

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
**Sent:** Fri 6/2/2017 6:38:31 PM  
**Subject:** Pruitt dodges questions about Trump's climate beliefs

By Alex Guillén

06/02/2017 02:35 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt repeatedly declined to say whether President Donald Trump believes in the science of climate change, arguing instead that the administration's focus has been on the disadvantages of the Paris agreement.

Trump has repeatedly dismissed the overwhelming scientific consensus that human activity is causing climate change, calling it a hoax designed to disadvantage U.S. businesses. Trump has not disavowed that view, but the White House refuses to say if he still holds it.

"All the discussions we've had for the last several weeks have been focused on one singular issue: Is Paris good or not for this country? That's the discussions I've had with the president," Pruitt said today at the White House's daily briefing when asked about Trump's views.

"The focus remained on whether Paris put us at a disadvantage, and in fact it did; it put us at an economic disadvantage," he added.

Pruitt did not say whether or how Trump weighed the economic risks posed by climate change itself.

Asked about his personal views, Pruitt repeated his position that human activity's contributions to climate change are difficult to measure with precision, and suggested that his critics are "climate exaggerators."

"What the American people deserve is a debate, objective, transparent discussion about this issue," Pruitt said. "What Paris represents is an international agreement this put this country at a disadvantage with very little benefit environmentally across the globe."

Press Secretary Sean Spicer later declined to answer questions about Trump's position. "I have not had an opportunity to have that discussion," he said.

*To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/pruitt-dodges-questions-about-trumps-climate-beliefs-088566>

Was this Pro content helpful? Tell us what you think in one click.				
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yes, very	Somewhat	Neutral	Not really	Not at all

You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include:

**Energy: EPA. To change your alert settings, please go to**  
**<https://www.politicopro.com/settings>**

---

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

---