

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
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**Subject:** Ebell: EPA eying Koonin for 'red team' climate science review

By Alex Guillén

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EPA is considering picking Steven Koonin, a top DOE official during former President Barack Obama's first term, to run its "red team" review of climate science, according to Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Koonin suggested the formation of a red team in an April Wall Street Journal [piece](#), where he said such a review "would shine much-needed light on the scientific debates" surrounding climate change. Koonin has long been a critic of climate change science, writing in the Journal in 2014 that the science "[is not settled](#)."

Some climate scientists and environmentalists have criticized such a review as giving a minority scientific opinion an outsized voice and laying the groundwork for revoking the 2009 endangerment finding that underlies all of EPA's greenhouse gas regulations.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who [called](#) Koonin's idea "very exciting," has raised the idea of a televised debate.

Ebell, who briefly led President Donald Trump's transition effort at EPA, said today that he is not directly involved in the search but has been told by an "impeccable" source that Koonin is the top choice to lead the climate red team.

A theoretical physicist by training, Koonin was undersecretary for science at the DOE from 2009 to 2011, and since 2012 has been director of the New York University Center for Urban Science and Progress. He previously was chief scientist for BP and provost of the California Institute of Technology.

Koonin did not respond to requests for comment. EPA did not immediately respond to a request for comment today.

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