

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Mon 7/17/2017 2:04:18 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Flake challengers meeting with White House — Senate fundraising numbers in Alabama, Indiana, Ohio — NRSC hits 'Trump state Democrats' — Kaine hires 2018 senior staff

By Daniel Strauss | 07/17/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Maggie Severns, Kevin Robillard and Scott Bland

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (<http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo>)

PRIMARY POLITICS - "White House squeezes Jeff Flake," by POLITICO's Alex

Isestadt: "The White House has met with at least three actual or prospective primary challengers to Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake in recent weeks, a reflection of Donald Trump's strained relations with the senator and the latest sign of the president's willingness to play hardball with lawmakers who cross him - even Republican incumbents. ... Since taking office, Trump has spoken with Arizona state Treasurer Jeff DeWit, a top official on his 2016 campaign, on at least two occasions, according to two sources familiar with the talks. More recently, since June, White House officials have also had discussions with former state Sen. Kelli Ward, who has announced her bid, and former Arizona GOP Chairman Robert Graham, who like DeWit is exploring a campaign. At a Republican National Committee meeting outside of San Diego in May, David Bossie, Trump's deputy campaign manager and the president of the influential conservative outside group Citizens United, told Graham that either he or DeWit would likely get substantial backing from conservatives should either enter the contest, according to three people familiar with the conversation." [Full story.](#)

FOUR WEEKS OUT - Brooks raised \$298,000 for Alabama Senate primary in second

quarter: The Republican congressman spent nearly \$105,000 and finished the quarter with \$1.2 million on hand, according to his [FEC filing](#). Brooks' biggest disbursements were for consulting by Precision Campaign Group and ad-making from Steinborn Films.

- MORE SENATE FUNDRAISING - Messer raises half a million dollars in Indiana:

Republican Rep. Luke Messer, a top contender for the Indiana Republican Senate nomination, raised over \$578,000 from April through June, according to a campaign disclosure posted over the weekend. Messer's fundraising haul was significantly smaller than that of possible Republican contender Rep. Todd Rokita, who raised \$1.04 million during the second quarter of the year. After starting to raise funds aggressively this spring as he reportedly considered a Senate bid, Rokita finished the first six months of the year slightly ahead of Messer in the money race: He had \$2.35 million cash on hand to Messer's \$2.02 million.

- Gibbons raises \$690,000 in Ohio, per a press release from Mike Gibbons for Senate:

"Republican candidate for United States Senate Mike Gibbons (R-OH) announced that his

campaign raised nearly \$700,000 since his initial announcement just 4-weeks before the end of the 2nd Quarter fundraising period. All told, Gibbons raised \$690,000 during the 2nd Quarter, of which just \$200,000 was a personal loan to the campaign. Gibbons would end the quarter with approximately \$615,000 cash-on-hand."

REDISTRICTING WATCH - "At tail end of Texas redistricting trial, judges skeptical of state's defense," by the Texas Tribune's Jim Malewitz: "The state of Texas faced a healthy dose of judicial skepticism on Saturday as its lawyers laid out final arguments in a trial over whether lawmakers intentionally discriminated against minority voters in enacting current Texas House and Congressional district maps. ... Over the course of the week, minority rights groups and the state tussled over whether - and how - the state's political maps should change to fix possible voting rights act violations ahead of the 2018 elections. But the trial also probed a question that's more consequential in the long term: Whether the 2013 Legislature intentionally minimized the political clout of Latino and black Texans in enacting the maps. Federal courts have already scolded Texas for intentional discrimination in three rulings this year. Another such finding would boost the odds that judges put Texas back onto a list states that need the federal government's permission to enact any new voting legislation." [Full story.](#)

- **GOP Rep. Will Hurd "defended the rationality of the boundaries of District 23,** one of a relatively few genuine 'swing' districts in the nation," the San Antonio Express-News' Jeremy Gerlach reported. "If more districts were like mine, we'd have better caliber people in Washington," Hurd said. 'My district is competitive, and that's a good thing ... because it forces people to talk to a broader sense of the community.' Attorney Luis Vera, representing one of the plaintiffs, the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, said Hurd's appearance was more of a 'stump speech' designed to distract the judges from the real arguments over racial discrimination at hand in the case." [Full story.](#)

- Texas' 2018 primaries are scheduled for March 6.

- **"Judges criticize Maryland's congressional redistricting map," via the Associated Press:** "Federal judges reviewing Maryland's congressional redistricting map say there is convincing evidence the state's Democratic leaders drew the districts to gain a seat for their party. A three-judge panel heard arguments Friday as part of a lawsuit. The panel was divided about whether the 2011 redistricting plan directly caused former Republican Rep. Roscoe Bartlett to lose his seat and whether the map should be changed. ... The judges didn't indicate when they would rule." [Full story.](#)

Days until the 2017 election: 113.

Days until the 2018 election: 477.

Thanks for joining us. Send me your thoughts on the Game of Thrones premiere. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: [@politicoscott](https://twitter.com/politicoscott), [@ec_schneider](https://twitter.com/ec_schneider), [@politicokevin](https://twitter.com/politicokevin) and

[@danielstrauss4.](#)

OBAMACARE WARS - NRSC frames "Trump state Dems" as accountable for broken promises. According to the NRSC release announcing the new digital ad: "Back when they were trying to sell Obamacare to the American people, Democrats promised their constituents that their bill would make premiums and health care costs drop, and that if they liked their health care plan they could keep it. But while premiums soar and millions have been dropped from their insurance, Senate Democrats are still refusing to confront the reality that Obamacare has failed...Back when they were trying to sell Obamacare to the American people, Democrats promised their constituents that their bill would make premiums and health care costs drop, and that if they liked their health care plan they could keep it. But while premiums soar and millions have been dropped from their insurance, Senate Democrats are still refusing to confront the reality that Obamacare has failed." Watch the [ad here](#).

LET'S GET IT STARTED -The Republican Party of Wisconsin is continuing to aggressively attack in Wisconsin governor's race, with mailers attacking two Democrats: businessman [Andy Gronik](#) ("He can't be trusted. ... Con Artist Andy Gronik") and state Rep. [Dana Wachs](#) ("Trial Attorney Dana Wachs Exploits The System For His Own Gain.") Gronik announced a run against GOP Gov. Scott Walker earlier this week, while Wachs is still considering a run. The mailers are accompanied by similar statewide digital ads and are aimed at specific demographics.

- Democratic oppo research organization American Bridge is launching a new website and online ad campaign painting Virginia Republican gubernatorial nominee Ed Gillespie as a "[Swamp Creature](#)." The digital ad and [site](#) focus on Gillespie's lobbying career, including hits on Social Security privatization and the environment.

ENVIRO ADS - EDF Action ads push House Republicans to oppose EPA budget cuts: EDF Action is spending \$1 million on TV, radio and digital ads (see [ad 1](#) and [ad 2](#)) in 10 GOP-held House districts, some battlegrounds and some not, criticizing proposed budget cuts to the EPA. The targeted districts: AZ-02 (incumbent Martha McSally), CA-21 (David Valadao), CA-42 (Ken Calvert), CO-06 (Mike Coffman), FL-17 (Tom Rooney), FL-25 (Mario Diaz-Balart), MN-02 (Jason Lewis), MO-02 (Ann Wagner), NV-02 (Mark Amodei), and VA-10 (Barbara Comstock).

STAFFING UP - Kaine hires reelection staff: Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine has brought on a number of senior staffers for his 2018 reelection. Keren Dongo, former deputy state director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, will be campaign manager. Ian Sams will serve as communications director. Jenny Nadicksbernd will serve as finance director. Jess Reid will be digital director and Megan Apper will be research director.

ADMINISTRATION SPEED READ - "Pence will join GOP leaders for fundraiser benefiting his PAC," by POLITICO's Alex Isenstadt: "Vice President Mike Pence will join congressional GOP leaders later this month for a fundraising reception benefiting a newly formed, Pence-overseen political action committee. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy are slated to headline a July 25 fundraiser for Pence's Great America Committee. The event is to take place in

Washington, according to an invitation, and attendees are being asked to pony up \$5,000 apiece." [Full story](#).

- **"How the White House and Republicans underestimated Obamacare repeal,"** by POLITICO's Nancy Cook and Burgess Everett: "The longer Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare flounder, the clearer it becomes that President Donald Trump's team and many in Congress dramatically underestimated the challenge of rolling back former President Barack Obama's signature achievement. The Trump transition team and other Republican leaders presumed that Congress would scrap Obamacare by President's Day weekend in late February, according to three former Republican congressional aides and two current ones familiar with the administration's efforts...The failure of the plan to quickly repeal Obamacare earlier this year forced Republican leaders to start over and attempt the daunting task of crafting a more comprehensive health care plan that would unite all sides of a squabbling conference. And the Trump administration's lack of sufficient staff and planning for that early effort helped lay the groundwork for the legislative chaos the GOP's agenda is mired in today." [Full story](#).

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Whether we will be able to get the Russian nationals to come over and testify is an open question." - Sen. Mark Warner, saying he [wants to hear from everyone](#) involved in the meeting between Donald Trump Jr. and a Russian lawyer.

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/07/17/flake-challengers-meeting-with-white-house-221355>

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 2:05:09 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by ExxonMobil: U.S., G-20 near détente over climate language — Perry's economics gaffe sets Internet afire — Pruitt takes the Southeast

By Anthony Adragna | 07/07/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Tim Starks and Kalina Oroschakoff

U.S., G-20 NEAR COMPROMISE ON CLIMATE: Two days of contentious meetings between the G-20 nations kick off today in Hamburg, Germany, but the U.S. and the rest of the nations are nearing a compromise agreement - or at least agreeing to disagree - on one of the thorniest issues facing world leaders: climate change, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia [reports](#). A senior diplomat involved with the talks tells Andrew there's increasing optimism countries can settle on language in which the U.S. underscores its intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement while the other nations emphasize their support for the pact. "It seems that the G-19 is all on board," the diplomat said.

There had been concern that some fossil fuel-dependent countries in the G-20 might hesitate to forcefully back the Paris agreement, but the current draft would be a significant win for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders who support action to tackle climate change. And the draft language leaves room for the U.S. to write a new domestic emissions reduction plan and then announce plans to stay in the agreement under those new terms, something President Donald Trump could frame as a victory while pleasing allies. But a word of caution: The text remains fluid and could be renegotiated depending on how the next 48 hours go.

Speaking of the U.S., California Gov. Jerry Brown announced Thursday his state would host the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) in San Francisco in September 2018. "President Trump is trying to get out of the Paris Agreement, but he doesn't speak for the rest of America," Brown said in video remarks to the [Global Citizen Festival](#) in Germany. "We in California and in states all across America believe it's time to act." The California governor has ramped up his already aggressive climate efforts in the aftermath of Trump's decision to leave the Paris accord, traveling to China to reinforce his state's commitment to action, and now can boast that the summit will be the first international climate event hosted by a state.

Another big ask: Some of Europe's largest lenders and insurers - grouped together as the European Financial Services Round Table - want G-20 leaders to push for the "timely and homogenous implementation" of the corporate disclosure recommendations, POLITICO Europe's Bjarke Smith-Meyer [reports](#). The industry heavyweights also want leaders to introduce other measures to promote the energy and investment shift, including carbon pricing and a phase out of fossil fuel subsidies.

THAT'S ... NOT HOW THAT WORKS: The internet exploded Thursday after Energy Secretary Rick Perry goofed on a basic economic principle during remarks at a West Virginia coal plant. "Here's a little economics lesson: supply and demand. You put the supply out there and the demand will follow," Perry [said](#), according to Taylor Kuykendall, an S&P Global

reporter at the event. Seems more like the plot of "Field of Dreams" rather than sound economic policy to ME. Samples of media response [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Perry's trip continues today at the National Energy Technology Laboratory site in Pittsburgh, which he'll tour along with Rep. [Tim Murphy](#).

WELCOME TO FRIDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and that's a shortened week almost in the books! DOE's Marty Dannenfelser was first to identify Lincoln, Neb., as the state capital that shares its name with a tunnel underneath the Hudson River, an American luxury automobile brand, and a D.C. restaurant. For today: How many state capitals have the word "city" in them? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to adragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

YES, AGAIN, (MAYBE) RUSSIA: Two new reports are shedding light on recently revealed cyber attacks that have been infiltrating U.S. nuclear power stations. Bloomberg [reported](#) that Russia is the chief suspect, and that hackers have also infiltrated a company that makes control systems for the power industry, apparently a related attack. The New York Times first [identified](#) one of the companies attacked: the Wolf Creek Nuclear Nuclear Operating Corp., which runs a plant in Kansas.

The Homeland Security Department and FBI have reportedly been working to eject the hackers from the networks, and produced a joint alert. "The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are aware of a potential cyber intrusion affecting entities in the energy sector," the two agencies said in a joint statement late Thursday. "There is no indication of a threat to public safety, as any potential impact appears to be limited to administrative and business networks. In furtherance of public-private partnerships, the FBI and DHS routinely advise private industry of various cyber threat indicators in order to help systems administrators guard against the actions of persistent cyber criminals."

PRUITT'S SOUTHEAST SWING: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is in Georgia today with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue for an event on using agency resources to promote stewardship. That comes after he toured several facilities in Alabama with Sen. [Luther Strange](#), his former attorney general buddy-turned-senator. They toured the Plant Gaston in Wilsonville, Ala., where Pruitt discussed the Clean Power Plan with employees and saw the DOE-affiliated National Carbon Capture Center research facility, which experiments with carbon-capture technologies. After that, the federal officials stopped by Brentwood Farm in Mooresville, where they spoke with Alabama Farm Federation members about the Waters of the U.S. regulation, which EPA has begun the process of rescinding (pic with large bales of hay and tractor [here](#)).

Pruitt's takeaway: "It's not the EPA's job to say to people across the country, 'Don't touch that. Don't use that,'" he told an Alabama [radio show](#). "It's our job to say as you develop and produce and generate electricity, this is the latest and greatest technology that should be used to achieve good emissions outcomes." Pruitt added his efforts to restore "a sense of focus" was already "making a difference" around the country.

KIGALI BACKERS PLAY IT COOL, BOY, REAL COOL: In January, while everyone was scrambling to figure out what the Trump administration would look like, backers of an

international agreement struck in Kigali, Rwanda to curb global warming-causing coolants had a plan: Lay low, avoid headlines, let the administration staff up, and see where things are in 2018. "I think our position basically remains stable," said Joe Trauger, VP for policy and government relations for the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute. "We're engaged in education efforts."

AHRI wants the amendment to the Montreal Protocol ratified - its provisions will boost AHRI's members - but the group doesn't want the deal, which could hold back half a degree of warming, to get thrown out by the White House. To that end, it has avoided meeting with any administration officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson or his chief of staff. The group is in touch with career staff while it waits for Trump to appoint some key assistant secretaries. "We're working with some folks at the State Department to make sure we're in touch with them and able to communicate at the right time," Trauger said.

Stay cool locally, stay real cool globally: Simultaneously boosting the energy efficiency of air conditioners and other cooling equipment while moving toward more climate-friendly alternative refrigerants would avoid an additional 100 billion tons of carbon dioxide, according to [a report](#) out today. Prepared by the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development and written by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the report finds those additional reductions could come on top of the estimated 100 billion tons of carbon dioxide reductions stemming from [the agreement](#) to limit global warming-inducing coolants. "The HFC phase out creates an important opportunity for U.S. industry to expand markets, and efficiency gains can save consumers billions in AC electricity costs, all while reducing global emissions on a monumental scale," Paul Bledsoe, a lecturer at American University's Center for Environmental Policy, said in a statement.

**** Presented by ExxonMobil:** Biofuel refined from algae could transform how we power automobiles and jet planes. It's energy-rich and emits significantly less CO₂ than most transportation fuels. And it doesn't compete with food and fresh water supplies. We're actively researching this technology to move it from the petri dish to the fuel tank: [EnergyFactor.com](#)**

EPA TARGETS BIOFUEL IMPORTS AND BIODIESEL, HUH? EPA wants to cut imports of biofuels, but the biodiesel and advanced biofuels industries are mystified as to why it's getting into that arena, Pro's Eric Wolff [reports](#). EPA cut back advanced biofuels, and it's inviting comment on cutting back advanced biodiesel, all in the interest of reducing imports from Argentina, Indonesia and Brazil. The National Biodiesel Board has a case against Argentina and Indonesia under investigation by the Commerce Department now, and biodiesel producers see that as a separate process from EPA. "It's not really their purview," said Gene Gebolys, CEO of biodiesel producer World Energy. "It's a strange logic - What makes one conclude that by holding volumes down, it will reduce imports? That makes a logic assumption that says the imports are the last in the door, and that's not the case."

Will it calm the RIN-sanity? Advanced biodiesel plays a critical role in meeting RFS targets, thanks to the system of "nesting" which allows refiners to buy biodiesel credits to comply with the conventional biofuel mandate. If victorious, duties on imported biodiesel will likely drive up prices for credits across the board, Neelesh Nerurkar a vice president at ClearView Energy

partners. However, EPA's reduction in the advanced and thus overall fuel requirement could relieve some of that pressure. "It helps mitigate some of the potential cost impact," he told ME.

NEW KEYSTONE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED: Bold Nebraska, 350.org, Indigenous Environmental Network, CREDO, and Oil Change International launched a new push Thursday to install solar arrays along the route of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline in Nebraska. The groups hope to crowdsource funding for the installations ahead of the August public hearings Nebraska Public Service Commission about Keystone's proposed route through the state. "Putting solar panels in the path of Keystone XL is a local effort that mirrors the future we want to see at a massive scale," Sara Shor with 350.org said in a statement.

MAIL CALL! SENATORS PUSH FOR GAO PROBE OF PANELS! Ten Democratic senators, led by Sheldon Whitehouse, asked GAO in a Thursday letter to look at whether EPA is properly following procedures to ensure its scientific advisory panels are independent and balanced. In particular, the senators asked GAO to look at how EPA's procedures for selecting panel members compared to other agencies, how current compositions of the panels compare to previous ones and how previous administrations handled the reappointment and nomination process. EPA has declined to reappoint many current scientific advisers and suspended meetings of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the rest of the year while it decides whether to replace panel members.

GRIJALVA PRESSES ZINKE ON ENERGY DOMINANCE: House Natural Resources ranking member Raul Grijalva sent Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke a letter Thursday seeking information on how the administration's pursuit of "energy dominance" does not interfere with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requirements to manage public lands "on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield." Grijalva also requested a definition of "energy dominance" and how the agency would measure when it has been achieved.

GREENS: WE NEED MORE TIME ON WOTUS: Nineteen environmental and public health groups asked Pruitt in a letter Thursday to extend the comment period on the proposed rule to rescind the Waters of the U.S. regulation to no less than six months. "Your planned 30-day comment period disregards the more than one million people who participated in the development of that rule and is a grossly inadequate amount of time for stakeholders to meaningfully engage in this rulemaking process," the groups, including the League of Conservation Voters, Clean Water Action and the Sierra Club, wrote.

STEELWORKERS NO FANS OF E15: The United Steelworkers fear Sen. Deb Fischer's bill to allow year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol fuel could allow more smog. The union sent a letter Thursday to all 100 senators arguing that the RFS needs a complete overhaul rather than the modification in Fischer's bill. The letter is a sign that lobbying on a bill to advance Fisher's bill out of committee is ramping up - Fischer and company need to convince six undecided EPW Democrats in order to advance the bill.

HANDS OFF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: Four hundred and twenty-five conservation groups sent a letter Thursday to House and Senate leadership urging them not to entertain any efforts to "modernize" or otherwise tweak the Endangered Species Act. "The

Endangered Species Act is a profoundly popular law that represents fundamental American principles," the letter, signed by groups like 350.org, Citizens' Climate Lobby and Greenpeace, says.

INTERESTING NEVADA TIDBIT: Buried deep in The Nevada Independent's [announcement](#) of Rep. [Jacky Rosen's](#) Senate bid against [Dean Heller](#) is that Rosen would have opposed Rick Perry's nomination to run DOE given his efforts to revive Yucca Mountain. Both Heller and [Catherine Cortez Masto](#) supported Perry's confirmation back in March. Rosen vowed to fight "tooth and nail" against Yucca, which Heller also vocally opposes.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE GUILTY OF EMBEZZLEMENT: An employee with the Bureau of Indian Education, Wilma Garcia, fraudulently issued multiple checks - amounting to \$24,031.99 - to various family members, an Interior IG [report](#) found. Garcia was "remorseful" for her actions and received five years' probation.

Those charges were far less salacious than other, ultimately "[unfounded](#)" allegations that the death of an USGS employee was due to "criminal negligence" by a trip leader during a research river trip in Grand Canyon National Park by ignoring signs of heat exhaustion. The investigation in that case found "no evidence of criminal conduct by the trip leader" or support for allegations federal agencies "conspired to alter facts when preparing their final reports" of the incident.

TROUBLED NUCLEAR GIANT HIRES BIG GUNS: Westinghouse Electric Co. has brought on Squire Patton Boggs for help "managing bankruptcy proceedings on Capitol Hill," according to [disclosure documents](#) posted this week. Among the lobbying giant's VIPs working on behalf of the nuclear company: former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott; former Louisiana Sen. John Breaux and David Schnittger, former Speaker John Boehner's longtime deputy chief-of-staff.

MOVER, SHAKER: The National Rural Electric Cooperative is bringing on Bobby Hamill as a legislative affairs manager, working on generation and transmission issues. He was previously legislative director for Rep. [Morgan Griffith](#) (R-Va.) (h/t POLITICO Influence).

Ben Somberg has joined the Alliance to Save Energy as communications manager responsible for developing and executing communications strategies; he was previously press secretary for the American Association for Justice.

QUICK HITS

- Buffett's Berkshire Nears Deal to Buy Electric-Grid Giant Oncor for More Than \$17.5 Billion. [Wall Street Journal](#).
- Sen. Strange: Allegations against him are 'fake news'. [Fox6](#).
- How Colorado Lured the Biggest Trade Show in the Outdoor Industry. [Outside](#).
- Oil Closes Below \$46 as U.S. Output Gain Offsets Stockpile Drop. [Bloomberg](#).

- Alberta regulators charge Nexen Energy over 2015 pipeline spill. [Reuters](#).

- Coastal Commission moves briefing on San Onofre nuclear waste to San Diego. [San Diego Union-Tribune](#).

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