded by cameras and cell phones, Cruz ran through his views on climate science: warnings three or four decades ago of an impending global ice age gave way to warning of global warming and eventually, as the data kept disproving the theories, to warnings of climate change. ‘To the end of time, the climate will change,’ Cruz said, and no matter which dire scenario, liberals keep offering the same solution, government control over the economy. McFarlane wasn’t buying it. ‘Keeping fossil fuels in the ground doesn’t require big government control,’ he said as Cruz moved down the row of tables. ‘It’s not going to be government that figures out what the next energy source is going to be,’ he told a young woman moments later. ‘You should follow the evidence,’ he chided the woman, Kaity Thomson of nearby Dover, a recent graduate of the University of New Hampshire young woman, urging her to study satellite data more closely and to be more skeptical about what she said she learned from her environmental science professors.” [[Dallas Morning News, 8/30/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: Science And Data Show “No Significant Warming” Of The Planet Over The Last 17 Years; Washington Bureaucrats Shouldn’t Raise Electricity Bills For Hardworking Men And Women. During a campaign stop in Dyersville, IA, Sen. Cruz was asked if he believes in global warming. He answered, “You know, it’s an interesting question. I believe in science and following the data. Unfortunately, on this debate, there are a lot of politicians in Washington who aren’t interested in data or facts or evidence. For example, there are a lot of politicians in Washington who want more power over the economy and your times, who lay out global warming as a theory. Here’s the problem. The satellite data – the actual evidence – show there is no significant warming over the past 17 years, which is directly contrary to what their computer models show. And they have no good explanation for it. I think we should follow the evidence, and what I don’t think we should allow is a bunch of Washington bureaucrats to drive up the electricity bills, drive up the gas bills of hardworking men and women in this country, single moms who are trying to make ends meet. The last thing a single

mom who's trying to feed her kids, trying to give her children a better life needs is a bunch of Washington politicians doubling her electricity bill. I think we need to stand with the hardworking men and women, and when it comes to public policy, we should follow science and data and evidence, not theories of politicians." [American Bridge, 7/18/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Sen. Cruz: "Data And Facts" Do Not Support Climate Change Science. At an August 2015 Koch brother donor summit, Sen. Cruz denied the reality of climate change, explaining, "'I'm saying the data and facts don't support it.'" [KenVogel Twitter, [8/2/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: Climate Change, Which Is "More Government Control Over Our Lives And The Economy," Can Never Be Disproven, Which Makes It The Perfect Political Issue. In June 2015, Sen. Cruz conversed with a climate scientist at Drake University. During the discussion, Sen. Cruz said, "Even global warming – and by the way, the solution to global cooling was more government control over our lives and the economy. The solution to global warming is more government control over our lives and the economy. The third permutation was climate change, which I have to say, from a political perspective – I'm not a scientist – but from a political perspective, climate change is the perfect theory. As you know, the scientific [method] is you start with a hypothesis that can get disproven by evidence. Climate change can never be disproven because whether it gets hotter or colder, wetter or drier, there's always change. And so, it's the politicians' perfect theory." [Scott Galindez YouTube Channel, [6/29/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: Climate Change Is A "Pseudoscientific Theory." During a June 2015 Yahoo interview with Katie Couric, Sen. Cruz calls climate change is a "pseudoscientific theory" stating that, "satellite data shows there has been no significant recorded warming. None. When the satellites are measuring the temperature — it's not happening." He adds, "climate change is being driven by politicians who want more control over our lives." [Yahoo Politics, [6/29/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: "Global Warming Alarmists Are The Equivalent Of Flat-Earthers." In a March 2015 interview with the Texas Tribune, Sen. Cruz said, "Today, the global warming alarmists are the equivalent of the flat-Earthers. It used to be [that] it is accepted scientific wisdom the Earth is flat, and this heretic named Galileo was branded a denier." Sen. Cruz added, "I'm a big believer that we should follow the science, and follow the evidence. If you look at global warming alarmists, they don't like to look at the actual facts and the data. The satellite data demonstrate that there has been no significant warming whatsoever for 17 years." [Texas Tribune, [3/24/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz: Global Warming Is Not Happening; Satellites Show That There's Been "Zero Warming" For The Last Seventeen Years. In a March 2015 interview on Late Night with Seth Meyers, Sen. Cruz said, "My view, actually, is simple. Debates on this should follow science and should follow data. And many of the alarmists on global warming, they've got a problem because the science doesn't back them up. In particular, satellite data demonstrate that for the last 17 years, there's been zero warming – none whatsoever. Remember how it used to be called global warming, and then magically the theory changed to climate change? The reason is, it wasn't warming. But the computer models still say it is, except the satellites show it's not." [Late Night with Seth Meyers, [3/16/15](#)]

Sen. Cruz Voted Against Stating That Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor To Climate Change. In January 2015, Sen. Cruz voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Schatz (D-HI) – which expresses the sense of Congress that climate change is real and that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change. 2014 was the hottest year on record, and this amendment references the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other scientific institutions. Requiring a three-fifths vote, the amendment failed 50-49. [SA 58 to SA 2 to S 1, [Vote 12](#), 1/21/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 12](#)]

JOHN KASICH (R)

Gov. Kasich: I Believe That Climate Change Is Occurring, But I Don't Know "To What Degree" Humans Impact It; "My Philosophy Is That We Are Here To Take Care Of The Environment, But Not To Worship The Environment." On November 12, 2015, NHPR interviewed Gov. Kasich about a variety of topics. During the interview, he was asked what he would do to mitigate the effects of climate change. Gov. Kasich responded, "This might be another one of those reasons they call me a moderate, I don't know. I do believe there's climate change, and I think human beings impact it. But, I also don't know to what degree we impact it. So, I'll tell you [that] my philosophy is that we are here to take care of the environment, but not to worship the environment. Sometimes, I think we can find environmentalists who are extreme. I'll tell you another thing: sometimes, we find them in a position where they complain no matter what we do, because they get to be able to raise money by saying how bad everything is." [NHPR (34:00), [11/12/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich: Humans Have Impacted Climate Change, But "The Jury Is Out" Regarding "To What Degree." On October 13, 2015, Gov. Kasich participated in a town hall in Bow, New Hampshire. Answering a question about climate change, Gov. Kasich said, "Do I think that man has impacted climate change? I do. But, to what degree? The jury is still out on that. Now that doesn't mean we don't pay attention to problems like mercury; we do pay attention to that." [American Bridge, 151013_JEG_561_A (27:40), 10/13/15 (video from American Bridge)]

Gov. Kasich: Climate Change "Does Exist," But "I Don't Believe That Humans Are The Primary Cause." During a September 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Gov. Kasich said, "I don't believe that humans are the primary cause of climate change. ... I think it does exist, but we have to be careful how we react to it." [Columbus Dispatch, [9/3/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich: Climate Change Is Real, But Humans' Impact Has Not Yet Been Determined; "Worshipping The Environment Is Pantheism, And I'm Opposed To It." During an August 2015 speech in Belmont, NH, Gov. Kasich said, "You asked me about climate change – I think it's real. But I think that the impact human beings have on it is yet to be determined. So I would not be enacting all these policies that could throw people out of work. In my state of Ohio, we've reduced emissions by 30 percent. We take care of Lake Erie, and we have the toughest regulations on fracking in the country. And yet, we are having a good energy industry ... God created the environment. We have an obligation to take care of it, but we should not worship it. We should take care of it and be ones that can be good caretakers. But worshipping the environment is pantheism, and I'm opposed to it. So, a responsible approach to this. I believe a clean environment is consistent with economic growth. You don't have to choose one or the other." [American Bridge, 8/12/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Gov. Kasich: Science Of Climate Change Is "Not Proven"; "We're Not Here To Worship The Environment." During an August 2015 interview on NBC's Meet The Press, host Chuck Todd asked if Gov. Kasich agrees with the Pope, who "believes that climate change is manmade and that man needs to do something about it." Gov. Kasich responded, "Well, I think that man absolutely affects the environment. But as to whether -- you know, what the impact is, the overall impact, I think that's a legitimate debate. But what I do think is, you know, in my state of Ohio, you know, we precious take care of Lake Erie. We've reduced emissions by 30 percent over the last ten years. We believe in alternative energy. So of course we have to be sensitive to it, but we don't to want destroy people's jobs based on some theory that's not proven." Gov. Kasich added, "You know, the lord gave us the environment. We're not here to worship it, but we are here to manage it." [Meet The Press, [8/9/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich: "I Don't Worship The Environment ... I'm Not In Denial, Saying All These Scientists Are Crazy. I'm Not Sure Who's Right." During a July 2014 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Gov. Kasich said, "First of all, I believe that we're supposed to be good stewards of the environment, and I appreciate the fact that you're involved in something. We don't want to worship the environment, though. We live here, but we have to manage it ... Sometimes people come up

with radical ideas about the environment and it lends itself to worshipping the environment. I don't worship the environment, but I respect it and protect it. In my state, we spend a lot of money now on Lake Erie, because we don't want that to be destroyed ... So my view is, I am not in denial, saying all these scientists are crazy. I'm not sure who's right. I'm going to be careful about it." [Dan Roche YouTube Channel, [7/22/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich: "We Shouldn't Worship The Environment ... I Don't Know That Anybody Is Fully Sure Of All The Causes And All The Science" Behind Climate Change." During a July 2015 interview with Financial Times, Gov. Kasich said, "I respect what the Pope said. My feeling is what he said, what Francis of Assisi said ... that we have an obligation to the environment. In Ohio, we've tended to the lake, our beautiful Lake Erie. We've reduced emissions in Ohio by 30 percent over the last 10 years. Of course we've got to be concerned about it. But we shouldn't worship the environment. I wouldn't want to create any kind of dramatic economic policy, because I'm still not sure – I don't know that anybody is fully sure of all the causes and all the science." [Financial Times, [7/13/15](#)]

Gov. Kasich: Humans May Have An Impact On Climate, But Earth Also Goes Through A "Natural Period" Of Climate Change; We Shouldn't Worship The Environment. During a July 2015 campaign stop in Barrington, NH, Gov. Kasich said, "We're supposed to be stewards of the environment. God created the environment, and we're supposed to manage it, take care of it. We learned that from Francis of Assisi ... I think the environment is really important. It's important we be good stewards of it, but it's also important we don't worship it. In my job as governor, there are a couple of really critical areas that we think about. One is Lake Erie. We don't have the ocean here, but have what we call the north coast. Lake Erie, over the years, has been damaged. We've done everything we can, including passing legislation that both farmers and environmentalists have gotten behind and supported, and overwhelmingly passed through legislature ... Now, in terms of the whole issue of climate change, I suspect that human beings have had some impact, but I think there's also a natural period that the Earth goes through. Do I think that we should that we should use common sense to do some things to protect it? Absolutely. Do I think we ought to throw lots of people out of work, and let other countries not be as sensitive as we are to it? No, I wouldn't think that would make much sense. But, I think as a people that are on this earth, I think we need to be sensitive to it, and I think we need to take some reasonable actions to make sure that we leave this to the next generation in a healthy state." [American Bridge, 7/12/15 (video available from American Bridge)]

Gov. Kasich Acknowledged Climate Change, But Didn't Seem To Want To Do Much About It. In May 2012, [The Hill](#) wrote, "Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) acknowledged ... that his belief in climate change cuts against the grain in the Republican Party, but don't look for him to embrace Environmental Protection Agency regulations any time soon. 'I am a believer — my goodness I am a Republican — I happen to believe there is a problem with climate change. I don't want to overreact to it, I can't measure it all, but I respect the creation that the Lord has given us and I want to make sure we protect it,' Kasich said at a Columbus, Ohio, energy conference hosted by [The Hill](#). 'But we can't overreact to it and make things up, but it is something we have to recognize is a problem,' Kasich said." [[The Hill](#), [5/2/12](#)]

Gov. Kasich: "There Is A Problem With ... Climate Change In The Atmosphere. I Believe It," But "I Don't Know How Much There Is." At an April 2012 GOP fundraiser, Gov. Kasich said, "This isn't popular to always say, but I believe there is a problem with climates, climate change in the atmosphere. I believe it. I don't know how much there is, but I also know the good Lord wants us to be good stewards of his creation. And so, at the end of the day, if we can find these breakthroughs to help us have a cleaner environment, I'm all for it." [[Columbus Dispatch](#), [4/10/12](#)]

MARCO RUBIO (R)

When Pressed About His Previous Openness To A Cap And Trade System In Florida, Sen. Rubio, A "Skeptic Of Climate Change Science," Said, "I've Never Supported Cap And Trade, And I Never Thought That Was A Good Idea." During the January 28, 2016 FOX News GOP debate, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with host Bret Baier:

BRET BAIER: Senator Rubio, on the issue of climate change, in 2008, you wanted Florida to get ahead of other states and establish a cap- and-trade system, a program for carbon emissions, which many Republicans thought at the time would hurt the Florida economy. Now, you're a skeptic of climate change science. And in fact, you warn that federal efforts to fight climate change will cost U.S. jobs and hurt the U.S. economy. So why the change?

SEN. RUBIO: Well, Bret, first that's not entirely the story. At the time, the liberal governor of Florida, who claimed he was a Republican -- his name was Charlie Crist -- he wanted to impose cap-and-trade on Florida. And I opposed it. I was the first person out of the box that opposed him on it. And then we saw that the leading candidates for president at the time, both the Republican and the Democrats, all supported it. And what we said is, if they're going to impose this on us, we better prepare to protect the state from it. But I have never supported cap- and-trade and I never thought it was a good idea. And I was clear about that at the time. And I do not believe it's a good idea now. I do not believe that we have to destroy our economy in order to protect our environment. And especially what these programs are asking us to pass that will do nothing to help the environment, but will be devastating for our economy. When I am president of the United States of America, there will never be any cap-and-trade in the United States.

[Washington Post, [1/28/16](#)]

- **March 2008: Then-Fla. House Speaker Marco Rubio Called For A Cap-And-Trade “Mandate” At The State Level, And Hoped That It Would A Model For A Federal Cap-And-Trade Program.** During a March 13, 2008 interview, then-Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Marco Rubio said, “Florida should do two things. First, Florida should position itself for what I believe is inevitable, and that is a federal cap-and-trade program. Florida should do everything it can to be an early complier, so that it can access early compliance funds, and so that it can help influence what that cap-and-trade looks like at the federal level. So, I’m in favor of giving the Dept. of Environmental Protection a mandate that they go out and design a cap-and-trade, or a carbon tax, program and bring it back to the legislature for ratification.” [Cedric Ceballos YouTube Channel, [accessed 1/13/16](#)]
- **Sen. Rubio, In 2016 Election Cycle: That Video Was A 2010 Campaign Attack By Charlie Crist; I Want The Govt. To Design A Cap-And-Trade Program, But Not To Implement It.** Sen. Rubio’s campaign website fights back against this video, which it claims is a falsely edited attack ad from his 2010 election opponent Charlie Crist. Sen. Rubio’s campaign links to a video which shows the video above, and shows Sen. Rubio continuing to speak after the previous video stops, saying “I’m in favor of giving the Dept. of Environmental Protection a mandate that they go out and design a cap-and-trade, or a carbon tax, program and bring it back to the legislature for ratification sometime in the next two year. I’m in favor of them designing it. I’m not in favor of them designing it and implementing it. I’m in favor of them designing it and bringing it back to the legislature.” [Marco Rubio, accessed [1/14/16](#)]
- **Then-Fla. House Spkr. Marco Rubio Presided Over Unanimous Vote To Direct Dept. Of Environmental Protection To Develop Cap-And-Trade Plan, But Later Admitted That The Bill Was “Guaranteed To Stop It Dead In Its Tracks.”** In December 2009, the [Miami Herald](#) reported, “U.S. Senate candidate Marco Rubio is hammering rival Charlie Crist's ‘cap-and-trade scheme’ — though he voted for a bill backed by the governor requiring state officials to devise such a plan. As the leader of the Florida House in 2008, Rubio presided over a unanimous vote in favor of directing the state Department of Environmental Protection to develop ground rules for companies to limit their carbon emissions ... Rubio said ... that his position on cap and trade — which allows companies that don't reach emission caps to trade pollution credits — hasn't changed. The Florida law's requirement that the plan return to the GOP-led Legislature for final approval appeased the business lobby and, Rubio said, was guaranteed to stop it in its tracks. ‘It has worked out as it was designed to work out, which was to stop a cap-and-trade system in Florida,’ Rubio said...” [Miami Herald, [12/10/09](#)]

- Following Charlie Crist’s Lead, Sen. Rubio Once Supported Cap-And-Trade; After 2008 Financial Collapse, And Subsequent “Cap-And-Tax” Criticism, He Started “Raising Questions About Whether Climate Change Is Man-Made.”** In December 2009, the [Miami Herald](#) reported, “Rubio did raise concerns about the potential costs of cap-and-trade as soon as Crist made climate change a priority of his new administration in 2007 ... By 2008, as Crist's poll ratings held strong, Rubio called a federal cap-and-trade system ‘inevitable’ and said Florida should be at the forefront. He hired a leading climate change expert from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to advise lawmakers and appointed Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts Harvey Ruvin — who sounded the alarm on climate change years ago — to a statewide energy board. ‘The legislation was passed to move forward on cap-and-trade policy, and certainly Marco Rubio didn't stand in the way of that legislation passing and my understanding was that he was supportive of the process,’ said John Reilly, the MIT expert. ‘He certainly seemed to accept the science of climate change.’ That was before the economy crashed, global warming took a back seat, and critics said ‘cap-and-tax’ would doom American businesses in a recession. Now, the former West Miami lawmaker is raising questions about whether climate change is man-made. ‘I’m not a scientist. I’m not qualified to make that decision,’ Rubio said ... ‘There’s a significant scientific dispute about that.’” [[Miami Herald, 12/10/09](#)]
- PolitiFact: Sen. Rubio’s Claim That A Cap-And-Trade Program Would Be “Devastating” To The Economy Was False.** In April 2015, Sen. Rubio appeared on CBS’s Face The Nation and said, “If we do the things they want us to do, cap and trade, you name it, how much will that change the pace of climates change vs. how much will it cost to our economy Scientists can't tell us what impact it would have on reversing these changes. But I can tell you with certainty it would have a devastating impact on our economy.” Looking into the claim, PolitiFact ruled, “Existing cap-and-trade programs have not proven to be ‘devastating’ in their economic impact. While estimates for proposed programs vary, most experts and analysts have found modest potential impact on the economy; some even show a positive impact. Based on the evidence, Rubio can’t be certain about the potential impact of cap and trade. We rate his claim False.” [PolitiFact, [4/23/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: Climate has Always Been Changing, And “Everything The President Is Advocating For, Even The Scientists Admit,” Would Not Make A “Dramatic Impact Any Time In The Near Future On Any Trends In The Climate.” During a December 4, 2015 interview on CBS This Morning, Sen. Rubio said, “We have had flooding issues on Miami Beach and one of the reasons might be because there's some rise in the sea level, but primarily it's because Miami and all South Florida is built on a swamp ... Miami beach, for example, is an artificial island built because of dredging ... Whether the climate is changing is a measurable thing, in fact, it's always been changing. The fundamental issue for a policymaker is what do we do about it ... And everything the president is advocating for, even the scientists admit, we don't believe it would make a dramatic impact any time in the near future on any trends in the climate. But I can tell you would have a dramatic impact on our economy.” [[Washington Examiner, 12/4/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: Climate Has Always Been Changing; “Scientists Have Already Said That In Terms Of Climate Sensitivity, There Is Not A Global Consensus On That.” During a November 30, 2015 interview on Fox News, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with host Greta Van Susteren:

VAN SUSTEREN: Senator, first, on the issue of climate change. Do you believe that the climate change is the result of man-made or is it man-made in any way?

SEN. RUBIO: Well, first of all, the climate changing has always been changing. There has never been a time when the climate hasn't been changing. And what percentage of that is due to man's activity is not something there is a consensus on. There is – 90-something percent of the time to say that man-made activity.

VAN SUSTEREN: What do you think?

SEN. RUBIO: Well, again, I'm a policymaker and my job is to go through the different solutions that they present to us. And I can tell you that all the changes they are presenting to us would do nothing even according to the scientists would do nothing to change our climate, especially in the United States but would have a dramatic

impact on our economy. So as a policymaker, I refuse to support initiatives that will do nothing to impact the environment or the climate, but would have a devastating impact on our economy.

VAN SUSTEREN: So as I understand if you had sufficient information presented to you to show that climate change exists and it's the result of something that man is doing or women are doing, whatever, is that you would, perhaps, have a different view, your policy would be different?

SEN. RUBIO: Yes. But scientists have already said that in terms of climate sensitivity, there is not a global consensus on that. And even now there is a dispute about what the target should be. Some, you know -- the target being said by some is 2-degree Celsius change, that they think that two more degrees and a warming that that would somehow trigger some terrible global impact. But they are now -- scientist saying that's basically an arbitrary number. There's no science behind it. It's just an easy to define political goal. That's what's so nebulous about this whole debate. Meanwhile, as a policymaker, I'm being presented with options that would have a real impact on our economy and it will have an impact immediately in making America uncompetitive. I don't support anything that will make America uncompetitive, especially if it doesn't have any sort of environmental benefit on the back side of it.

[Fox News, [11/30/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: Climate Is Always Changing, And Passing Laws Won't Prevent Sea Levels From Rising, But It Will make "Living In America More Expensive"; We Should Innovate Our Way Out Of This Problem. On October 14, 2015, Sen. Rubio held a town hall meeting in Derry, New Hampshire. During the town hall, he had the following exchange with an audience member:

QUESTION: Senator, I have to say I've heard you speak several times about climate control and not fighting it because the U.S. can't win the battle alone. China has recently introduced a groundbreaking program to limit carbon emissions with a cap and trade program. And I'm wondering, when you are president what will you do to match their commitment to fighting climate change?

SEN. RUBIO: Well, first of all, the Chinese have said that in the year 2030 they're going to begin to do some stuff. We'll see, number one. They continue to emit more carbon in the atmosphere than any other nation on earth. The second point I would make is look, the climate is always changing. There's never been a time when the climate was unchanged. The debate for me as a policymaker is what can we do about it? So I have these people come forward as a policymaker and saw we want you to pass this law, cap and trade or whatever it may be. And I ask them, OK, well if we pass this law, how many inches of sea rise will it prevent? Well, it won't prevent any, at least not for 150 years and only if other countries do the same thing. OK. So it won't really be measurable impact on the environment. On the other hand, I ask the economists, what will this do to our economy? Well, it'll make living in America more expensive. It'll make it harder to hire people. It'll make it more difficult for businesses to succeed in America as opposed to somewhere else. So I'm presented with these options that have deep economic costs, no environmental benefit. How is that a good deal for the country? As president I'm not going to support anything that hurts our economy and does nothing to help our environment. Now, do I believe this issue's one that can be confronted over time? Yes, I do. You know how? I think the American innovator is going to help solve a lot of this by making us more energy efficient. I have no problem in leading the world in solar and wind and bio-renewables and so forth. But we're also going to lead the world in oil and natural gas. We are not going to emasculate the American economy and hold ourselves back from economic growth and development, especially at a time when millions of Americans are struggling, stuck in low-paying jobs that are leaving them living paycheck to paycheck, and in some instances working and on public assistance. And so I'm not supporting any policies that are bad for our economy and do nothing for our environment.

[CSPAN, [10/14/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio Opposed Recognizing The Reality Of Climate Change; "It's Not That I Deny Science. I'm Not Going To Support Policies That Would Destroy Our Economy And Do Nothing To Improve Our Environment." During an October

2015 town hall meeting, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with a League of Conservation Voters Volunteer:

VOLUNTEER: I was wondering why you voted against a bill, in the Senate, to recognize the reality of climate change.

SEN. RUBIO: That bill is nothing but a symbolic effort to say that people are against this because they deny science. It's not that I deny science. I'm not going to support policies that would destroy our economy and do nothing to improve our environment. I've been repeatedly clear about that.

[American Bridge 21st Century YouTube Channel, [10/7/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: I Disagree With Pope's Call On Act On Climate Change Because "On Economic Issues, The Pope Is A Person ... I Just Honestly Believe Free Enterprise Is A Better Way Of Doing It." In a September 2015 interview on FOX News,

Sen. Rubio was asked "why he disagrees with the Holy Father on the specifics" of issues like "the need to fight poverty, and climate change." He responded, "On moral issues, he speaks with incredible authority. He's done so consistently on the value of life, on the sanctity of life, on the importance of marriage and on the family. [But] On economic issues, the pope is a person ... We have the same goal — providing more prosperity and upward mobility, I just honestly believe free enterprise is a better way of doing it." [Fox News Insider YouTube Channel, [9/22/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio Called Himself A Climate "Skeptic"; "You Can Measure The Climate," But "I'm Skeptical Of The Decisions That The Left Wants To Make" To Address The Issue. During the September 2015 CNN Republican presidential debate, Sen. Rubio had the following exchange with moderator Jake Tapper:

SEN. RUBIO: Jake, you mentioned -- call me a denier --

TAPPER: I called you a skeptic.

SEN. RUBIO: A skeptic. You can measure the climate. You can measure it. That's not the issue we're discussing. Here is what I'm skeptical of. I'm skeptical of the decisions that the left wants us to make. Because I know the impact those are going to have and they're all going to be on our economy. They will not do a thing to lower the rise of the sea. They will not do a thing to cure the drought here in California. What they will do is make America a more expensive place to create jobs and today, with millions of people watching this broadcast that are struggling paycheck to paycheck that do not know how they're going to pay their bills at the end of this month, I'm not in favor of anything that is going to make it harder for tm to raise their family.

[CNN Debate, [9/16/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio Believes The Climate Has Always Been Changing; He Did Not Support Any Policy Changes To Do Anything About It. During an August 2015 campaign stop in Londonderry, NH, Sen. Rubio said, "The climate's been changing forever, and it will continue to change ... there are scientists that believe that men have a direct impact on it." He added that he would not support changes in policy that would increase Americans' energy costs. [[Boston Globe](#), [8/26/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio: "No Problem" With Pope Calling For Action On Climate Change, But It's "Also In The Common Good To Protect Our Economy"; People Everywhere "Emerged From Poverty" Largely Due To "Affordable Energy." In June 2015, Sen. Rubio spoke to reporters before a keynote speech at the Miami-Dade GOP Lincoln Day dinner. According to the [Palm Beach Post](#), "Rubio said first that he finds it 'ironic that a lot of the same liberals who are touting the encyclical on climate change ignore multiple pronouncements of this pope on the definition of marriage and the sanctity of life.' Then, Rubio added: 'I have no problem with what the pope did. He is a moral authority and as a moral authority is reminding us of our obligation to be good caretakers of the planet. I'm a political leader and my job as a policymaker is to act in the common good. And I do believe it's in the common good to protect our environment. But I also believe it's in the common good to protect our economy. There are people all over this planet and in this country who have emerged from poverty in large respect because of the availability of affordable energy. It creates industries. It makes the cost of living lower. And we have to take that into account as well.'" [[Palm Beach Post](#), [6/22/15](#)]

Sen. Rubio Voted Against Legislation Acknowledging The Reality of Climate Change, And Calling On Congress To Act To Cut Carbon Pollution. In March 2015, Sen. Rubio voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) – which would acknowledge the reality of climate change and call on Congress to take action to cut carbon pollution. The amendment was rejected 49-50. [SA 777 to S Con Res 11, [Vote 89](#), 3/25/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 89](#)]

Sen. Rubio Voted Against Stating That Human Activity Is A Significant Contributor To Climate Change. In January 2015, Sen. Rubio voted against legislation – sponsored by Sen. Schatz (D-HI) – which expresses the sense of Congress that climate change is real and that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change. 2014 was the hottest year on record, and this amendment references the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other scientific institutions. Requiring a three-fifths vote, the amendment failed 50-49. [SA 58 to SA 2 to S 1, [Vote 12](#), 1/21/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 12](#)]

Sen. Rubio: No Scientific Consensus On Humans’ Impact On Climate Change. During a May 2014 Fox News interview with Bill O’Reilly, Sen. Rubio stated, “I’ve never denied the climate is changing. That shouldn’t surprise us. The climate is always changing. The second point on the science is, the left likes to go around saying ‘There’s a consensus, there’s a consensus.’ There is a majority of scientists that say that global carbon emission by humans causes some changes in the climate. But what there is no consensus on, and they conveniently ignore is, there is no consensus on the sensitivity of the climate -- how much is changing and how much of it is directly attributable to human carbon emission? “There’s no consensus on that, which is why the models vary so greatly. Which is why despite 17 years of dramatic increases in carbon production by humans, surface temperatures in the earth have stabilized. But here’s the last point, which is indisputable: None of these proposals that liberals want us to impose on ourselves would do anything about the problem. There are 35 gigatons of carbon emitted into the atmosphere this year; we Americans are only responsible for 6 of it. By the year 2050, China and India alone will produce 50 gigatons. These laws they want us to pass would destroy our economy and have zero impact on these issues they keep raising. And that’s the part they don’t want to debate at all.” [Senator Marco Rubio YouTube Channel, [5/21/14](#)]

Sen. Rubio Was “Deeply Skeptical” of Man-Made Climate Change; Did Not Believe In It “The Way These Scientists Are Portraying It.” In a May 2014 interview on ABC’s This Week, Sen. Rubio said, “I don’t agree with the notion that some are putting out there, including scientists, that somehow there are actions we can take today that would actually have an impact on what’s happening in our climate. Our climate is always changing. And what they have chosen to do is take a handful of decades of research and say that this is now evidence of a longer-term trend that’s directly and almost solely attributable to man-made activities ... I don’t know of any era in world history where the climate has been stable. Climate is always evolving, and natural disasters have always existed ... I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it. That’s what I -- and I do not believe that the laws that they propose we pass will do anything about it, except it will destroy our economy.” [ABC News, [5/11/14](#); PolitiFact, [5/13/14](#)]

Sen. Rubio: “I Don’t Know Of Any Era In World History When The Climate Has Been Stable.” In a May 2014 interview with Jonathan Karl on ABC’s “This Week,” Sen. Rubio “said he didn’t know of an era when the climate was stable.” He stated, “The fact is that these events that we’re talking about are impacting us, because we built very expensive structures in Florida and other parts of the country near areas that are prone to hurricanes. We’ve had hurricanes in Florida forever. and the question is, what do we do about the fact that we have built expensive structures, real estate and population centers, near those vulnerable areas? I have no problem with taking mitigation activity. What I have a problem with is these changes to our law that somehow politicians say are going to change our weather. That’s absurd.” [ABC News, [5/11/14](#)]

Sen. Rubio In 2010: “I’m Not A Scientist,” But “I Don’t Think There’s The Scientific Evidence To Justify” Man-Made

Global Warming. In February 2010, Sen. Rubio said that he “doesn't accept the scientific evidence for global warming,” stating, “I don't think there's the scientific evidence to justify it.” The Tampa Tribune reported, “Asked whether he accepts the scientific evidence that the global climate is undergoing change, he responded, ‘The climate is always changing. The climate is never static. The question is whether it's caused by man-made activity and whether it justifies economically destructive government regulation.’ Rubio hasn't previously denied global warming outright in published statements on the issue. In December [2009], he told The Miami Herald, ‘I'm not a scientist. I'm not qualified to make that decision. There's a significant scientific dispute about that.’” [Tampa Tribune, [3/22/13](#)]

DONALD TRUMP (R)

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](#)]

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](#)]

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

HILLARY CLINTON (D)

Sec. Clinton: Climate Change Is “Clearly Man-Made And Man-Aggravated.” During a March 9, 2016 Democratic primary debate in Miami, Sec. Clinton said, “You can see already what’s happening in Miami, particularly in Miami Beach with tides rising. So we do have to invest in resilience and mitigation while we are trying to cut emissions and make up for the fact that this is clearly man-made and man-aggravated.” [[Washington Post](#), [3/9/16](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “We Can’t Afford A President Who Ignores The Science” On Climate Change. On January 20, 2016, Sec. Clinton tweeted, “Climate change is real. It’s hurting our planet and our people. We can’t afford a president who ignores the science.” [[@HillaryClinton Twitter](#), [1/20/16](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “Climate Change Isn’t Some Abstract Future Threat – It Threatens Our Families And Economy Right Now.” In January 2016, the NOAA released a report stating that 2015 was the second-warmest year on record, for the contiguous United States. In response, Sec. Clinton stated, “Climate change isn’t some abstract future threat—it threatens our families and economy right now. We need to act.” [[@NOAA Twitter](#), [1/7/16](#); [@HillaryClinton Twitter](#), [1/7/16](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “Ambitious” Paris Climate Agreement Was A “Testament To America’s Ability To Lead The World In Building A Clean Energy Future Where No One Is Left Out Or Left Behind.” On December 12, 2015, “nearly 200 countries cemented a major international accord to fight global warming ... capping years of fractious negotiations that dragged on even as evidence of the dangers of runaway greenhouse-gas pollution mounted ... The breakthrough tethers non-binding national pledges to limit carbon-dioxide emissions with more formal agreements that enable monitoring and verification of countries’ actions to ensure trust. Nations will also submit new plans every five years, a key provision that acknowledges that existing national pledges are nowhere near tough enough to prevent highly dangerous levels of global warming. The accord sets a goal of a global peak in greenhouse-gas emissions ‘as soon as possible’ and holding the rise in global temperatures to ‘well below’ 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, a benchmark for avoiding many of most dangerous consequences of climate change.” Responding to the agreement, Sec. Clinton said, “I applaud President Obama, Secretary Kerry and our negotiating team for helping deliver a new, ambitious international climate agreement in Paris. This is an historic step forward in meeting one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century—the global crisis of climate change. The Paris agreement is testament to America’s ability to lead the world in building a clean energy future where no one is left out or left behind. And it was made possible in part by every person, business owner, and community in the United States and around the world that stepped up to prove we don’t have to choose between growing our economy and protecting our kids’ health and future—we can do both.” [[National Journal](#), [12/12/15](#); [Hillary Clinton Press Release](#), [12/12/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “Climate Change Is Already Taking A Toll On The Nation’s Infrastructure – Leaving Taxpayers To Pick Up The Tab.” On November 30, 2015, Sec. Clinton unveiled her infrastructure plan. The plan, in part, read, “From rising sea levels to more severe storms, heat waves, and wildfires, climate change is already taking a toll on the nation’s infrastructure—leaving taxpayers to pick up the tab. Already, vulnerable communities are being disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and the lack of resources to adapt. Clinton will work to ensure that federal infrastructure investments are resilient to both current and future climate risks, and she will partner with states, cities and rural communities to develop regionally coordinated, resilient infrastructure strategies.” [[Hillary Clinton Campaign Website](#), [11/30/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “In Addition To Defending” The Clean Power Plan, “We Need A Clear Economic Program That Goes Hand-

In-Hand With Combatting Climate Change.” On November 9, 2015, Sec. Clinton received an endorsement from the League of Conservation Voters. During her remarks, she said, “I have been very clear that combatting climate change is not only the right thing to do, in order to preserve our planet [and] to deal with the threats that it poses, but it can be a very smart economic approach as well. Why? In addition to defending President Obama’s historic gains that he’s made, starting with the Clean Power Plan, but others as well, we need a clear economic program that goes hand-in-hand with combatting climate change ... Building on the Clean Power Plan, I will launch a clean energy challenge to partner with states, cities, and rural America to accelerate clean energy deployment, building efficiency, and clean transportation.” [PSB Satellite YouTube Channel, [11/9/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: Having Republicans Like Ted Cruz “Who Say Climate Change Is Not Science ... Can Be Pretty Dispiriting, But It Can Also Be Galvanizing.” On November 9, 2015, Sec. Clinton filed her candidacy for president with the New Hampshire Secretary of State. In talking with the media during the filing process, Sec. Clinton said, “In 2008, the Republican Party platform had a long section about climate change. And now we have candidates like Ted Cruz who say climate change is not science. That can be pretty dispiriting, but it can also be galvanizing.” [New York Times, [11/9/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: Unclear Whether GOP Candidates’ Denial Of Climate Change Is Political Or True Belief, But It’s “Hurting Our Country.” On November 5, 2015, Sec. Clinton appeared on ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live. During the interview, she had the following exchange with the show’s host, Jimmy Kimmel:

KIMMEL: I find it interesting that the vast majority of the [Republican] candidates, and people who are Republicans, believe that man-made climate change is a myth, or some sort of conspiracy designed to hurt our economy. Do you think that most people genuinely believe that, or are they towing the party line?

SEC. CLINTON: “I think it’s both, Jimmy. I think some people do believe it. When you hear them say, as they often do, “I’m not a scientist,” my response that that is, “Go talk to one, and maybe you could get some information that would enlighten you or educate you about the problems that climate change is confronting us with,” because it IS an existential crisis. I think some [candidates] are doing it because they have strong supporters, people who are maybe from the fossil fuel industry, for example, and they don’t want to cross them. So, they adopt that position, and whether they really believe it, or it’s just political opportunism, I can’t tell. But, the fact is, it’s hurting our country, and what I don’t understand is, there are huge economic opportunities here. If we were the clean energy superpower of the 21st century, we would create millions of new good jobs and businesses, and we would transition away from fossil fuels, and help the climate at the same time.

[ABC, [11/5/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “Significant” Bilateral Agreement Between United States And China Needs To Go Further; At Paris Talks, “We Must Get Verifiable Commitments To Fight Climate Change From Every Country There.” During the October 13, 2015 Democratic primary debate, Sec. Clinton said, “When we met in Copenhagen in 2009 ... President Obama and I were hunting for the Chinese, going throughout this huge convention center because we knew we had to get them to agree to something, because there will be no effective efforts against climate change unless China and India join with the rest of the world. They told us they’d left for the airport. We found out they were having a secret meeting. We marched up, we broke in and said we’ve been looking all over for you, let’s sit down and talk about what we need to do and we did come up with the first international agreement that China has signed. Thanks to President Obama’s leadership, it has gone much further. I do think that the bilateral agreement President Obama made with the Chinese was significant. It needs to go further, and there will be an international meeting at the end of this year, and we must get verifiable commitments to fight climate change from every country there ... I have been on the forefront of dealing with climate change starting in 2009 when President Obama and I crashed a meeting with the Chinese and got them to sign up to the first international agreement to combat climate change that they’d ever joined. So, I’m not taking a back seat to anybody on my values, my principles and the results that I get.” [CNN Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton Op-Ed: “Pope Francis Is Right ... We Must Lead The Charge” To Act On Climate Change. In a September 2015 [National Catholic Recorder](#) op-ed, Sec. Clinton wrote, “Pope Francis is right. All countries and all people are responsible for preventing the worst impacts of climate change. But countries like the United States have a particular role. We are rich, powerful, and blessed with many advantages. We must lead the charge.” [Hillary Clinton op-ed, [National Catholic Reporter](#), [9/25/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton Thanked Pope Francis For His Call To “Protect Our Environment.” In September 2015, Sec. Clinton tweeted, “Gracias, @Pontifex. Tenemos que cuidar el medio ambiente, crear oportunidades económicas y defender los derechos y la dignidad de todos.” Translated, the statement reads, “Thank you, @Pontifex. We need to protect our environment, create economic opportunities and defend the rights and the dignity of all.” [HillaryClinton Twitter, [9/24/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “Hard To Believe” Some Presidential Candidates Don’t Accept “Settled Science Of Climate Change.” In a July 2015 campaign video Sec. Clinton said, “It’s hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they’re not a scientist than listen to those who are. You don’t have to be a scientist to take on the urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act.” [Hillary Clinton YouTube Channel, [7/26/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: Pope Is Right, “Climate Change Is A Moral Crisis That Disproportionately Harms The Neediest Among Us.” In response to the Pope’s encyclical on the moral responsibility to combat climate change, Sec. Clinton tweeted: “@Pontifex is right—climate change is a moral crisis that disproportionately harms the neediest among us. We need leadership, not denial.” [Twitter, [6/15/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: Candidates Who Defer Questions About Climate Change Saying “I’m Not A Scientist” Should “Start Listening To Those Who Are.” During a June 2015 campaign speech, Sec. Clinton said, “Ask many of these candidates about climate change, one of the defining threats of our time, and they’ll say: ‘I’m not a scientist.’ Well, then, why don’t they start listening to those who are?” [C-SPAN, [6/13/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: America Can Lead The “Global Fight Against Climate Change” And Become The “Clean Energy Superpower Of The 21st Century.” During a June 2015 campaign speech, Sec. Clinton said, “We will make America the clean energy superpower of the 21st century. Developing renewable power – wind, solar, advanced biofuels; building cleaner power plants, smarter electric grids, greener buildings; using additional fees and royalties from fossil fuel extraction to protect the environment; and ease the transition for distressed communities to a more diverse and sustainable economic future from coal country to Indian country, from small towns in the Mississippi Delta to the Rio Grande Valley to our inner cities, we have to help our fellow Americans. Now, this will create millions of jobs and countless new businesses, and enable America to lead the global fight against climate change.” [C-SPAN, [6/13/15](#)]

Sec. Clinton: “The Science Of Climate Change Is Unforgiving, No Matter What The Deniers May Say.” In a December 2014 speech at the League of Conservation Voters Annual New York Dinner, Sec. Clinton said, “The science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say. Sea levels are rising; ice caps are melting; storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc. ... If we act decisively now we can still head off the most catastrophic consequences ... The political challenges are also unforgiving, there is no getting around the fact the kind of ambitious response required to effectively combat climate change is going to be a tough sell at home and around the world at a time when so many countries including our own are grappling with slow growth and stretched budgets.” [LCV YouTube, [12/3/14](#); [The Hill](#), [12/2/14](#)]

Sec. Clinton: Climate Change Was “The Most Consequential, Urgent, Sweeping Collection Of Challenges We Face As A Nation And A World.” In September 2014, at Sen. Harry Reid’s National Clean Energy Summit, Sec. Clinton called climate

change “the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world.” [[Politico, 9/4/14](#)]

BERNIE SANDERS (D)

Sen. Sanders Promised To Address Climate Change “The Way I Would Move Forward In Every Other Area ... We Need A Political Revolution In This Country.” During a March 9, 2016 Democratic primary debate in Miami, Sen. Sanders had the following exchange with moderator Karen Tumulty:

TUMULTY: I want to move on to a subject that more than two dozen Florida mayors have asked to raise with you. They have asked us to share with you their concern over the effects of rising sea levels and climate change in their communities ... You can see that no state has more at stake than Florida does. And no city has more at stake than Miami, the city in which we are sitting. But many Republicans argue that this is not a man-made problem. Senator Sanders, is it possible to move forward on this issue if you do not get a bipartisan consensus, and what would you do?

SEN. SANDERS: Well, first of all, Karen, when you have Republican candidates for president and in Congress telling you that climate change is a hoax, which is Donald Trump and other candidates' position, what they are really saying is, we don't have the guts to take on the fossil fuel industry. What candidates are saying is if we stand up to the fossil fuel industry, and transform our energy system away from coal and oil and gas to energy efficiency and wind and solar and geothermal and other sustainable technologies, you know what happens to that Republican who listens to the scientists? On that day, that Republican loses his campaign funding from the Koch brothers and the fossil fuel industry.

TUMULTY: So you've just described the problem, but how would you move forward given that this is the situation?

SEN. SANDERS: The way I would move forward in every other area. And what we are doing in this campaign is fighting not only to become president, but I'm the only candidate who says no president, not Bernie Sanders, can do it all. You know what we need, Karen? We need a political revolution in this country.

[[Washington Post, 3/9/16](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Paris Climate Agreement Was A “Step Forward” But It “Goes Nowhere Near Far Enough.” On December 12, 2015, “nearly 200 countries cemented a major international accord to fight global warming ... capping years of fractious negotiations that dragged on even as evidence of the dangers of runaway greenhouse-gas pollution mounted ... The breakthrough tethers non-binding national pledges to limit carbon-dioxide emissions with more formal agreements that enable monitoring and verification of countries’ actions to ensure trust. Nations will also submit new plans every five years, a key provision that acknowledges that existing national pledges are nowhere near tough enough to prevent highly dangerous levels of global warming. The accord sets a goal of a global peak in greenhouse-gas emissions ‘as soon as possible’ and holding the rise in global temperatures to ‘well below’ 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, a benchmark for avoiding many of most dangerous consequences of climate change.” Responding to the agreement, Sen. Sanders said, “While this is a step forward it goes nowhere near far enough. The planet is in crisis. We need bold action in the very near future and this does not provide that.” [[National Journal, 12/12/15](#); Sen. Sanders Press Release, [12/12/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Climate Change “Absolutely” Remains The Greatest Threat To National Security. On November 14, 2015, Sen. Sanders participated in a Democratic primary debate held in Iowa. During the debate, Sen. Sanders had the following exchange with moderator John Dickerson:

JOHN DICKERSON: Senator Sanders, you said you want to rid the planet of ISIS. In the previous date you said the greatest threat to national security was climate change. Do you still believe that?

SEN. SANDERS: Absolutely. In fact, climate change is directly related to the growth of terrorism. And if we do not get our act together and listen to what the scientists say you're gonna see countries all over the world-- this is what the C.I.A. says, they're gonna be struggling over limited amounts of water, limited amounts of land to grow their crops. And you're gonna see all kinds of international conflict. But of course international terrorism is a major issue that we've got to address today ... What we have got to do – and I think there is widespread agreement here – because the United States cannot do it alone ... is lead an international coalition ... nations in that region are gonna have to fight and defend their way of life.

[CBS News, [11/14/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: “We Must Take Bold Action To Transform Our Energy System” In Order To Tackle Climate Change. On November 13, 2015, Sen. Sanders tweeted, “We cannot let our grandchildren wonder why we did nothing about climate change. We must take bold action to transform our energy system now.” [[@SenSanders Twitter, 11/13/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Climate Change Endangers The World, And Republicans Refuse To Acknowledge It. During an October 25, 2015 interview with PBS’s Charlie Rose, Sen. Sanders said, “The world's future is being endangered by climate change that a Republican party refuses to acknowledge.” [PBS, [10/25/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Any Republican Who Said That Climate Change Is Real, And “Bold Action” Is Needed To “Transform Our Energy System” Would Be “Primaried By Big Energy Money And Likely Defeated.” On October 21, 2015, Sen. Sanders sat down with MSNBC’s Chris Hayes for an interview. During the interview, Sen. Sanders said, “I would 99 percent guarantee ... that any Republican who said climate change is real, we have got to take bold action to transform our energy system, that person would be primaried by big energy money and likely defeated.” [MSNBC, [10/21/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: “Public Consciousness Is Growing That Climate Change Is Real ... People Are Saying, Yes, We Better Do Something About It.” On October 21, 2015, Sen. Sanders sat down with MSNBC’s Chris Hayes for an interview. During the interview, Sen. Sanders said, “I think public consciousness is growing that climate change is real. People are seeing it with their own eyes. They're seeing it in California in the droughts. They're seeing it in the southwest and other areas in terms of forest fires, which are worse and more numerous than used to be the case. They're seeing it in a heat wave in Pakistan. They're seeing it with their own eyes, and people are saying, yes, we better do something about it ... I think the issue of climate change is on the minds than a lot more people than the pundits think. And I think it is growing. I think people are just very, very concerned. The evidence scientifically and what people are saying it's so real that people are saying, hey, I'm worried about my kids and grandchildren and what kind of planet they will be living in.” [MSNBC, [10/21/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Man-Made Climate Change Is Real, And “We Have A Moral Responsibility” To Transition From Fossil Fuels To Sustainable Energy. During the October 13, 2015 Democratic primary debate, Sen. Sanders said, “Today, the scientific community is virtually unanimous: climate change is real. It is caused by human activity, and we have a moral responsibility to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel to energy efficiency and sustainable energy and leave this planet a habitable planet for our children and our grandchildren.” [CNN Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: “I Believe Climate Change Is Absolutely Real.” In October 2015, Sen. Sanders said, “What I’ve found in Vermont and around the country is that we go to people and say, ‘Look, we do have differences. I believe in gay marriage. I’m not going to change your view if you don’t. I believe climate change is absolutely real, and some of you do not. But how many of you think we should give hundreds of billions in tax breaks to the richest 1 percent?’” [[Washington Post, 10/4/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Pope Francis Sent Proud And Significant Message That “God’s Earth” Must Be Protected From Climate Change.” In September 2015, CNN reported, “Sanders, who is Jewish and ... was observing the important Jewish holiday

of Yom Kippur, said he also appreciates that the Pope is speaking ‘very proudly and significantly about climate change,’ sending a message that ‘God’s earth’ must be protected. The displeasure with that message from conservatives also doesn’t surprise Sanders. ‘That’s the pushback from the Koch brothers, and Exxon Mobil and the fossil fuel industry. But that’s his courage,’ Sanders said. ‘That’s what I admire about him, his audacity and his courage.’” [CNN, [9/23/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Climate Change Is The “Greatest Threat” To Our Planet; “Scientific Community Is Virtually Unanimous” That Climate Change Is Real. During an August 2015 campaign stop in New Hampshire, Sen. Sanders said, “Climate change is the greatest threat facing the planet.” He added, “The scientific community is virtually unanimous: climate change is real. Climate change is caused by human activity.” [Daily Signal, [8/1/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders Agreed “Very Strongly With Pope Francis That Climate Change Is The Great Planetary Crisis, Environmental Crisis That We Face.” In July 2015, Sen. Sanders said, “I happen to agree very strongly with Pope Francis that climate change is the great planetary crisis, environmental crisis that we face.” [National Journal, [7/14/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: U.S. Must “Lead The World In Tackling Climate Change” For The Sake Of Future Generations. According to Sen. Sanders’ campaign website, “The United States must lead the world in tackling climate change to make certain that this planet is habitable for our children and grandchildren ... Unless we take bold action to address climate change, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are going to look back on this period in history and ask a very simple question: Where were they? Why didn’t the United States of America, the most powerful nation on earth, lead the international community in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and preventing the devastating damage that the scientific community was sure would come?” [Bernie Sanders 2016 Website, [Climate Change & Environment](#)]

Sen. Sanders: “On Climate Change, We Have A Moral Responsibility To Act Boldly.” [Des Moines Register, [7/7/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Action Against Climate Change Is Necessary. In June 2015, Sen. Sanders tweeted, “The scientific community has been extremely clear. We must take bold action to address climate change.” [Twitter, [6/28/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: The Pope’s Statements on Climate Change Will Make A Profound Difference, And The Republican’s Denial Of It Is Embarrassing. On HBO’s “Real Time with Bill Maher, Sen. Sanders criticized Republicans saying, “One of the embarrassments that goes on in this country today is that we have a major political party called the Republican Party that is rejecting what the overwhelming majority of scientists are saying. That is, of course, climate change is real and caused by human activity.” He also praised the Pope’s recent encyclical on needing to combat climate change calling the Pope “a miracle for humanity.” “He makes me very conservative on economic issues and that he spoke on climate change in as forceful a manner as he did is just extraordinary...I think the fact that the Pope has spoken out will have a profound impact all over this world.” [Real Time with Bill Maher, [6/19/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders: Climate Change Is A Planetary Crisis; Scientific Debate Is Over, And Human Activities, Like Fossil Fuel Consumption, Are “Already Causing Devastating Problems.” During Sen. Sanders’ campaign announcement speech, he said, “This country faces more serious problems today than at any time since the Great Depression and, if you include the planetary crisis of climate change, it may well be that the challenges we face now are direr than any time in our modern history ... The debate is over. The scientific community has spoken in a virtually unanimous voice. Climate change is real. It is caused by human activity and it is already causing devastating problems in the United States and around the world. The scientists are telling us that if we do not boldly transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energies, this planet could be five to ten degrees Fahrenheit warmer by the end of this century. This is catastrophic. It will mean more drought, more famine, more rising sea level, more floods, more ocean acidification, more extreme weather disturbances, more disease and more human suffering. We must not, we cannot, and we will not allow that to happen.” [Sen. Sanders Campaign Announcement, [5/26/15](#)]

Sen. Sanders Sponsored Legislation Acknowledging The Reality Of Climate Change, And Calling On Congress To Act To Cut Carbon Pollution. In March 2015, Sen. Sanders offered an amendment to a budget bill which would acknowledge the reality of climate change and call on Congress to take action to cut carbon pollution. The amendment was rejected 49-50. [SA 777 to S Con Res 11, [Vote 89](#), 3/25/15; LCV 2015 Votes, [Vote 89](#)]