## **Representative Jeff Denham**

Republican Representative Jeffrey John Denham (DOB: 7/29/67) has served California’s 10th District since 2012. (He served the 19th district from 2010-2012.) An Air Force veteran, businessman, and former state senator, Denham was defeated by Democrat Josh Harder in 2018. Denham, who has been heavily involved in water issues affecting California while in Congress, has been mentioned as a candidate to replace Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. In the 115th Congress, Denham served as Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials subcommittee chairman on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; he also sat on the Agriculture and Natural Resources committees.

Key findings:

**Denham has disparaged alternative energy development and has said contradictory things about human impact on the changing climate.** “It’s such an expensive form of energy,” Denham said of wind in 2012. In 2017, Denham said that he “believe(d) in climate change,” adding that he favored an “all-of-the-above” approach to energy sources. Denham, however, voted to block implementation of the methane rule, which the Sierra Club said was “vital to reducing toxic air and climate pollution by diminishing methane pollution from the oil and gas sector…He also voted in favor of a resolution to block climate action which stated than any form of price on carbon would be unacceptable.” The legislative director of the Sierra Club said that Denham “has repeatedly voted to put polluter interests above the people he represents by undermining clean air and climate action policies that would benefit everyone. In fact, it seems like he cares more about helping carbon, methane, and air pollution prosper than our own kids.” In his unsuccessful 2018 campaign, Denham wouldn’t acknowledge that climate change was partly caused by humans, instead saying climate change was “Bay Area-made” and “we shouldn’t have to pay for the Bay Area’s dirty air.”

**Denham has supported efforts to expand drilling—including in the Gulf of Mexico.** Denham strongly supported an effort to end a drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico. “Our country will continue to struggle in its economic recovery if we do not eliminate policies that close off oil exploration, natural gas development, and timber harvesting” Denham said in 2011. In 2012, Denham discussed “oil shale and natural gas reserves that we just got to be willing to go out there and get.”

**Denham is a strong supporter of the Keystone Pipeline.** “The Administration's excessive regulations have continually hindered job creation in the Valley and around the nation,” Denham said. “It’s past time to build,” he added in 2014. “Building is simple common sense.” After President Obama vetoed the pipeline in 2015, Denham said, “I’m disappointed…clearly, there are vast domestic economic benefits.” “I'm pleased to see our new president so quickly reversing the previous administration's rejection of Keystone XL, which received broad bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress,” Denham said in 2017.

**Denham has supported efforts to open public lands to off-road vehicles.** “Do I like expanding wild-and-scenic designations? In most cases, it doesn't make sense,” Denham said in 2015. In 2016, he voted to require federal land management agencies to facilitate access for recreational activities and clearly designate “hunter access corridors” within federal lands, national monuments and wilderness areas.

## Alternative Energy

**2012: Denham on Wind: “It’s Such an Expensive Form of Energy…”**  DENHAM: Well, certainly they can work, but the -- the problem is it's such an expensive form of energy. This is another one where if the president really wants to get it done, there are regulations that he could wave. The EPA regulations, the national EPA regulations, he could certainly wave those as they've done in other projects.” [Financial Markets Regulatory Wire, 10/16/12]

## Climate Change

**2017: Saying “I Believe in Climate Change,” Denham Added that He Favored an “All-of-the-Above” Approach to Energy Sources.** “Andrew Nosrati of Turlock urged renewable energy in place of fossil fuels and asked Denham whether he believed that climate change was real. ‘Yes, I believe in climate change,’ the congressman said, but he added that he favors an ‘all-of-the-above’ approach to energy sources. He said this could include hydropower from increased water storage. He also favors thinning over-dense forests to reduce the wildfire risk, which would yield wood chips for generating electricity.” [Modesto Bee, 4/17/17]

**2018: Sierra Club Launched Digital Ad Campaign against Denham for Vote to Block Implementation of Methane Rule.** “The Sierra Club issued the following news release: The Sierra Club has launched an aggressive digital ad campaign in The Modesto Bee calling out Congressman Jeff Denham, who represents California's 10th congressional district. Denham recently voted repeatedly against climate action and clean air. Rep. Denham voted to block the implementation of the EPA's methane rule, which is vital to reducing toxic air and climate pollution by diminishing methane pollution from the oil and gas sector. He also voted in favor of a resolution to block climate action which stated than any form of price on carbon would be unacceptable.” [Targeted News Service, 8/9/18]

* **Denham Also Voted to Eliminate Social Cost of Carbon.** “Additionally, Denham voted to eliminate the ‘social cost of carbon,’ which helps the government account for the benefits of reducing climate emissions when introducing regulations.” [Targeted News Service, 8/9/18]
* **Sierra Club Legislative Director: “Denham Has Repeatedly Voted to Put Polluter Interests above the People He Represents by Undermining Clean Air and Climate Action Policies that Would Benefit Everyone.”** “‘Jeff Denham has repeatedly voted to put polluter interests above the people he represents by undermining clean air and climate action policies that would benefit everyone. In fact, it seems like he cares more about helping carbon, methane, and air pollution prosper than our own kids. It's time for Denham to stand with his constituents, not with the polluters who are endangering the health of American families’ said Matthew Gravatt, Sierra Club's Associate Legislative Director.” [Targeted News Service, 8/9/18]

**2018: San Francisco Chronicle: “Denham…Wouldn’t Acknowledge at a Recent Debate that Climate Change Was Partly Caused by Humans, Saying, ‘We Shouldn’t Have to Pay for the Bay Area’s Dirty Air.”** “Denham's Bay Area focus is so intense that he wouldn't acknowledge at a recent debate that climate change was partly caused by humans, saying, ‘We shouldn't have to pay for the Bay Area's dirty air.’ When pressed whether he believed climate change is man-made, Denham said it is ‘Bay Area-made.’” [San Francisco Chronicle, 10/29/18]

## Drilling

**2011: Denham Supported Efforts to End Drilling Moratorium in Gulf of Mexico.** “Representative Jeff Denham today voted on a bill to end the Administration's de facto moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico in a responsible, transparent manner by reforming current law to improve safety and setting firm time-lines for considering permits to drill. Rep. Denham is a co-sponsor of the bill, H.R.1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act, which passed through the House Natural Resources Committee this morning with a bipartisan vote of 27 to 16. ‘Gas prices in California's Central Valley have skyrocketed to above $4 a gallon and have remained above the national average for weeks. This bill is the first of three we are considering today to expand American energy production in order to create jobs and lower energy costs,’ said Rep. Jeff Denham. ‘Bureaucratic red tape and delays have hampered the Central Valley for far too long. We can no longer afford to rely on foreign resources. The time for inaction is over, we must use the resources we have to get people back to work and curb rising prices.’ Background: This bill allows drilling to resume in a safe manner and provides certainty to businesses by implementing firm timelines for the Interior Department to act on permits.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 4/13/11]

**2011: Sierra Star: “Denham…Said We Need to Open up Many of the Environmentally Feasible Areas for Exploration.”** “Referring to $5-a-gallon gas by summer, Denham said the U.S. has 65% of the world's oil and natural gas reserves and said we need to open up many of the environmentally feasible areas for exploration. ‘It will ultimately be up to the president if we are going to be able to do more drilling.’” [Sierra Star, 4/28/11]

**2011: Denham: “Our Country Will Continue to Struggle in Its Economic Recovery If We Do Not Eliminate Policies that Close Off Oil Exploration, Natural Gas Development, and Timber Harvesting.”** “The federal government needs to implement an energy policy that promotes the development of our resources here in the United States. Our country will continue to struggle in its economic recovery if we do not eliminate policies that close off oil exploration, natural gas development, and timber harvesting. This is why I joined my Republican colleagues in launching The House Energy Action Team (HEAT) in early May. We are committed to promoting Republican energy policies that will address rising energy prices, create thousands of good jobs and enhance our national security by increasing American production of oil and gas.” [Merced Sun-Star, 6/1/11]

**2012: Denham: “Oil Shale and Natural Gas Reserves that We Just Got to Be Willing to Go out there and Get…”** “So, if they really want to get them done, then show the American public that you're going to expedite them and get them done immediately so we can actually have the impact of not only being energy independent and moving towards that goal but also relieving the pain at the pump at the same time…DENHAM: -- oil shale and natural gas reserves that we just got to be willing to go out there and get. And so, the president has certainly had a hands-off approach on all of the public land, and there are private lands where you have private individuals that already put the upfront cost…” [Financial Markets Regulatory Wire, 10/16/12]

## Keystone

**2012: Denham on Keystone: “The Administration’s Excessive Regulations Have Continually Hindered Job Creation in the Valley and around the Nation…We Must Invest in Our Natural Resources…”** “Representative Denham today issued the following statement on the President's decision to deny the application for construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, sending more jobs and resources overseas: ‘More than three years ago the application was filed to build the Keystone XL pipeline and bring jobs and energy security to America, and today the Administration rejected it. The Keystone XL pipeline is one of the largest private infrastructure projects in American history. It would have created 20,000 jobs immediately; spurred the creation of 118,000 spin-off jobs, and reduced our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. ‘The Administration's excessive regulations have continually hindered job creation in the Valley and around the nation. We must invest in our natural resources, and encourage access to available resources and the jobs that come with them.’” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 1/18/12]

**2013: Denham on Keystone: “I Believe in an ‘All-of-the-Above’ Energy Strategy and this Legislation Is One Piece of the Puzzle to Break America’s Dependence on Foreign Oil.”** “‘This bill represents a significant opportunity to create American jobs and spur economic growth here in the United States,’ said Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. ‘I believe in an 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy and this legislation is one piece of the puzzle to break America's dependence on foreign oil. With an unemployment rate still near 8%, we must do what we can to support the creation of jobs while bolstering our domestic energy independence.’” [Targeted News Service, 5/16/13]

**2014: Denham on Keystone: “It’s Past Time to Build…Building Is Simple Common Sense…”** “The following information was released by the office of California Rep. Jeff Denham: U.S. Representative Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) today voted with the U.S. House of Representatives to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, creating 42,100 jobs and moving the country towards greater energy independence. ‘It's past time to build,’ said Rep. Denham. ‘State Department estimates show that construction on the pipeline would create more than 40,000 jobs. As part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy, the pipeline will help us move towards North American energy independence and boost our economic growth. TransCanada has agreed to measures that will make this the safest pipeline in history. Building is simple common sense.’” [States News Service, 11/14/14]

**2015: Denham on Obama’s Keystone Veto: “I’m Disappointed…Clearly, There Are Vast Domestic Economic Benefits…”** “U.S. Representative Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) today issued the following statement after President Obama vetoed bipartisan legislation approving construction of the Keystone XL pipeline: ‘I'm disappointed to see the President ignoring the will of the people and the widespread bipartisan support this bill received in both chambers of Congress. His State Department has estimated that the pipeline will create 42,100 jobs. Their most recent environmental impact statement concludes that not building the pipeline creates greater safety and environmental risks than building, since the necessary oil would be transported through other means if not through the pipeline. And just this week a new study concluded that an estimated 70 percent of the products produced from oil traveling through the pipeline would stay here at home. Clearly, there are vast domestic economic benefits.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 2/24/15]

**2017: Denham: “I’m Pleased to See Our New President So Quickly Reversing the Previous Administration’s Rejection of Keystone XL, which Received Broad Bipartisan Support in Both Chambers of Commerce…”** “Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., issued the following statement after President Trump signed an executive order approving construction of the Keystone XL pipeline: ‘I'm pleased to see our new president so quickly reversing the previous administration's rejection of Keystone XL, which received broad bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. ‘America needs jobs, economic and energy security, and this project promises to deliver in these areas. ‘As we move forward, I will monitor progress to ensure it's implemented in a safe and environmentally-sound way that Americans deserve.’” [Targeted News Service, 1/24/17]

## Public Land

**2011: Denham Supported Measure to Flood River in National Wild and Scenic River System.** “The Merced Irrigation District wants to raise its spillway on Exchequer Dam. That will inundate part of the Merced River, among the rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River system. A designated wild and scenic river is akin to a river national park. No wild and scenic river has ever been rolled back for purposes of reservoir inundation, so this is a big deal. This is bad for our federally protected river and sets a terrible precedent for hundreds of other such rivers across the country. It is in line with other campaigns to roll back protection for endangered species, clean air and wilderness. House Resolution 869 by Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Atwater, looks innocuous enough, an apparent little fix on a dam will bring so many little wins that readers might overlook the biggest loser here, our river. HR 869 is deliberately misleading and devious. It does not mention the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or that the Merced River is protected by it. The area that could be flooded under this bill has the designation ‘wild,’ which is the highest standard of river designation. It has no roads or bridges or crossings; it is to be kept ‘pristine.’ The bill looks like a technical fix and misconstrues boundaries to the MID's advantage. While the bill looks to be Denham's work, it is the MID's. Denham's staff refers inquiries to the MID. The bill is supposed to ‘clarify flood control,’ but it actually poses some big downstream problems with their releases. It speaks of ‘occasional short-term increases in the level of Lake McClure not to exceed elevation of 877 feet…” [Merced Sun-Star, 4/30/11]

**2012: Denham Supported Legislation to Convert 26,605-Acre Pinnacles National Monument into a National Park.** “On certain public lands issues, though, they’ve evidently found common ground. On the same day Farr joined Denham in introducing the Mariposa land bill, Denham joined Farr’s legislation that converts the 26,605–acre Pinnacles National Monument into the higher status Pinnacles National Park.” [McClatchy Washington Bureau, 6/27/12]

**2015: Denham Wanted to Reopen Some Western Fresno County Land to Off-Road Vehicles: “Do I Like Expanding Wild-and-Scenic Designations? In Most Cases, It Doesn’t Make Sense.”** “San Joaquin Valley lawmakers want to reopen some western Fresno County land to off-road vehicles, but there's a price to be paid. In a classic Capitol Hill tradeoff, conservatives would get the Clear Creek Management Area reopened to off-roaders while liberals would secure new wilderness and wild-and-scenic river designation for other federal lands. Supporters of the Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act call it the kind of cooperation that Congress could use more of. ‘It's a good, bipartisan effort,’ Rep. Jeff Denham, R-California, said Wednesday. ‘Do I like expanding wild-and-scenic designations? In most cases, it doesn't make sense. But in this case, I think it's a good compromise.’ In addition to returning off-road vehicles to the Clear Creek area, the bill would establish a new 21,000-acre Joaquin Rocks Wilderness on adjacent federal land in Fresno County. Several nearby stream segments would receive wild-and-scenic river designation, preventing them from being dammed or their channels from being altered. ‘It's a good opportunity to have more recreational vehicles out and using public land,’ Denham said.” [McClatchy, 12/2/15]

**2016: Denham Voted to Require Federal Land Management Agencies to Facilitate Access for Recreational Activities and Clearly Designate “Hunter Access Corridors” within Federal Lands, National Monuments and Wilderness Areas.** “Representative Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) voted today to protect Second Amendment rights and the rightful access to public lands with his vote for the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act of 2016. The bill amends existing laws to expand access and increase opportunities for hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. This legislation protects the Second Amendment right to recreational shooting and hunting and eliminates cumbersome regulations which prevent thousands of Americans from using their public lands. ‘I am proud to support this bill, which celebrates and protects the tradition of American sportsmen to fish and hunt,’ said Rep. Denham. ‘As a hunter myself, I strongly support public access to recreational lands and believe all Americans should have the freedom to exercise their constitutional rights, not to have them bungled by excessive red tape.’ This bipartisan bill would require federal land management agencies, such as the Department of Interior, to facilitate access for recreational activities and clearly designate ‘hunter access corridors’ within federal lands, national monuments and wilderness areas. The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee, temporarily commissioned in 2010, would become permanently established and tasked with advising federal agencies on how to expand hunting access and increase land conservation efforts. The legislation also restores power back to the states by freeing up their access to federal funds for the expansion of shooting ranges and prohibiting federal agencies from regulating lead content ammunition and fishing tackle that are otherwise compliant with state laws.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 2/26/16]

## Transportation

**2013: Denham an Outspoken Skeptic of Plan to Run Bay Area-to-Los Angeles Bullet Trains through Kings County by 2030.** “That gives Denham, an outspoken skeptic of the plan to run Bay Area-to-Los Angeles bullet trains through Kings County by 2030, a chance to throw up roadblocks to one of President Barack Obama’s highest priorities. Denham has said that he’ll work to slow the project down until it’s fully funded. He got into a testy exchange in December with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood during which LaHood told him the project was ‘going nowhere’ unless the federal funding freeze that Denham supports is lifted.” [Hanford Sentinel, 1/18/13]

## Water

**2018: Denham Hosted Interior Secretary Zinke in District to Discuss Administration’s Role in Improving Water Infrastructure and Protecting Water Rights.** “Republican Rep. Jeff Denham of Turlock is hosting Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in his district to ‘discuss the administration's potential role in improving water infrastructure and protecting Valley water rights.’” [McClatchy, 7/17/18]

## Wildfire

**2011: Denham: “With Increased Timber Harvesting, We Can Keep the Temperature of Wildfires Lower and Better Manage the Size of Fires So They Do Not Become Such a High Risk to Firefighters.”** “In California, where environmental regulations are far more burdensome than in other states, the continual gridlock of environmental lawsuits threatens our communities with severe wildfires that cause millions in damages and claim many lives. All this could change if we had a more reasonable approach to timber harvest. Instead of letting our forests burn, we should be creating jobs locally by cutting trees and utilizing the debris for renewable biomass energy, while reducing the fire risk. With increased timber harvesting, we can keep the temperature of wildfires lower and better manage the size of the fires so they do not become such a high risk to firefighters.” [Modesto Bee, 8/31/11]

**2018: Denham: “We Need to Make Sure…that We Are Better Prepared with Smart Building Codes and Prepared for the Different Disasters that Can Hit Us across the Country.”** “U.S. Representative Jeff Denham (CA-10) this week examined the response to the 2017 California wildfires and the importance of mitigation efforts for future emergencies in a hearing held by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management. Eric Holly, Deputy Fire Warden and Deputy Director of Emergency Services for Stanislaus County, testified at the hearing. Rep. Denham, who once chaired the subcommittee, highlighted his authorship of the 2013 Sandy Recovery Improvement Act, which became law and helped streamline recovery efforts and reduce costs, improving response time and recovery during the 2017 wildfire season. Additionally, Rep. Denham discussed another bill he authored, H.R. 4455, the SMART Rebuilding Act, which became law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and incentivizes state and local governments to invest in mitigation efforts to strengthen infrastructure before disaster strikes and help save money and lives. Rep. Denham: ‘With the devastation that was caused by the 2017 wildfires, it's critical that we ensure our first responders and emergency managers have the support they need...We need to make sure as we're looking across [California] and the country that we are better prepared with smart building codes and prepared for the different disasters that can hit us across the country.’” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 3/22/18]

## Wildlife

**2010: McClatchy: Denham “Appears to Share the Endangered Species Act Skepticism…”** Radanovich is retiring at the end of the year. His all but certain replacement, Republican state Sen. Jeff Denham of Merced, appears to share the Endangered Species Act skepticism commonly voiced by Radanovich and other central California lawmakers. [McClatchy, 9/7/10]

**2016: Denham Had Introduced Legislation to Establish a Pilot Program to Protect Native Salmon and Steelhead Fish Populations.** “At the invitation of Rep. Denham, Mr. Doug Demko, president of FishBio, was also invited to testify as the committee examined the costly impacts of predation and conflicting federal statutes on native and endangered fish species. Rep. Denham has introduced legislation to establish a pilot program on the Stanislaus River to protect native salmon and steelhead fish populations. Rep. Denham's legislation was passed by the House as recently as June of 2015. It has also been included in three California water bills the House has passed in the last two years.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 2/10/16]

* **Denham: “Predation of Endangered Fish in California Continues to Be One of Many Factors in the Complex Equation of California Drought.”** The U.S. House of Representatives today passed H.R. 4582, the Save Our Salmon (SOS) Act, introduced by Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Turlock). Denham's bill would remove the fish doubling provision in the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) for non-native, predatory striped bass, thereby protecting native salmon and steelhead and reducing nonessential water usage. ‘One of the greatest threats facing the Central Valley is drought, and this bipartisan legislation would provide a common sense solution to wasteful fresh water usage,’ said Rep. Denham. ‘Predation of endangered fish in California continues to be one of many factors in the complex equation of California drought. By eliminating this unnecessary provision that threatens our salmon and steelhead populations, native species will again thrive without wasting the massive amounts of fresh water and taxpayer dollars currently required to do so.’” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 7/5/16]