

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Energy  
**Sent:** Mon 6/5/2017 2:03:45 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Energy: Pruitt still won't clarify Trump's climate views — More governors double down on climate action — Major week for energy nominations

By Anthony Adragna | 06/05/2017 10:00 AM EDT

**PRUITT MAKES THE CIRCUIT:** Climate change dominated the Sunday show circuit for the first time in years, but EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt again dodged nearly a dozen questions asking whether President Donald Trump still rejects the science showing that human activity is driving the problem and continues to consider it a "hoax." He instead stuck to familiar talking points that the administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement was because it was a "bad deal" for the U.S. that will harm economic growth. "Frankly, George, I think the whole question is an effort to get it off the point and the issue of whether Paris is good for this country or not," Pruitt said on ABC's "This Week." "And the president has indicated the climate changes."

**But he didn't get a free ride:** "Fox News Sunday's" Chris Wallace peppered Pruitt with aggressive questioning about the decision, asking incredulously how the underlying science of climate change never came up during months of discussions about Paris. After displaying statistics showing there are more than twice as many solar energy employees as those in coal, Wallace asked if the administration's efforts to try to bring back coal are akin to "protecting the horse and buggy business just as cars come online?" Pruitt shot back: "Absolutely not."

**ICYMI:** Pro's Alex Guillén examines Pruitt's move into the spotlight and inner orbit of Trump world as he helped convince the president to withdraw from the climate deal.

**Another Trump administration official,** U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, asserted to CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump's views are part of the mainstream consensus. "President Trump believes the climate is changing and he believes pollutants are part of the equation," she said. Haley also downplayed concerns leaving the Paris deal would hurt U.S. diplomatic efforts globally. "I don't think we're the skunk at the party," she said. "Just because we got out of a club doesn't mean that we don't care about the environment."

**ME's caution:** If you want to know how Trump views climate science, best to hear it directly from his mouth.

**GORE SLAMS 'RECKLESS' WITHDRAWAL:** Pruitt wasn't the only one talking climate on the Sunday shows: former Vice President Al Gore appeared to bash Trump's decision while also expressing hope the U.S. would still hit the Obama administration emissions reduction pledges thanks to the efforts of states, mayors and businesses. "I think it was indefensible and undermines America's standing in the world and threatens the ability of humanity to solve the climate crisis in time," Gore said on CNN.

**Zing! Former Secretary of State John Kerry on NBC's "Meet the Press":** "When Donald Trump says to the world, 'Well, we're going to negotiate a better deal,' I mean, you know, he's

going to go out and find a better deal? I mean, that's like O.J. Simpson saying he's going to go out and find the real killer. Everybody knows he isn't going to do that."

**WELCOME TO MONDAY!** I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Southern Environmental Law Center's Navis Bermudez correctly picked New Hampshire as the only state in the country without a mandatory seatbelt law. Next up: What's the only state where you can't buy beer, wine and liquor from almost all stores on Sunday? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to [aadragna@politico.com](mailto:aadragna@politico.com), or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](https://twitter.com/AnthonyAdragna), [@Morning\\_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy), and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

**OTHERS DOUBLE DOWN - GOP governors join climate alliance:** Two Republican Northeastern governors - Massachusetts' [Charlie Baker](#) and Vermont's [Phil Scott](#) - announced Friday they would join the expanding coalition of U.S. states seeking to uphold the goals of the Paris deal. Along with founding states California, Washington and New York, other participants in the U.S. Climate Alliance now include [Connecticut](#), [Hawaii](#), [Oregon](#) and [Rhode Island](#).

**No retreat by Modi:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed no signs of stepping back from his country's efforts to address climate change - pointedly calling it the biggest threat facing humanity, along with terrorism - during his first bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, POLITICO Europe's Silvia Sciorilli Borrelli [reports](#). "I believe the Paris agreement is a collective asset of the world, this is will also be an asset to the coming generations," Modi said, according to a [report](#) by New Delhi TV. "It is our responsibility to protect mother earth." India, the world's third largest emitter, vowed to stick with the accord despite Trump's withdrawal.

**Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop** reiterated her country's commitment to the Paris Agreement during a Sunday speech. "The EU and Australia will need to take a leadership role" on the climate agreement, Bishop [said](#), according to POLITICO Europe's Zoya Sheftalovich.

**PARIS RALLY DRIPS WITH IRONY:** About 50 supporters gathered in Lafayette Square (named for the French general who supported the colonies in the American Revolution) for a "Pittsburgh Not Paris" rally to thank Trump for withdrawing from the accord signed in the French capital. As The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette [reports](#), that D.C. rally was dwarfed by one in downtown Steel City that drew 2,000 people in support of the accord after Mayor Bill Peduto [announced](#) Friday the city would move toward being powered entirely by clean energy by 2035. Back in D.C., Trump missed his supporters rallying behind his decision as he'd left for his golf course in Virginia before they convened.

**HUGE WEEK FOR ENERGY NOMINEES:** Lawmakers on the the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee will [vote on](#) the nominations of Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson to be FERC commissioners, David Bernhardt to be deputy secretary at Interior, and Dan Brouillette to be No. 2 at DOE Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Ahead of the votes, the nominees released more than 200 pages of responses to questions from senators (available [here](#)). Bernhardt committed to recuse himself from matters involving former lobbying clients for two years but stopped short of committing to additional transparency measures Democrats requested, Pro's Annie Snider and Esther Whieldon [report](#).

**The following day, Environment and Public Works Committee members** kick off the process for three Nuclear Regulatory Commission nominees, as well as Susan Bodine's selection to run EPA's enforcement office at 10 a.m.

**PERRY AT FUKUSHIMA:** Six years after the nuclear emergency, Energy Secretary Rick Perry toured the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power plant in Japan on Sunday. "A truly eye-opening experience," he tweeted with a pic. "The U.S. is committed to our partnership with Japan on this cleanup and our shared vision for a clean environment and brighter future," he added.

**WORTH REUPPING:** Federal agencies have been instructed by the White House not to cooperate with oversight requests from congressional Democrats, POLITICO's Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey report. Republicans say the move is designed to stop congressional minorities from getting access to information that might be harmful to the president. "I don't think you'd have the Democrats responding to every minority member request if they were in the same position," one White House official said.

**In response,** top Senate EPW Democrat Tom Carper said: "This administration believes that it is somehow exempt from the basic requirements of transparency that come with representative government ... I will continue to press for this administration to show their work and report fully and accurately on what actions they are taking on our behalf."

**GETTING CHILLY IN HERE:** Trump's relationship with corporate America has soured as dozens of executives publicly rebuked the White House over the decision to quit Paris, POLITICO's Ben White and Annie Karni report. They're also dismayed that the administration's big Capitol Hill agenda, which includes passing massive tax cuts, appears stalled and they are terrified by the very public White House fight over how and when to raise the debt limit. The administration brushed off those reports. "We knew there would be blowback from Paris but so far it hasn't been that bad," said one senior official who declined to be identified by name.

**SECRETARIES STRESS WILDFIRE COOPERATION:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue signed a memorandum Friday in Idaho emphasizing the importance of interagency cooperation ahead of what they said is anticipated to be a "challenging" wildfire season. Zinke also spent time with the smokejumpers, who parachute into remote areas to fight fires, and he participated in meetings on forest management at the state Capitol with Perdue, Gov. Butch Otter and Sen. Jim Risch.

**REGS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE:** Trump's OMB has dramatically ramped up the number of EPA regulations it is reviewing and has begun taking lots more meetings to gather input from interested parties, Pro's Alex Guillén reports in Energy Regulation Watch. Early proposals now under review include the 2018 Renewable Fuel Standard proposal, as well as a proposed repeal of the Obama-era Waters of the U.S. rule.

**Meet your (rule) maker:** OMB has meetings scheduled this week the American Chemistry Council, the Environmental Working Group, and the Environmental Defense Fund on EPA's rule

that will detail how the agency prioritizes chemical risk evaluations, part of the revised Toxic Substances Control Act. That follows four meetings Friday on the 2018 RFS rule.

**MOVER, SHAKER:** John Giordano, who served as deputy general counsel on Donald Trump's transition team as well as on the Energy Department landing team, has joined Archer & Greiner as a partner in the Philadelphia office. He is not planning to register to lobby, according to a spokeswoman for the firm (h/t POLITICO Influence).

**CONGRATS:** Albert McGartland, director of EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics, is the first-ever federal government economist to be named a fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The honor recognizes contributions to advancing environmental and resource economics.

### QUICK HITS

- Energy's Perry having blast running agency he vowed to kill. [AP](#).
- Merkel's Chief of Staff Says EU to Join China, India on Climate. [Bloomberg](#).
- South Korea plans energy U-turn away from coal, nuclear. [Reuters](#).
- Woman seeks release before pipeline protest shooting trial. [AP](#).
- Trouble brews for OPEC as expensive deep-sea oil turns cheap. [Bloomberg](#).
- How G.O.P. Leaders Came to View Climate Change as Fake Science. [New York Times](#).
- Once-secret records reveal pattern of costly mistakes at troubled nuclear project. [The State](#).

### THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

*To view online:*

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/05/pruitt-still-wont-clarify-trumps-climate-views-220656>

**To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings/settings>**

---

This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

---

