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EcoWatch

Climate

(<https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-energy-independence-2144648162.html>)

Trump's New Website Promises to Devastate Planet Earth

If anyone has any questions left about what Donald Trump's (<http://www.ecowatch.com/trump-watch/>) energy plans will do to the climate (<http://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change/>), just read his brand new website GreatAgain.gov (<https://greatagain.gov/>) for clarity.

Click on "Energy Independence (<https://greatagain.gov/energy-independence-69767de8166#.y7ij2wykj>)," sit back and start reading. It's short, succinct and devastatingly to the point (<http://www.businessinsider.com/donald-trump-climate-change-danger-action-2016-11>):

"The Trump Administration will make America energy independent. Our energy policies will make full use of our domestic energy sources, including traditional and renewable energy sources. America will unleash an energy revolution that will transform us into a net energy exporter, leading to the creation of millions of new jobs, while protecting the country's most valuable resources—our clean air, clean water, and natural habitats. America is sitting on a treasure trove of untapped energy. In fact, America possesses more combined coal, oil, and natural gas resources than any other nation on Earth. These resources represent trillions of dollars in economic output and countless American jobs, particularly for the poorest Americans.

"Rather than continuing the current path to undermine and block America's fossil fuel producers, the Trump Administration will encourage the production of these resources by opening onshore and offshore leasing on federal lands and waters. We will streamline the permitting process for all energy projects, including the billions of dollars in projects held up by President Obama, and rescind the job-destroying executive actions under his Administration. We will end the war on coal, and rescind the coal mining lease moratorium, the excessive Interior Department stream rule, and conduct a top-down review of all anti-coal regulations issued by the Obama Administration. We will eliminate the highly invasive 'Waters of the US' rule, and scrap the \$5 trillion dollar Obama-Clinton Climate Action Plan and the Clean Power Plan and prevent these unilateral plans from increasing monthly electric bills by double-digits without any measurable effect on Earth's climate. Energy is the lifeblood of modern society.

"It is the industry that fuels all other industries. We will lift the restrictions on American energy, and allow this wealth to pour into our communities. It's all upside: more jobs, more revenues, more wealth, higher wages, and lower energy prices.

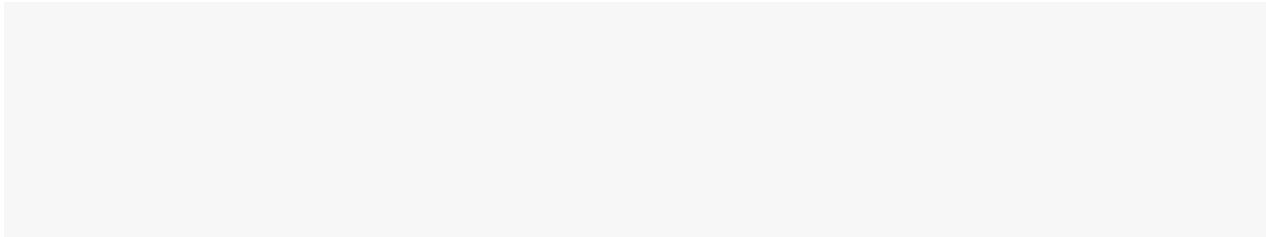
"The Trump Administration is firmly committed to conserving our wonderful natural resources and beautiful natural habitats. America's environmental agenda will be guided by true specialists in conservation, not those with radical political agendas. We will refocus the EPA on its core mission of ensuring clean air, and clean, safe drinking water for all Americans. It will be a future of conservation, of prosperity, and of great success."

With his climate denying cabinet—including Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson (<http://www.ecowatch.com/rex-tillerson-putin-2140257585.html>) as Secretary of State, Rick Perry (<http://www.ecowatch.com/mcmorris-rodgers-perry-doi-doe-2142968035.html>) for Secretary of Energy, and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (<http://www.ecowatch.com/mcmorris-rodgers-perry-doi-doe-2142968035.html>) or U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke (<https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-12-13/former-navy-seal-zinke-said-to-be-considered-for-interior-chief>), R-MT, in the running for Secretary of Interior—and a fossil-fuel friendly U.S. House and Senate, it is no understatement to say the Trump is preparing a fossil fuel takeover of the U.S. economy. But the economy won't be the only thing that's taken over. Our public lands, clean air and clean water will face a withering assault.

This type of "Energy Independence" will be the final nail in the coffin assuming the scientific consensus (<http://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>) of 97 percent of the world's leading climate scientists are correct, when they said (http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/migrate/uploads/1021climate_letter1.pdf):

"Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring, and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver."

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(<https://www.ecowatch.com/writ-of-mandamus-climate-lawsuit-2439033764.html>)

Our Children's Trust

Trump Administration Seeks 'Drastic Remedy' to Derail Kids Climate Lawsuit (<https://www.ecowatch.com/writ-of-mandamus-climate-lawsuit-2439033764.html>)

The Trump administration filed

(https://static1.squarespace.com/static/571d109b04426270152febe0/t/593b2e36e58c62c93bb76ff3/1497050679447/23354380-v1-Juliana_-_petition_for_mandamus_and_request_for_stay_for_filing.PDF) a writ of mandamus petition with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Friday, seeking an extraordinarily rare review of a Nov. 10, 2016 decision by U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken to deny its motion to dismiss *Juliana v. United States* (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit>). Further, the Trump administration is seeking "a stay of proceedings in the district court" while the Ninth Circuit considers its petition.

The Trump administration argues the Ninth Circuit should "exercise its supervisory mandamus powers to end this clearly improper attempt to have the judiciary decide important questions of energy and environmental policy to the exclusion of the elected branches of government."

The U.S. Constitution provides for three separate but equal branches of government, with no exception for energy and environmental policy.

Douglas A. Kysar (<https://law.yale.edu/douglas-kysar>), the Joseph M. Field '55 Professor of Law at Yale Law School who is not connected with the litigation, but recently co-authored *Courting Disaster: Climate Change and the Adjudication of Catastrophe* (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2965084), said:

"Writs of mandamus are reserved for the most extraordinary and compelling situations in which ordinary rules of appellate procedure must be overridden to avoid a manifest injustice. For the Trump Justice Department to even seek a writ of mandamus in the current context is offensive to Judge Aiken, to the entire federal judiciary, and, indeed, to the rule of law itself. The writ should not be granted and we should all question why the Trump administration's lawyers are willing to try such a trick rather than forthrightly defend the case.

"When the Framers divided power within the government, they did it so that the branches could not only check and balance each other, but also poke and prod when necessary. The *Juliana* litigation is a powerful poke and prod to the entire federal government on the question of climate (<https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change/>) responsibility. In that sense, *Juliana* might well be the most important lawsuit on the planet right now and the government knows it. That's why Trump's lawyers are so desperate to avoid an honest fight."

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the Supreme Court's majority in *Cheney v. U.S.*, explained in 2004 that mandamus is a "drastic and extraordinary remedy" reserved for "only exceptional circumstances."

This Trump administration's filing comes just one day after Judge Aiken shut down (<https://www.ecowatch.com/youth-climate-lawsuit-trial-2437891411.html>) another rare path to Ninth Circuit review, with an order (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/s/Aiken-adopts-Coffin-FR.pdf>) denying the U.S. government and fossil fuel industry's motions seeking an interlocutory appeal.

"The U.S. Government is running from some of its youngest constituents, and all we're asking for is a plan to preserve our future," said Victoria Barrett, 18, of White Plains, New York, one of 21 youth plaintiffs.

"The U.S. government is trying to use every possible tool they can to avoid trial," Julia Olson, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs and executive director of Our Children's Trust (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>), said. "Because they know applying the law to the facts and science in this case will mean certain defeat for them at trial. If the Trump administration was at all confident it could defend itself at trial, it would be preparing for trial."

Last month, motions were filed (<https://www.ecowatch.com/our-childrens-trust-motions-2422789150.html>) by three fossil fuel industry intervenor-defendants: the National Association of Manufacturers (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/s/20170522-NAM-motion-to-withdraw.pdf>), the American Petroleum Institute (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/s/20170525-API-motion-to-withdraw.pdf>) and the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/s/20170525-AFPM-motion-to-withdraw-5cya.pdf>) requesting the court's permission to withdraw from the litigation. For any defendant to leave the litigation, U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin must grant permission. That matter is still pending.

"By this writ, the Trump administration insists the federal government can continue to support the fossil fuel system and inflict harm on our children and grandchildren," Phil Gregory, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs and partner with Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP (<http://www.cpmlegal.com/>) in Burlingame, CA, said. "We believe the Court of Appeals will affirm that our Constitution specifically protects our Nation's Posterity. As Judge Aiken wrote, 'the judiciary must not shrink from its role as a coequal branch of government.'"

An in-court case management conference, open to the public, is set for 10 a.m. PST on June 14 ([https://www.facebook.com/events/1548651315168238/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A5%2C%22page_id_source%22%3A186475038061809%2C%22action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22main_list%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%227B%5C%22page_id%5C%22%3A186475038061809%2C%5C%22tour_id%5C%22%3Anull%7D%22%7D\]%2C%22has_source%22%3Atrue%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/1548651315168238/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A5%2C%22page_id_source%22%3A186475038061809%2C%22action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22main_list%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%227B%5C%22page_id%5C%22%3A186475038061809%2C%5C%22tour_id%5C%22%3Anull%7D%22%7D]%2C%22has_source%22%3Atrue%7D)) at the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse in Eugene, Oregon.

Juliana v. United States (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/our-childrens-trust>) was brought by 21 young plaintiffs, and Earth Guardians, who argue that their constitutional and public trust rights are being violated by the government's creation of climate danger. The case is one of many related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children's Trust, seeking science-based action by governments to stabilize the climate system.



(<https://www.ecowatch.com/christopher-wray-fbi-exxon-2438262927.html>)

YouTube

Trump's FBI Nominee's Ties to Exxon (<https://www.ecowatch.com/christopher-wray-fbi-exxon-2438262927.html>)

By Dave Anderson

Christopher Wray, President Trump's (<http://www.ecowatch.com/trump-watch/>) nominee for FBI director, advised corporate clients on how to avoid "being in the crosshairs" of law enforcement at a 2015 legal forum where investigations by state attorneys general into whether ExxonMobil (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/exxon>) misled investors and the public about climate change (<http://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change/>) were a topline issue.

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(<https://www.ecowatch.com/illinois-legislators-paris-agreement-2438172745.html>)

Illinois Sierra Club / Twitter

Illinois Legislators to Trump: We Will Not Roll Back Historic Environmental Laws (<https://www.ecowatch.com/illinois-legislators-paris-agreement-2438172745.html>)

Illinois state legislators announced Friday a series of legislative proposals that would block any weakened environmental and worker protection standards from taking effect in Illinois, and also respond to President Trump's (<http://www.ecowatch.com/trump-watch/>) decision to pull out of the Paris agreement (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/paris-agreement>).

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www.youtube.com

Pittsburgh Retaliates After Trump Used Them as Excuse for Pulling Out of Paris Agreement (<https://www.ecowatch.com/pittsburgh-paris-agreement-2438147252.html>)

Check out this powerful video from Vocativ (<http://www.vocativ.com/>) featuring Pittsburgh's green and thriving tech economy. The video and accompanying blog post (<http://www.vocativ.com/436644/trump-green-pittsburgh/>) is in response to President Donald Trump's (<https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-watch/>) statement, "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris," during his announcement (<https://www.ecowatch.com/best-responses-trump-paris-agreement-2429353243.html>) pulling the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/paris-agreement>).

Vocativ found out, while visiting the Steel City, that many Pittsburghers did not appreciate the president's shout-out. Watch above.



(<https://www.ecowatch.com/zinke-doi-website-energy-2437947775.html>)

Interior Department

Interior Dept. Changes Website, Prioritizes Fossil Fuels Over Renewables (<https://www.ecowatch.com/zinke-doi-website-energy-2437947775.html>)

The Interior Department's new "American Energy (<https://www.doi.gov/energy/>)" webpage reflects the Trump (<http://www.ecowatch.com/trump-watch/>) administration's calls for unfettered fossil fuel (<https://www.ecowatch.com/energy-news/>) development.

The webpage has gone through several revamps since Ryan Zinke (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/ryan-zinke>) took over the department in March. As reported by Motherboard (https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/fossil-fuels-lead-the-interior-departments-new-energy-webpage), the current page, last updated on May 19, stresses "removing burdensome regulations at the Department" and omits language that emphasized developing renewable energy (<https://www.ecowatch.com/renewable-energy/>) technologies.

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