

# TRUMP CLIMATE DENIER CABINET IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Good morning!

My name is Cathy Cowan Becker, and I am with the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club. I think it's pretty obvious why we are all here. Donald Trump has nominated the most extreme cabinet in history.

As each nomination has been announced, it's almost as if he is picking people hellbent on destroying the government agency they are being put in charge of. It's like he's casting characters for the most dangerous reality TV show in history.

This cabinet poses a threat to everything – to civil rights of minorities, reproductive rights for women, access to health care, labor rights, animal welfare ... the list goes on. But perhaps nothing is as clear as the threat to the planet.

To give you an idea, I'm going to read what some of Trump's cabinet nominees have said about climate change in their own words.

**Scott Pruitt, nominee for administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency**, is leading a lawsuit against the very agency he hopes to run, because he wants to overturn President Obama's Clean Power Plan.

Here's what he said about that:

"The Clean Power Plan is an unlawful attempt to expand federal bureaucrats' authority over states' energy economies in order to shutter coal-fired power plants and eventually other sources of fossil-fuel generated electricity." [Pruitt press release, 7/1/15]

Here's what he said about climate change:

"Scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connection to the actions of mankind. That debate should be encouraged -- in classrooms, public forums, and the halls of Congress." [Pruitt National Review op-ed, 5/17/16]

In reality, 97% of climate scientists agree that climate change is real, caused by human activity, and poses an existential threat. Meanwhile, Pruitt has taken over \$250,000 in campaign donations from the oil and gas industry.

**Rick Perry, nominee for Secretary of Energy**, is a longtime climate denier.

While he was Texas governor, the state Commission on Environmental Quality scrubbed all references to climate change from a report on rising sea levels.

Here's what Perry said about climate change:

"I do believe that the issue of global warming has been politicized. I think that there are a substantial number of scientists who have manipulated data so that they will have dollars rolling into their projects. And I think we are seeing almost weekly, or even daily, scientists who are coming forward and questioning the original idea that manmade global warming is what is causing the climate to change." [Perry campaign speech via CBS News, 8/17/11]

Perry has also called for getting rid of the Department of Energy – though he infamously couldn't remember the name of the department he wants to get rid of during a 2011 presidential debate.

**Rex Tillerson, nominee for Secretary of State**, is the CEO of Exxon Corporation, the most profitable oil company in history. Exxon scientists determined that carbon emissions would change the climate back in the 1970s – but instead of finding a new business model, Exxon chose to spend its profits on funding climate denial for decades, delaying action on climate while feedback loops piled up. For that Exxon is being investigated under RICO statutes by several state attorneys general.

Tillerson's views on climate are actually more moderate than those of his peers. He somewhat acknowledges that climate change is happening, but he thinks we can adapt our way out of it, so there's no need to reduce use of fossil fuels.

"We have spent our entire existence adapting, OK?" he said in 2012. "So we will adapt to this. It's an engineering problem, and it has engineering solutions. The fear factor that people want to throw out there to say we just have to stop this, I do not accept." [Speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, 6/27/12]

**Rep. Mike Pompeo, nominee for Director of the CIA**, is another climate denier. Last year Pompeo called the Paris agreement “a radical climate change deal.”

Here’s what he said about climate change:

“Look, I think the science needs to continue to develop. I’m happy to continue to look at it. There are scientists who think lots of different things about climate change. There’s some who think we’re warming, there’s some who think we’re cooling, there’s some who think that the last 16 years have shown a pretty stable climate environment.” [C-SPAN interview, 6/25/13]

On the contrary, the planet has warmed by almost a full degree Celsius since the Industrial Revolution. The last three years have each been the hottest year on record, and the 2000s were the hottest decade, with the 2010s set to be even hotter.

One more.

**Lt. General Michael Flynn, nominee for National Security Advisor**, has railed against the idea that climate change should be a national security priority.

Here’s what he said about climate change shortly after the shootings in Orlando:

"And here we have the President of the United States up in Canada talking about climate change. I mean, God, we just had the largest attack ... on our own soil in Orlando. Why aren't we talking about that? Who is talking about that? I mean, Fort Hood, Chattanooga, Boston, people forget about 9/11!" [Fox News, 6/29/16]

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has described climate change as an “immediate threat” and a “threat multiplier” that could cause crops to fail, spark mass refugee movements, and increase conflict for dwindling water resources— while extreme weather costs billions, and rising sea levels threaten U.S. military bases.

This is why we have to stop Trump’s climate denier cabinet. Not only are they completely misinformed and unprepared for the job, they are dangerous – to Americans, to people around the world, and to all living species.