**3/6 Senate Anti-Climate Speeches**

**Where’s the GOP climate plan? McConnell stokes conflict, abdicates leadership**

*Guidance Prepared by The Wilderness Society*

**Climate change is a global crisis that demands bold measures**

* Climate solutions can unleash millions of new jobs, create a new wave of innovation and slash pollution of our air and water. Voters want solutions, not gridlock.
* Across the country, Americans are already bearing the cost and pain of wildfires, floods, droughts and heat waves made worse by the climate crisis.
* The time for small fixes is long past. The sooner we act, the more lives and money we save.
* The last 5 years have been the hottest on record, and all of the years on record that were hotter or more disaster-filled came in the past decade.
* The last National Climate Assessment ordered by Congress warns that climate change will [slash 1% to 4%](https://www.forbes.com/sites/ucenergy/2018/12/05/will-global-warming-shrink-u-s-gdp-10-its-complicated-says-the-person-who-made-the-estimate/#3c338c193f2e) from the American economy by the end of the century, throwing people out of work and eroding the middle class.
* According to the 2018 UN IPCC report, we are already seeing unprecedented extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and melting Arctic sea ice, with the worst still to come unless we take bold action to reduce our emissions now.
* Voters are increasingly demanding action. Nearly ¾ of Americans now say that climate change is important to them, an increase of 9 percentage points since last year (2019 Yale poll), even a majority of Republicans (2018, AP) and Democratic primary voters are saying it’s a top concern for them (Hart 2019).
* With Trump subverting climate science, international progress and clean energy solutions, it’s up to Congress, states and cities to continue to take bold action and meet our shared challenge.

**McConnell protects polluters while trivializing the solutions and denying science**

* Climate change deniers like Mitch McConnell are more concerned with protecting their own power than doing what the American people need. McConnell and other climate deniers in Congress have spent their careers propping up corporate polluters while defending a broken and failed system instead of taking bold action.
* For years, McConnell has blocked any floor action on climate change and has offered no solutions.
* Rather than leading, McConnell is engaging in partisan political games while protecting special interests and making glib jokes.
* He once told an editorial board, “I don't buy that climate is changing. In the 1970s, we were all concerned about the ice age coming.”
* The senate leader has been compromised by oil and gas special interest money, accepting [over $2 million](https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/summary.php?ind=E01&cycle=All&recipdetail=S&mem=Y) in campaign contributions, among the highest level of any member of Congress.
* Deniers like McConnell have been using scare tactics to push voters away from acting on climate since scientists first warned us about the climate crisis decades ago. McConnell remains out of touch with the people of Kentucky, [where more than six in 10](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us-2018/?est=happening&type=value&geo=county) understand the growing climate crisis we face.
* He’s also out of touch in an economy where clean energy is cheaper than fossil fuels and electric cars are gaining market share.
* McConnell has no plan on climate, because he doesn’t want action. Mitch McConnell embodies the problem, not the solution.

**Floor Speech Social Guidance**

**TWITTER:**

* Republicans are laying out their climate action plan:  
  1. Lie  
  2. Deny  
  3. Repeat  
  #ActOnClimate [LINK]
* WATCH: Senators from the same party that told us smoking cigarettes is good for us is peddling their latest scam on the floor of the U.S. Senate: climate denial. #ActOnClimate [LINK]
* Millions of Americans are ready to #ActOnClimate because they know that climate change impacts our health, environment, and economy. @[TAG TARGET] is out of touch. [LINK]
* [STATE DEMONYMS] are already facing the deadly impacts of climate change. @[TAG TARGET] is on the floor denying science and ignoring their constituents. #ActOnClimate [LINK]
* If you’ve ever wondered what fossil fuel industry talking points sound like straight from the mouths of U.S. Senators, tune into CSPAN2 NOW. #ActOnClimate [LINK]
* WATCH: Tune into anti-climate speeches on the floor of the U.S. Senate, brought to you by corporate polluters and the Senators in their pockets. #ActOnClimate [LINK]
* For someone who lacks any plan to #ActOnClimate, @[TAG TARGET] is spending an awful lot of time bashing the #GreenNewDeale… 🤔🤔🤔[LINK]

**FACEBOOK:**

* Republicans are laying out their climate action plan:  
  1. Lie  
  2. Deny  
  3. Repeat  
  #ActOnClimate [LINK]
* WATCH: Senators from the same party that told us smoking cigarettes is good for us is peddling their latest scam on the floor of the U.S. Senate: climate denial. Millions of Americans are ready to #ActOnClimate because they know that climate change impacts our health, environment, and economy. [TAG TARGET] is out of touch. [LINK]
* If you’ve ever wondered what fossil fuel industry talking points sound like straight from the mouths of U.S. Senators, tune into CSPAN2 NOW. #ActOnClimate [LINK]

**General (for all targets)**

***What to say:***

* New analysis from @CAPAction finds that there are still 150 members of Congress who don't believe in climate change. See if yours is one: <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/green/news/2019/01/28/172944/climate-deniers-116th-congress/> #ActOnClimate
* 60% of Republicans in Congress – 150 members total – don't believe that climate change is real. That's way out of step with the American public. New analysis from @CAPAction has more: <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/green/news/2019/01/28/172944/climate-deniers-116th-congress/>#ActOnClimate
* The 150 members of Congress who deny that the climate is changing due to human activity also each received an average of $455,731 in lifetime contributions from the fossil fuel industry. Coincidence? More: <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/green/news/2019/01/28/172944/climate-deniers-116th-congress/> #ActOnClimate

**ACCOUNTABILITY ON CLIMATE PLANS**

**Sen. Ernst**

***What to say:***

* .@SenJoniErnst accepted more than $200,000 in dirty donations from corporate polluters. Her climate denial puts Iowans at risk. She doesn’t have a plan (or any intent) to #ActOnClimate. #ClimateFriday <https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* More than 30,000 Iowans work in the clean energy sector. @SenJoniErnsthas no plan to #ActOnClimate, putting future clean energy jobs in jeopardy. #ActOnClimate <https://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/state/iowa>
* Farmers in Iowa are already seeing the impacts of climate change. @SenJoniErnst’s denial of reality is unacceptable. #ActOnClimate #ClimateFriday<https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* .@SenJoniErnst – isn’t Iowa’s health and economy worth more than dirty donations from corporate polluters? #ActOnClimate #ClimateFriday <https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>

**Sen. Tillis**

***What to say:***

* .@SenThomTillis accepted more than $377,000 in dirty donations from corporate polluters. His climate denial puts North Carolinians at risk. He doesn’t have a plan (or any intent) to #ActOnClimate. <https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* North Carolinians are already seeing the impacts of climate change from Hurricanes like Florence and Michael. @SenThomTillis’s denial of reality is unacceptable. #ActOnClimate [#ClimateFriday https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj](https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj)
* .@SenThomTillis – isn’t North Carolina’s health and economy worth more than dirty donations from corporate polluters? #ActOnClimate #ClimateFriday<https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* .@SenThomTillis loves to take cheap shots at the #GreenNewDeal – but the more than $370k he’s taken from corporate polluters signals that he’s not willing to do a thing to #ActOnClimate. #ClimateFriday <https://www.tillis.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=788AE382-A3D2-4DC7-AF17-1951F8C5E40A>
* 82% of North Carolinians see climate change as a serious problem. @SenThomTillis should take the pressing need to #ActOnClimate seriously. #ClimateFriday <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/program/documents/SC%20-%20NC%20Memo%20-%20F02.11.19.pdf>
* 82% of North Carolinians see climate change as a serious problem. @SenThomTillis doesn’t have a plan to #ActOnClimate – he’s out of step with his constituents. #ClimateFriday <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/program/documents/SC%20-%20NC%20Memo%20-%20F02.11.19.pdf>

**Sen. Gardner**

***What to say:***

* .@SenCoryGardner accepted more than $1.3 MILLION in dirty donations from corporate polluters. His climate denial puts Coloradans at risk. He doesn’t have a plan (or any intent) to #ActOnClimate. #ClimateFriday <https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* .@SenCoryGardner has $1.3 million in dirty campaign donations from corporate polluters. What he doesn't have is a plan to #ActOnClimate. Wonder why. #ClimateFriday <https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* Coloradans are already seeing the impacts of climate change through the increasing threat of wildfire. @SenCoryGardner’s denial of reality is unacceptable. #ActOnClimate [#ClimateFriday https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj](https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj)
* .@SenCoryGardner -- isn’t Colorado’s health and economy worth more than dirty donations from corporate polluters? #ActOnClimate #ClimateFriday<https://bit.ly/2DGbFzj>
* .@SenCoryGardner’s dirty donations from corporate polluters and refusal to #ActOnClimate is out of step with the 81% of Coloradans who see climate change as a serious problem. #ClimateFriday <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/program/documents/RV%20poll%20-%20CO%20Memo%20-%20F02.11.19.pdf>