

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Kyle Herrig, Congressional Integrity Project
DATE: June 6, 2023
RE: MAGA Republicans Stack Oversight Hearing with Extreme Witnesses

For the second time this year, House Republicans will conduct an oversight hearing into environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing. This hearing is the strongest indication yet that attacks on responsible and sustainable investing is a critical part of the Republican economic agenda, and not just a wedge issue to drive culture wars.

The Congressional Integrity Project is shining light on this dangerous policy push and its impact on the American economy, energy priorities, and national security. CIP is also releasing background research on the witnesses and who is funding and coordinating the attacks on responsible investing.

HEARING WITNESSES LACK CREDIBILITY: All three witnesses push conspiracy theories and extreme rightwing policy positions, undermining their credibility on a congressional panel.

- **STEPHEN MOORE: A history of deeply controversial statements.** Mr. Moore denies climate change, says women do inferior work and white males are an oppressed minority, and supports privatizing Social Security. More in Appendix 1 (pages 3-19).
- **JASON ISAAC: In the pocket of polluters.** Mr. Isaac is the president of the Texas Natural Gas Foundation and pushes conspiracy theories related to the climate “hoax” and uses antisemitic dog whistles to stop responsible investing. More in Appendix 2 (pages 20-26).
- **MANDY GUNASEKARA: Shills for fossil fuel industry.** Ms. Gunasekara is a Trump associate with a history of connections to big polluters, denies that carbon emissions are causing climate change, and spread disinformation about the 2020 election. More in Appendix 3 (pages 26 – 36).

ATTACKS ON RESPONSIBLE INVESTING ARE UNPOPULAR: Polling data shows Republicans are focused on the wrong issues.

- **Only 8% of Americans think investigating how companies spend money on ESG issues should be a priority for Congress**, and 83% trust companies more than politicians when deciding whether they agree with a company’s stance on an issue. [[Global Strategy Group](#)]
- **A majority (54%) of voters agree that financial managers should be allowed to consider environmental factors**, such as climate risks or the riskiness of investing in fossil fuels, when making investment decisions for retirement funds with just 34% opposing. [[Climate Power](#)]
- **More than half of national likely voters (53%) support their state investing public retirement funds in assets related to clean energy.** [[Climate Power](#)]

REAL WORLD COSTS: MAGA Policies to Ban Responsible Investing Have Already Cost Taxpayers. New [research](#) has found that Republican efforts to target responsible investing strategies in states like Texas is costing taxpayers millions of dollars, in the form of higher payments on municipal bonds. In just six months under Texas’ ban on socially responsible investing, taxpayers were on the hook for an additional \$300-530 million dollars.

- **In States Like Texas and Kansas, Policies Blocking State And Local Entities From Working With Certain Banks Are Poised To Cost Taxpayers Millions Because Of Higher Interest Rates Due To Less Competition.** One study estimates anti-ESG measures could have cost taxpayers [\\$708 million](#) in higher interests payments on

municipal bonds if they'd passed in certain states. In Texas, cities will pay a minimum of [\\$303 million](#) in additional interest on bonds while similar laws in [Kansas](#) would reduce state pension returns by \$3.6B over a decade.

DARK MONEY GRIFTER PULLING THE STRINGS: The MAGA Campaign to Control America's Investment Decisions Is the Brainchild of Leonard Leo. Through his organization, Consumers' Research, [a dark money non-profit](#) that had led the charge against "woke" corporations, Leonard Leo has engaged in an aggressive campaign targeting corporations for making climate-friendly investments. Consumers' Research received [nearly \\$6 million](#) from Leo's group [DonorsTrust](#) and already, the group has spent more than [\\$4 million](#) on an ad campaign targeting BlackRock for speaking out about the clean energy transition.

- **Leonard Leo Is Getting Rich From His Attacks on Responsible Investing.** Consumers' Research is [a client](#) of Leo's for-profit consulting firm CRC Advisors, which also [represents](#) the fossil fuel giant Chevron. The circular payment structure between Leo's nonprofit and for profit groups have been [detailed in](#) POLITICO. In total, he has brought in at least \$43 million to his consulting firm using this scheme.
- **Leonard Leo's Secret Social Club Is Using Attorneys General to Undermine Responsible Investing.** Recent [reporting from ProPublica](#) exposes Leonard Leo's new social club, Teneo Network, and its strategy for confronting "woke capitalism" by "working with (or serving as) state attorneys general, state financial officers, state legislators, journalists, media executives and best-in-class public affairs professionals' to launch investigations, hold hearings, pull state investment funds and publish op-eds and news stories in response to so-called environmental, social and governance, or ESG, policies at the corporate level."

LEARN MORE ON THE HYPOCRISY OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS

- <https://magabigoil.com/>
- [House Oversight Republicans' Oil & Gas Investments And Campaign Cash](#)
- [House Oversight Republicans' "ESG" Investments And Connections To Firms That Offer ESG-Focused Funds](#)

APPENDIX 1

Conservative Anti-ESG Pundit Stephen Moore Has Long History Of Deeply Controversial Statements And Personal Issues That Undermine His Credibility

SUMMARY: Stephen Moore is a “[Distinguished Fellow in Economics](#)” at the [influential conservative think tank](#) Heritage Foundation, previously founded two conservative nonprofits, including the prominent [anti-tax and regulation](#) group Club for Growth and the Free Enterprise Fund, which was focused on “[Social Security privatization, trade policy and the estate tax.](#)”

Moore has been highly vocal against ESG investing. In January 2023, he criticized Biden administration rules encouraging ESG investment by claiming they force companies to pursue “[social justice fads](#)” and that they encourage investment managers to “[violate their fiduciary duty to their clients.](#)”

Moore also appears to be [Chairman](#) of the [right-wing](#) Committee to Unleash Prosperity, which has taken at least [\\$600,000](#) from DonorsTrust, known as the “[dark money ATM of the right.](#)” The group has used this backing to launch an anti-ESG site called “[Pen\\$ion Politics](#),” which claims that ESG investing advances “[left-wing objectives.](#)” The group has also published an ESG report that claims “[a majority of the largest firms](#)” are violating their fiduciary duty by pursuing ESG strategies.

Moore’s credibility is severely undermined by his long history of inflammatory statements on economics, race, gender, and other matters:

- Stephen Moore—who effectively [denied climate change](#) as recently as 2018— criticized companies for “[capitulating to an environmentalist agenda](#)” adding that the “[principal danger](#)” of global warming comes from the “[draconian remedies that would stifle our productivity, prosperity and economic development.](#)”
- Moore wrote that white males were the “[new oppressed minority on college campuses](#)” and that if women “[were so oppressed and offended,](#)” they wouldn’t show up “[in droves in tight skirts to the keg parties.](#)”
- Moore also wrote that female athletes “[want equal pay for inferior work,](#)” adding it was an “[injustice](#)” female players could “[make millions of dollars a year, even though there are hundreds of men at the collegiate level \[...\] who could beat them handily.](#)”
- Moore described a bill addressing pay equality as being a “[laughably bad idea,](#)” with the real crisis being stagnated male wages—Moore even suggested women making more than men could be “[disruptive to family stability](#)” as men would become “economically expendable.”
- Moore said that Black families are replacing men with a “[welfare check](#)” and increased earnings for Black women make men “[financially expendable.](#)”
- Moore authored a parody column in which then-Senator Trent Lott begged Jesse Jackson for forgiveness and endorsed reparations for “[every American with ‘even a drop of African Blood’](#)” to be paid for with “[a 20 percent ‘white-millionaire income-tax surcharge.’](#)”
- Moore said California was “[quacky](#)” because it legalized same-sex marriage and banned gender identity discrimination, which he called “[‘equal rights’ to transvestites](#)”—Moore also called transgender bathrooms one of the “[ridiculous causes](#)” of the left.

- At the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2011, Moore complimented a young woman for getting into a [“hard school”](#) like UCLA, adding, [“you’re not even Asian!”](#)
- Stephen Moore supported [privatizing](#) Social Security, has called the crucial program a [“Ponzi scheme,”](#) and even told a classroom of students that they should march on Washington and [burn](#) their Social Security cards.

Moore also has a concerning personal history. He owed the IRS more than [\\$75,000 in unpaid taxes](#) and was held in contempt of court for failing to pay [\\$300,000](#) to his ex-wife in alimony and child support. Notably, Moore claimed that the richest Americans [“can be legally discriminated against”](#) because of their wealth and said that avoiding taxes was [“smart personal finance.”](#)

Stephen Moore Is A “Distinguished Fellow In Economics At The Heritage Foundation” And Previously Founded Two Conservative Nonprofits, Including One Focused On “Social Security Privatization, Trade Policy And The Estate Tax,” Before Joining The Wall Street Journal’s Editorial Board.

Stephen Moore Is “Distinguished Fellow In Economics At The Heritage Foundation” And A Former Editorial Board Member For The Wall Street Journal.

Stephen Moore Is A “Distinguished Fellow In Economics At The Heritage Foundation” And A Former Editorial Board Member For The Wall Street Journal. “Stephen Moore, who formerly wrote on the economy and public policy for The Wall Street Journal, is a distinguished fellow in economics at The Heritage Foundation. Moore, who also was a member of The Journal’s editorial board, returned to Heritage in January 2014—about 25 years after his tenure as the leading conservative think tank’s Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Budgetary Affairs from 1984 to 1987.” [Heritage Foundation, accessed [03/24/23](#)]

In 1999, Stephen Moore Co-Founded The Club For Growth Before Being “Ousted” From The Group In 2004 After It Failed To Properly Register As A Political Committee Despite Spending Millions During The 2000, 2002, And 2004 Election Cycle.

In 1999, Stephen Moore “Co-Founded The Club For Growth To Help Elect GOP Candidates Who Would Cut Taxes And Regulations” Before Being “Ousted” From The Organization In 2004 After A Federal Election Commission Investigation Found It Had “Failed To Register As A Political Committee And Submit Its Expenditures Properly ‘Despite Spending Millions Of Dollars On Federal Campaign Activity During The 2000, 2002, And 2004 Election Cycle.’” “In 1999, he co-founded the Club for Growth to help elect GOP candidates who would cut taxes and regulations, in several cases trying to unseat moderate Republicans. But Moore was ousted from the Club for Growth in 2004. The FEC investigated the Club for Growth’s activities while he was at the helm of the organization and said it failed to register as a political committee and submit its expenditures properly ‘despite spending millions of dollars on federal campaign activity during the 2000, 2002, and 2004 election cycle.’” [Washington Post, [03/28/19](#)]

Following His Dismissal From The Club For Growth, Moore Founded The Free Enterprise Fund—A Group Focused On “Social Security Privatization, Trade Policy And The Estate Tax” At The Time—Before Leaving To Join The Wall Street Journal's Editorial Board.

Following His Dismissal From The Club For Growth, Moore Founded The Free Enterprise Fund In 2005, “A Group That Was Reported As Being Focused On “Social Security Privatization, Trade Policy And The Estate Tax.” “The Free Enterprise Fund — a spinoff established by conservative activist Stephen Moore after he left the Club for Growth — has been around only as long as this Congress has been in session, and in that time, it has focused its energy, and its reported initial budget of about \$1 million, on some of the biggest debates now raging, including Social Security privatization, trade policy and the estate tax (or as Factor calls it, ‘the vulture tax’).” [Roll Call, [07/26/05](#)]

Moore Left The Free Enterprise Fund The Same Year It Was Founded To Join The Wall Street Journal's Editorial Board. “Shortly after his departure, Mr. Moore attempted to launch a spinoff called the Free Enterprise Fund. Later that year, he left that to join The Wall Street Journal’s editorial board, which writes the paper’s unsigned editorials. The Journal’s news organization operates independently of its opinion section.” [Wall Street Journal, [03/29/19](#)]

Stephen Moore Claimed That The Biden Administration ESG Rules Encourage Companies To Pursue “Social Justice Fads” And Prod Fund Managers To “Violate Their Fiduciary Duty.”

Moore Has Criticized Biden Administration Rules Encouraging ESG Investment By Claiming They Force Companies To Pursue “Social Justice Fads” And That They Encourage Investment Managers To “Violate Their Fiduciary Duty to Their Clients.”

January 2023: Stephen Moore Authored A *Fox Business* Opinion Piece Titled “Biden's ESG Investment Rules Threaten Your Retirement Savings,” Claiming That The Rules “Permit Money Managers To Play Politics With Trillions Of Dollars Of People's Retirement Savings.” “President Joe Biden's Labor Department recently announced a new rule that will permit money managers to play politics with trillions of dollars of people's retirement savings. The administration is pushing environmental, social and governance investing, which allows retirement fund managers to select stocks of companies based on their positions on social and environmental issues.” [Fox Business, [01/23/23](#)]

- **Headline: Stephen Moore: Biden's ESG investment rules threaten your retirement savings** [Fox Business, [01/23/23](#)]

Moore’s Piece Claimed That Through ESG, Retirement Savings Will Be Used To Force Companies To Pursue “Social Justice Fads Completely Unrelated To Securing A High Return On Workers' Lifetime Savings.” “Put simply, retirement savings will be used as leverage to force companies to reduce their carbon emissions and establish racial and gender quotas and other social justice fads completely unrelated to securing a high return on workers' lifetime savings.” [Fox Business, [01/23/23](#)]

Moore’s Piece Claimed That “Trillion-Dollar Investment And Retirement Funds Such As Blackrock Inject Their Own Biases Into The Way They Invest People's Savings Without Their Knowledge Or Consent.” “But it's an entirely different matter when trillion-dollar investment and retirement funds such as BlackRock inject their own biases into the way they invest people's savings without their knowledge or consent. It's even worse when these biases rob investors of a high rate of return on their nest eggs.” [Fox Business, [01/23/23](#)]

Moore’s Piece Claimed That The Biden Administration ESG Rules “Encourage Portfolio Managers At Firms Such As Blackrock To Violate Their Fiduciary Duty To Their Clients.” “What is insidious about the new Biden administration ESG rules is that they permit and even tacitly encourage portfolio managers at firms such as BlackRock to violate their fiduciary duty to their clients by allowing ESG factors to trump sound investment decisions.” [Fox Business, [01/23/23](#)]

Moore Appears To Be Chairman Of The Committee To Unleash Prosperity, Which Has Taken At Least \$600,000 From “Dark Money ATM Of The Right” DonorsTrust, Has Launched An Anti-ESG Site Called “Pension Politics,” And Issued An ESG Scorecard Claiming That “A Majority Of The Largest Firms” Have Violated Their Fiduciary Duties.

Recently, Stephen Moore Was Identified As The Chairman Of The Committee To Unleash Prosperity, A Right-Wing Supply Side Economics Group That Has Taken At Least \$610,000 From DonorsTrust, The “Dark Money ATM Of The Right.”

Stephen Moore Is One Of The Leaders Of The Committee To Unleash Prosperity, Listed As Its Chairman In Its Most Recently-Available Tax Return:



Steve Moore

Club 4 Growth Founder, Heritage Economist, Wall Street Journal Writer

Distinguished Visiting Fellow for the Heritage Foundation’s “Project for Economic Growth”, and the author of “Who’s the Fairest of Them All?: The Truth about Opportunity, Taxes, and Wealth in America”. Stephen Moore, who formerly wrote on the economy and public policy for The Wall Street Journal, is the Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Project for Economic Growth, at The Heritage Foundation. Moore, who also was a member of The Journal’s editorial board, returned to Heritage in January 2014—about 25 years after his tenure as the leading conservative think tank’s Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Budgetary Affairs from 1984 to 1987. He was a senior economist under Dick Arme’s Joint Economic Committee, and he played a large role in the creation of the FairTax proposal.

[READ MORE](#)

[Committee to Unleash Prosperity, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

- **Stephen Moore Was Listed At The Committee To Unleash Prosperity’s Chairman In Its Most Recently-Available Tax Return:**

(1) STEPHEN MOORE

 CHAIRMAN

[Committee to Unleash Prosperity IRS Form 990, 2019, [06/23/20](#)]

The Committee To Unleash Prosperity Was Founded By Steven Forbes, Larry Kudlow, Arthur Laffer, And Stephen Moore In 2015 To Promote Right-Wing, Supply Side Economics. “Economists Steve Forbes, Larry Kudlow, Dr. Arthur B. Laffer, and Steve Moore have launched the Committee to Unleash Prosperity. This group aims to end America’s growth slump and restore faith in the American Dream. [...] The Committee to Unleash Prosperity is working to change this. In pursuit of rapid growth, the Committee promotes the following six economic principles: 1) A broad-based, low rate, flat tax 2) Limited government spending 3) Decreased regulation 4) Sound money 5) Free trade 6) Rule of constitutional law” [Cision, [07/29/15](#)]

Since 2015, The Committee To Unleash Prosperity Has Taken At Least \$610,000 From DonorsTrust, Known As The “Dark Money ATM Of The Right” Which Has Also Been Tied To Leonard Leo’s Network:

Year	Donor	Amount
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2019	DonorsTrust	\$10,000
2018	DonorsTrust	\$250,000
2017	DonorsTrust	\$50,000
2016	DonorsTrust	\$100,000
2015	DonorsTrust	\$200,000
	Total:	\$610,000

- **DonorsTrust Is An Influential Right-Wing Donor Group Non-Profit Dubbed The "Dark Money ATM Of The Right."** "They all have one thing in common: They received anonymous funding funneled through a single conservative dark money behemoth. That's the news in the latest IRS filing from Donors Trust—a conservative, Koch-aligned nonprofit which does not need to reveal the names of its donors and has been called the 'dark money ATM of the right.'" [The Daily Beast, [11/22/21](#)]
- **DonorsTrust Acts As "A Go-Between" For Wealthy Donors To Anonymously Give Donations To Largely "Right-Leaning, Libertarian, And Free-Market Advocates."** "The Donors Trust primarily funds right-leaning, libertarian, and free-market advocates. It describes itself as 'a charitable savings account'—a go-between that allows wealthy donors to deposit money in lump sums, where it gets invested at tax-free growth. They can later direct contributions at any time while remaining anonymous." [The Daily Beast, [11/22/21](#)]
- **In 2021, Leonard Leo's 85 Fund Received A \$17.1 Million Gift Through DonorsTrust.** "One of the biggest conservative dark money organizations in the nation was boosted last year by two separate anonymous gifts, each totaling more than \$425 million dollars. The money sent to DonorsTrust, a 501(c)(3) charity that has become one of the most influential conduit of funds in Republican-leaning circles, was a huge chunk of the more than \$1 billion the group brought in in 2021, according to a tax filing obtained first by POLITICO. They are among the largest ever donations to a politically-connected group. DonorsTrust used those funds to support a vast network of prominent conservative causes, including a \$17.1 million gift it made to The 85 Fund, a group founded by a major engine of the conservative movement: Leonard Leo." [Politico, [11/16/22](#)]

Moore's Committee To Unleash Prosperity Group Has Launched A Site Called "Pension Politics," Which Claims ESG Is A "Political Agenda" That Channels Retirement Funds To "Advance Left-Wing Objectives"—The Group Has Also Published An ESG Scorecard Claiming That "A Majority Of The Largest Firms" Are Violating Their Fiduciary Duty.

The Committee To Unleash Prosperity Runs A Website Called "Pension Politics," Which Claims That ESG Is A "Political Agenda" That Is "Being Used To Hijack Shareholder Voting":



[...]

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[Pension Politics, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

- Pension Politics Claims That ESG Is “A Political Agenda,” That It’s “Being Used To Hijack Shareholder Voting,” And That “Investing With ESG Depresses Returns”:



[Pension Politics, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Pension Politics Claims That Through ESG, Pension Fund Money Is Being “Channeled Into Plans That Don’t Maximize Returns, But Instead Advance Left-Wing Objectives Related To ESG And Other Issues.” “The ESG agenda has been thrust into the spotlight by the Biden administration’s insistence that retirement fund managers be permitted to pursue a politicized investment agenda. President Biden wants to enable hundreds of billions of pension fund dollars, which have been earned by millions of Americans, to be channeled into plans that don’t maximize returns, but instead advance left-wing objectives related to ESG and other issues.” [Pension Politics, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Pension Politics Has Published What It Claims Is “The 1st Annual Report Card On Investment Fund Managers & Proxy Voting Behavior”:



[Pension Politics, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

March 2023: Stephen Moore Co-Authored A *New York Post* Opinion Piece Critical Of ESG And Promoting The Committee To Unleash Prosperity’s Scorecard Report, Claiming That “A Majority Of The Largest Firms Are Routinely Violating [Their] Fiduciary Duty And Letting Political Biases Interfere With Sound Business Practices.” “But our new Committee to Unleash Prosperity study ‘Putting Politics Over Pensions’ finds that a majority of the largest firms are routinely violating that fiduciary duty and letting political biases interfere with sound business practices. Through a process known as ‘proxy voting,’ money-management firms like State Street vote on shareholder resolutions of the companies their clients own.” [New York Post, [03/16/23](#)]

- **Headline: Hey, Wall Street: Stop putting politics over my retirement savings** [New York Post, [03/16/23](#)]

Moore's Piece Claimed, "Without The Support Or Even The Knowledge Of Their Clients, Big Money Managers Routinely Support Resolutions Brought By Leftist Social Activists." "Without the support or even the knowledge of their clients, big money managers routinely support resolutions brought by leftist social activists. These 'ESG' resolutions — 'environment, social justice and governance' — require firms to divest oil and gas stocks, ban plastics, impose 'diversity' quotas in hiring, move unilaterally to zero-carbon-emission policies and so on." [New York Post, [03/16/23](#)]

Stephen Moore Supports Privatizing Social Security, Has Called The Crucial Program A "Ponzi Scheme," And Even Told A Classroom Of Students That They Should March On Washington And Burn Their Social Security Cards.

In 2018, Stephen Moore Told A Group Of Students That He Wanted To See "Hundreds Of Thousands Of People Your Age Going To The Capitol And Yelling 'Hey, Hey, We Won't Pay,' And Burning Your Social Security Cards."

In July 2018, Stephen Moore Told A Group Of Students, "What I Want To See From Your Generation Is Hundreds Of Thousands Of People Your Age Going To The Capitol And Yelling 'Hey, Hey, We Won't Pay,' And Burning Your Social Security Cards." During a seminar for the Young America's Foundation, Stephen Moore said, "[w]hat I want to see from your generation is hundreds of thousands of people your age going to the Capitol and yelling 'hey, hey, we won't pay,' and burning your Social Security cards. You know? Can you guys have that movement?" [[Stephen Moore](#)," Young America's Foundation via YouTube, 07/22/18 (59:05)]

- Moore was speaking at the Young America's Foundation's "Road to Freedom Seminar: Why the Left Hates Trump's Economy," held July 20-21, 2018 at the Foundation's headquarters in Reston, VA. [["Road to Freedom Seminar: Why the Left Hates Trump's Economy"](#)," Young America's Foundation, accessed 03/29/19]

Moore Also Told The Students That "Social Security Is Probably The Worst Investment You're Ever Going To Make In Your Life" And Advocated Privatizing The Program.

In July 2018, Stephen Moore Told A Classroom Of Students, "Social Security Is Probably The Worst Investment You're Ever Going To Make In Your Life." "Social Security is probably the worst investment you're ever going to make in your life. Right? The joke is on your generation. [...] If you think that you're going to get Social Security when you retire, you know, I think you're living in a fantasy land." [[Stephen Moore](#)," Young America's Foundation via YouTube, 07/22/18 (56:54)]

Stephen Moore Advocated for Creating "Personal 401k Plans" That Would Depend On The Stock Market, Claiming That They Would Provide A "Higher Benefit" Than Social Security. "Now what I want to do, and this is not a new idea but I think it's more important now than ever, is basically say to every American under the age of 30 – you, instead of having to take 12% of your paycheck each paycheck and send it off to Washington, you put that money into a forced savings account under your own name. It's called like a personal IRA, a personal 401K plan, and you get to accumulate that money over time. And you know, you basically can't spend it, by the way, you can't tap into that money until you reach the age of 65. But if you have that kind of system and we get an average return on the stock market, that means that every single one of you in this room is going to have at least a million dollars in that account by the time you retire. And by the way, that means that

you can actually take out the money and you have a higher benefit than you would get [sic] Social Security.” [[“Stephen Moore,”](#) Young America’s Foundation via YouTube, 07/22/18 (57:19)]

- Moore was speaking at the Young America’s Foundation’s “Road to Freedom Seminar: Why the Left Hates Trump’s Economy,” held July 20-21, 2018 at the Foundation’s headquarters in Reston, VA. [[“Road to Freedom Seminar: Why the Left Hates Trump’s Economy,”](#) Young America’s Foundation, accessed 03/29/19]

Stephen Moore Said That Social Security “Essentially Was A Ponzi Scheme.”

In 1995, Stephen Moore Claimed That Social Security “Essentially Was A Ponzi Scheme,” Americans Are Paying For Today. In a 1995 C-SPAN interview, Stephen Moore said, “The New Deal did all of those things. It launched the modern era of big government in America and I think the real legacy of the New Deal is being felt today with the huge amounts of debt that we see in the United States, the imminent collapse of Social Security. Social Security was probably the centerpiece of the New Deal legislation, and in fact, now we’re seeing that system on the verge of collapse. It essentially was a Ponzi scheme that now we’re paying the price for.” [[“Stephen Moore - Social Security is a Ponzi Scheme,”](#) C-SPAN, 04/12/95]

Stephen Moore Said The Government Had “Gone Too Far In Providing The Safety Net For The Elderly,” Which He Claimed Included “Lavish Government Benefits For People Over 65.”

During A 1992 CNN Appearance, Stephen Moore Said, “We’ve Probably Gone Too Far In Providing The Safety Net For The Elderly” And “Lavish Government Benefits For People Over 65.” During A 1992 CNN Appearance, Stephen Moore Said, “Well, we’ve probably gone too far in providing the safety net for the elderly. To a large extent, we’ve started a system in this country where we are taxing struggling middle class families that are young to provide lavish government benefits for people over 65.” [[“Moneyline with Lou Dobbs,”](#) CNN, 01/30/92]

Stephen Moore Called Social Security “The Belly Of The Beast.”

Stephen Moore Has Referred To Social Security As The “Belly Of The Beast,” With Its Repeal Allowing “The Rest Of The Empire” To Crumble. “Moore fantasizes about the day that Generation-Xers show up to the Capitol to burn their Social Security cards, much like their parents burned their draft cards. ‘Social Security is the belly of the beast,’ Moore says. “Ask any liberal to name a program that works and they’ll immediately point to Social Security. It’s a symbol that the New Deal works. If we can bring down that empire, the rest of the empire will crumble soon after.” [Nina J. Easton, “Making America Work; Red White And Small; Ed Crane’s Cato Institute Is A Think Tank That Believes The Country Would Work Better If There Was Less Government,” *Los Angeles Times*, 07/09/95]

Social Security Provides A Stable Source Of Income For Retirees—And Privatization Would Subject Everyone’s Retirements To Market Fluctuations.

“Traditional Social Security Provides A Guaranteed Income,” And Provides More Than Half The Income For Over 60% Of Those Who Receive It. “In contrast to private retirement funds, traditional Social Security provides a guaranteed income, paying benefits every month for life — with increases for inflation. After adjusting for risk, Social Security has a rate of return equal to that of any mix of financial assets in private accounts. With more than 60 percent of beneficiaries relying on Social Security for at least half their income, it makes no sense to gamble Americans’ future Social Security benefits on the roiling forces of the market.” [Max Richtman, [“Privatization is really a plan to dismantle Social Security,”](#) CNBC, 03/26/18]

Privatized Social Security “Would Encourage Workers To Gamble” Their Contributions On Private Investments And “Risk Losing Some Or All Of It, Leaving Little Or Nothing For Retirement.” “Instead of providing a secure, defined benefit as Social Security now does, privatizers would encourage workers to gamble a growing percentage of their payroll contributions on private investments. As the proportion of private investment increased, the amount of a worker’s defined Social Security benefit would decrease — until it reached what could only be considered a poverty-level amount. Of course, the worker would reap any gains in the privately invested funds, but would also risk losing some or all of it, leaving little or nothing for retirement.” [Max Richtman, “[Privatization is really a plan to dismantle Social Security](#),” *CNBC*, 03/26/18]

Four In Ten (Around 15 Million) Elderly Americans Would Be Living Below The Poverty Line Without Social Security.

Four In Ten, Or An Estimated 15 Million, Elderly Americans Would Be Living Below The Poverty Line Without Social Security. “Without Social Security benefits, about 4 in 10 Americans aged 65 and older would have incomes below the poverty line, all else being equal, according to official estimates based on the 2017 Current Population Survey. Social Security benefits lift more than 15 million elderly Americans out of poverty, these estimates show.” [“[Policy Basics: Top Ten Facts about Social Security](#),” Center On Budget and Policy Priorities, 08/14/18]

One In Five Elderly Americans Rely On Social Security To Provide 90% Of Their Income.

A Majority Of Elderly Americans Rely On Social Security For Half Of Their Income And, For One In Five Elderly Americans, Social Security Makes Up Ninety Percent Of Their Income. “Social Security provides the majority of income to most elderly Americans. For about half of seniors, it provides at least 50 percent of their income, and for about 1 in 5 seniors, it provides at least 90 percent of income.” [“[Policy Basics: Top Ten Facts about Social Security](#),” Center On Budget and Policy Priorities, 08/14/18]

In 2000, Stephen Moore Wrote That White Males Were The “New Oppressed Minority On College Campuses” And That If Women “Were So Oppressed And Offended,” They Wouldn’t Show Up “In Doves In Tight Skirts To The Keg Parties.”

In A 2000 Column, Stephen Moore Wrote That White Males Were The “New Oppressed Minority On College Campuses” Because Of “Radical Feminism”...

In September 2000, Stephen Moore Criticized “Radical Feminism” For Helping Make White Males “The New Oppressed Minority On College Campuses.” “There is a new oppressed minority on college campuses these days, and it is not women, blacks, Latinos or gays. In fact in this era of ultra-political correctness at universities, these other groups enjoy such an exalted status of privilege that even the most unintended slur can lead a student to instant expulsion. No, the group that has fallen into great disfavor is the white male. You see, your son is an oppressor and is being forced to pay for the sins of his father and grandfathers. It is a well-established fact that radical feminism has taken over the culture, especially at the elite East Coast universities.” [New York Times, [04/23/19](#)]

...Reminisced About The “Bygone Era” When College Students Did “Stupid Things” And “Chase[d] Skirts”...

Moore Reminisced About A “Bygone Era” When College Students Did “Stupid Things” And “Chase[d] Skirts.” “They also seem hell bent on draining all the fun out of college life. Colleges are places for rabble-

rousing. For men to lose their boyhood innocence. To do stupid things. To stay out way too late drinking. To chase skirts. (At the University of Illinois, we used to say that the best thing about Sunday nights was sleeping alone.) It's all a time-tested rite of passage into adulthood." [New York Times, [04/23/19](#)]

...And Suggested That If Women “Were So Oppressed And Offended,” They Wouldn’t Show Up “In Doves In Tight Skirts To The Keg Parties.”

Stephen Moore wrote, “The Women Seemed To Survive Just Fine. If They Were So Oppressed And Offended By Drunken, Lustful Frat Boys, Why Is It That On Friday Nights They Showed Up In Doves In Tight Skirts To The Keg Parties?” “And the women seemed to survive just fine. If they were so oppressed and offended by drunken, lustful frat boys, why is it that on Friday nights they showed up in doves in tight skirts to the keg parties?” [New York Times, [04/23/19](#)]

Stephen Moore Described A Bill Addressing Pay Equality As Being A “Laughably Bad Idea,” With The Real Crisis Being Stagnated Male Wages— Moore Even Suggested Women Making More Than Men Could Be “Disruptive To Family Stability” As Men Would Become “Economically Expendable.”

Stephen Moore Considered Senator Barbara Mikulski’s (D-MD) Equal Pay Act A “Laughably Bad Idea” And That Gender-Based Discrimination Is Not That Common, With “Most Cases” Just Being “Sub-Par Employees.”

In A 2014 National Review Piece, Stephen Moore Called The Equal Pay Act A “Laughably Bad Idea.” “The Equal Pay Act, sponsored by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D., Md.), is a laughably bad idea — almost a parody of liberal interventionism in the market.” [The National Review, [04/10/14](#)]

Stephen Moore attributed “Most Cases” Of Alleged Gender-Based Discrimination In The Workplace To “Sub-Par Employees.” “It bestows on disgruntled employees yet more grounds on which to sue their employers for alleged discrimination — when, in most cases, the malcontents are just sub-par employees.” [The National Review, [04/10/14](#)]

Stephen Moore Added That “The Crisis In America Today Isn’t About Women’s Wages; It’s About Men’s Wages,” While Suggesting It Could Be “Disruptive To Family Stability” For Women To Earn More Than Men.

Stephen Moore wrote, “The Crisis In America Today Isn’t About Women’s Wages; It’s About Men’s Wages,” And Complained That Men’s Wages “Are Not Moving Much At All.” “But that’s not even the major flaw of this latest Democratic measure against gender discrimination. The crisis in America today isn’t about women’s wages; it’s about men’s wages. Men are still the chief breadwinners in most families, and their wages are not moving much at all. If we look at Census Bureau data, we find that while men’s wages have risen by about 6 percent in real terms since 1980, women’s wages have risen by about 60 percent. Any gap in pay — real or imagined — is rapidly shrinking.” [The National Review, [04/10/14](#)]

Stephen Moore went on to suggest it could be “Disruptive To Family Stability” For Women To Earn More Than Men As Men Would Be Regarded As “Economically Expendable,” Pointing To The “Family Structure In Low-Income And Black Households When A Welfare Check Took The Place Of A Father’s Paycheck.” “What are the implications of a society in which women earn more than men? We don’t really know, but it could be disruptive to family stability. If men aren’t the breadwinners, will women regard them as economically expendable? We saw what happened to family structure in low-income and black households

when a welfare check took the place of a father's paycheck. Divorce rates go up when men lose their jobs." [The National Review, [04/10/14](#)]

In 1994, Stephen Moore Criticized The Violence Against Women Act As "Pass[ing] Out Millions Of Dollars To Women's Groups For 'Rape Education' And A Smorgasbord Of Other Programs."

In 1994, Stephen Moore Criticized The Violence Against Women Act As "Pass[ing] Out Millions Of Dollars To Women's Groups For 'Rape Education' And A Smorgasbord Of Other Programs" Adding That It Would Be More Efficient If Congress "Simply Required Every American Household To Write A \$20 Check To The Radical Feminist Group Of Its Choice."

In An August 1994 Washington Times Column, Stephen Moore Criticized The Violence Against Women Act As "Pass[ing] Out Millions Of Dollars To Women's Groups For 'Rape Education' And A Smorgasbord Of Other Programs." "Aug. 1, 1994 column for the Washington Times [...] 'Probably the most objectionable pork in the entire legislation is the \$1.8 billion earmarked for Sen. Joe Biden's 'Violence Against Women Act.' That act sets up gender sensitivity programs for judges and police; classifies assaults against women as 'hate crimes' or civil rights offenses, and passes out millions of dollars to women's groups for 'rape education' and a smorgasbord of other programs." [Wall Street Journal, [05/02/19](#)]

Moore Added The Legislation "Would Be More Efficient If Congress Cut Out The Federal Middleman And Simply Required Every American Household To Write A \$20 Check To The Radical Feminist Group Of Its Choice." "The act would be more efficient if Congress cut out the federal middleman and simply required every American household to write a \$20 check to the radical feminist group of its choice." [Wall Street Journal, [05/02/19](#)]

Stephen Moore Authored A Parody Column In Which Then-Senator Trent Lott Begged Jesse Jackson For Forgiveness And Endorsed Reparations For "Every American With 'Even A Drop Of African Blood'" To Be Paid For With "A 20 Percent 'White-Millionaire Income-Tax Surcharge.'"

In 2002, Stephen Moore Wrote A Parody Column Mocking Then-Senator Trent Lott For Appearing On Black Entertainment Television After Remarking That The Country "Wouldn't Have Had All These Problems Over All These Years" If Segregationist Strom Thurmond Had Won The Presidency In 1948.

In December 2002, Stephen Moore Wrote A Parody Column After Then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott Appeared On Black Entertainment Television After Remarking That The Country "Wouldn't Have Had All These Problems Over All These Years" If Segregationist Strom Thurmond Had Won The Presidency In 1948. "Republicans have been handed a chance to recast their party for the 21st century -- or not. Their choice is stark: stick with Mississippi's Trent Lott, a damaged Senate Republican leader steeped in the attitudes of the Old South, or find a new face who symbolizes a modern, sophisticated party with a welcome mat out for all. The clamor for Lott to step aside has continued to mount since his Dec. 5 remarks that the country 'wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years' if Strom Thurmond had won the presidency in 1948. The retiring South Carolina senator ran on a segregationist ticket that year." [Jill Lawrence, "Lott furor puts GOP at critical juncture," *USA Today*, 12/19/02]

- “‘Stop the madness,’ Stephen Hayes of the Weekly Standard wrote after Lott's appearance Monday night on Black Entertainment Television. Stephen Moore, head of a Republican [*sic*] anti-tax group called Club for Growth, published a parody on the National Review Web site; in it, Lott begged Jesse Jackson for forgiveness and proposed reparations for ‘the sin of slavery,’ financed by ‘a 20% white-millionaire income-tax surcharge.’” [Jill Lawrence, "Lott furor puts GOP at critical juncture," *USA Today*, 12/19/02]

In His Column “Lott Begg Jesse Jackson For Forgiveness,” Moore Imagined Lott Endorsing Reparations For “Every American With ‘Even A Drop Of African Blood’” To Be Paid For With “A 20 Percent ‘White-Millionaire Income-Tax Surcharge.’”

In The Column Headlined “Lott Begg Jesse Jackson for Forgiveness,” Stephen Moore Imagined Trent Lott Appearing On Jesse Jackson’s Television Show To Endorse Reparations For “Every American With ‘Even A Drop Of African Blood’” To Be Paid For With “A 20 Percent ‘White-Millionaire Income-Tax Surcharge.’” “Today, Trent Lott continued his quest to politically rehabilitate himself by appearing on Jesse Jackson's CNN television show and endorsing ‘reparations for all African Americans to pay for the sins of slavery.’ Lott, who is hoping to hold onto his perch of power as Republican Senate Majority Leader, suggested that every American with ‘even a drop of African blood’ should be paid \$10,000 from the federal government to start the healing process. When Jackson asked how this \$250 billion program should be paid for, he said that he endorsed a 20 percent ‘white-millionaire income-tax surcharge.’ Jackson immediately endorsed the idea and said that this would be a good first step toward Lott's political recovery. Two days ago on Black Entertainment TV, Lott endorsed affirmative-action policies to help minorities, but in this interview, Lott went much further in trying to demonstrate his sensitivity to blacks.” [Stephen Moore, "[Lott Begg Jesse Jackson for Forgiveness](#)," *National Review Online via Archive.org*, 12/18/02]

Moore’s Parody Of Lott Also Suggested “That Ebonics Should Be Required Curriculum In The Public Schools ‘To Promote Cultural And Language Understanding.’”

In Moore’s Parody, Lott Suggested “That Ebonics Should Be Required Curriculum In The Public Schools ‘To Promote Cultural And Language Understanding’” And Said He Would Require Augusta National Country Club To “To Turn All Of Its White Male Memberships For The Next 25 Years Over To African-American Women.” “In their far-ranging and often emotional discussion, Lott also suggested that the death penalty should be abolished and that Ebonics should be required curriculum in the public schools ‘to promote cultural and language understanding.’ [...] Lott also said that he would introduce legislation to require Augusta National Country Club, the site of the Masters Golf Tournament, to turn all of its white male memberships for the next 25 years over to African-American women, the group in America that is ‘by far the most discriminated against.’” [Stephen Moore, "[Lott Begg Jesse Jackson for Forgiveness](#)," *National Review Online via Archive.org*, 12/18/02]

At The Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) In 2011, Stephen Moore Complimented A Young Woman For Getting Into A “Hard School” Like UCLA, Adding, “You’re Not Even Asian!”

During The 2011 CPAC Conference, Stephen Moore Kissed The Check Of A Female Media Matters Employee And Said She “Must Be Smart” For Getting Into A “Hard School,” Adding, “You’re Not Even Asian.”

During The 2011 Annual CPAC Conference, Stephen Moore Kissed The Cheek Of A Media Matters Employee And Complimented Her On Attending UCLA Despite Not Being Asian. During the 2011 Annual CPAC Conference, kissed the cheek of a female Media Matters employee and asked her where she attended college. After she answered with "UCLA", Stephen Moore stated, "You must be smart. It's a hard school to get into. [...] You're not even Asian." [[CPAC Gone Wild: Steve Moore Kisses Media Matters](#)," Media Matters via YouTube, 02/16/11 (0:16)]

Stephen Moore Claimed That Donald Trump Has "A Pretty Impressive Civil Rights Record" After Trump Defended White Supremacists Following Their 2017 Rally In Charlottesville, VA.

Stephen Moore Brushed Off Criticism Of Donald Trump After He Appeared To Defend White Supremacists Following Their 2017 Rally In Charlottesville, VA, Writing That Trump Has "A Pretty Impressive Civil Rights Record" Because He "Is Creating More Jobs And Higher Incomes For Blacks And Other Minorities."

Stephen Moore Admitted That Trump Should Have "Shown Better Judgment" In His Response To The 2017 White Supremacist Rally In Charlottesville, Virginia, But Believes "You Have To Pay Attention To What He Does, Not What He Says." "One lesson I've learned from working for Donald Trump is that you have to pay attention to what he does, not what he says. The left and the media are on a rampage accusing Trump of being a racist and Nazi and Ku Klux Klan sympathizer because of his words in response to the horrid events in Charlottesville, Va. Let's all accept two truths: First, that every sane person denounces the violence and racial hatred displayed in Charlottesville by far-right, fringe white supremacists. And second, that Trump should have shown better judgment in his seeming defense of these crazed groups carrying around torches and Confederate flags as if celebrating a darker period in our history." [Stephen Moore, "[Trump's real record on race may surprise you \[Opinion\]](#)," *The Chicago Tribune*, 08/21/17]

Moore Claimed That Trump Has "A Pretty Impressive Civil Rights Record" Because He "Is Creating More Jobs And Higher Incomes For Blacks And Other Minorities." "So is Trump a racist who doesn't care about the future of black Americans? Let's face it. He's no Jack Kemp when it comes to talking about race and healing wounds with his words. But Trump is creating more jobs and higher incomes for blacks and other minorities and is trying to give a better education to every disadvantaged black child in America. That is a pretty impressive civil rights record." [Stephen Moore, "[Trump's real record on race may surprise you \[Opinion\]](#)," *The Chicago Tribune*, 08/21/17]

Stephen Moore Said That Black Families Are Replacing Men With A "Welfare Check" And Increased Earnings For Black Women Make Men "Financially Expendable."

Stephen Moore Believes That Black Families Have Replaced A Father's Paycheck With A "Welfare Check," And That Black Women Are On A Trend To Outpace Black Men In Earnings, Which Increases "Divorce Rates" And Renders Men "Financially Expendable."

Stephen Moore Claimed That "Low-Income And Black Households" Replaced A "Father's Paycheck" With A "Welfare Check" Which Increased "Divorce Rates" And Now "Black Women Have Been On A "30-Year Trend" To Outpace Black Men In "Earnings," Making Men "Financially Expendable. "What are the implications of a society in which women earn more than men? We don't really know, but it could be disruptive to family stability. If men aren't the breadwinners, will women regard them as economically expendable? We saw what happened to family structure in low-income and black households when a welfare

check took the place of a father's paycheck. Divorce rates go up when men lose their jobs. The problem here is especially acute with respect to black families. Black women have been on a 30-year trend of outpacing black men in terms of education and thus earnings. Men are becoming financially expendable." [Stephen Moore, "[The Real Pay Gap](#)," *The National Review*, 04/10/14]

Stephen Moore Has Owed The IRS More Than \$75,000 In Unpaid Taxes And Was Held In Contempt Of Court For Failing To Pay \$300,000 To His Ex-Wife In Alimony And Child Support.

Stephen Moore Has Owed More Than \$75,000 In Unpaid Taxes.

In January 2019, The IRS Filed A Federal Tax Lien Against Stephen Moore For "An Unpaid Balance Of \$75,328.80 For Taxable Year 2014." "The IRS entered a federal tax lien on Jan. 29, 2018, for an unpaid balance of \$75,328.80 for taxable year 2014, according to court records in Montgomery County, Md., where Moore has a home." [Katy O'Donnell, "[Trump's Fed pick owes more than \\$75,000 in taxes, IRS says](#)," *Politico*, 03/27/19]

In 2012, Moore Was Found In Contempt Of Court For Failing To Pay \$300,000 In Alimony And Child Support Owed To His Ex-Wife.

In November 2012, Moore Was Found In Contempt Of Court After Being "Reprimanded" By A Judge For Failing To Pay \$300,000 In Alimony And Child Support Owed To His Ex-Wife. Moore "was found in contempt of court after failing to pay his ex-wife hundreds of thousands of dollars in alimony, child support and other debts. Court records in Virginia obtained by the Guardian show Moore, 59, was reprimanded by a judge in November 2012 for failing to pay Allison Moore more than \$300,000 in spousal support, child support and money owed under their divorce settlement." [Jon Swaine and David Smith, "[Trump Fed pick was held in contempt for failing to pay ex-wife over \\$300,000](#)," *The Guardian*, 03/30/19]

By 2013, Moore Has Still Failed To Pay And Was Ordered To Sell His House To Compensate His Ex-Wife (But The Order Was Halted After Moore Paid Two-Thirds Of What He Owed).

In 2013, Moore Was Still Failing To Pay And A Judge Ordered For His House To Be Sold In Order To Compensate His Ex-Wife, Though The Process Was Halted Once He Had Paid Around Two-Thirds Of What He Owed. "Moore continued failing to pay, according to the court filings, prompting the judge to order the sale of his house to satisfy the debt in 2013. But this process was halted by his ex-wife after Moore paid her about two-thirds of what he owed, the filings say." [Jon Swaine and David Smith, "[Trump Fed pick was held in contempt for failing to pay ex-wife over \\$300,000](#)," *The Guardian*, 03/30/19]

Moore—Who Effectively Denied Climate Change As Recently As 2018—Criticized Companies For "Capitulating To An Environmentalist Agenda" Adding That The "Principal Danger" Of Global Warming Comes From The "Draconian Remedies That Would Stifle Our Productivity, Prosperity And Economic Development."

2018: Stephen Moore Refused To Say Whether "There is Climate Change Or Not," But Said There Are "Hundreds" Of Legitimate Scientists Who Disagree With The Theory.

In 2018, Stephen Moore Declined To Say Whether Or Not Climate Change Is Real And Said He Could Name Hundreds Of Scientists Who Dispute The Devastating Economic Consequences Of Climate Change. “*Stephen Moore*: I’m not saying that there is climate change or not [...] *Robert Reich*: I haven’t been able to find a legitimate scientist who says that climate change is not going to pose a huge economic cost. *Stephen Moore*: I’ll give you hundreds of them, Bob, after the show.” [[“The 15 most ridiculous things media said about climate change in 2018,”](#) Media Matters for America, 12/29/18 (05:15)]

Stephen Moore Said There Is A “Climate Change Industrial Complex.”

In 2018, Stephen Moore Claimed There Is A “Climate Change Industrial Complex.” In response to being asked why Donald Trump ignores the advice of his own administration officials regarding the harmful effects of climate change, Stephen Moore claims, “These aren’t his advisors who are putting out this report [...] We have created a climate change industrial complex in this country with billions and billions and billions of dollars at stake, a lot of people are getting really, really, really rich off the climate change issue.” [[“The 15 most ridiculous things media said about climate change in 2018,”](#) Media Matters for America, 12/29/18 (04:56)]

Stephen Moore Criticized Companies For “Capitulating To An Environmentalist Agenda” In Regard To Global Warming...

Stephen Moore Criticized Fortune 500 CEOs For “Capitulating To An Environmentalist Agenda” In Regard To Global Warming. “Call it the suicidal corporate impulse. Or call it feeding the mouth that bites you. Business leaders across the nation are capitulating to an environmentalist agenda that could severely cripple the U.S. economy and cost hundreds of thousands of jobs -- to say nothing of denting corporate profits. I am referring to the issue of global warming. In recent months dozens of major Fortune 500 companies have waved the white flag of surrender to radical environmental groups by signing on to the anti-growth agenda on global climate policy. Like prisoners who come to admire their captors, many leaders of corporate America have agreed to lobby beside the very interest groups in Washington that would put them out of business.” [Stephen Moore, “CEOs Melt Under Warming Myth, Robbing Nation Of Future Growth,” *Investor’s Business Daily*, 10/11/04]

...Adding That The “Principal Danger” Of Global Warming Comes From The “Draconian Remedies That Would Stifle Our Productivity, Prosperity And Economic Development.”

Stephen Moore Went On To Write That The “Principal Danger” Of Global Is “Not A Warmer Planet” But The “Draconian Remedies That Would Stifle Our Productivity, Prosperity And Economic Development.” “Global warming really does pose a clear and present danger to America. The principal danger, though, is not a warmer planet, which many in the north would view as a good thing, but rather the draconian remedies that would stifle our productivity, prosperity and economic development. CEOs who would bring us closer to that future are bad corporate citizens. They are robber barons of growth. They should be held accountable for the dangers that their political cowardice imposes on workers and shareholders.” [Stephen Moore, “CEOs Melt Under Warming Myth, Robbing Nation Of Future Growth,” *Investor’s Business Daily*, 10/11/04]

Stephen Moore Said California Was “Quacky” Because It Legalized Same-Sex Marriage And Banned Gender Identity Discrimination, Which He Called “Equal Rights’ To Transvestites”—Moore Also Called Transgender Bathrooms One Of The “Ridiculous Causes” Of The Left.

Stephen Moore Said California Was “Quacky” Because Of “Same-Sex Marriage Ceremonies” And Banning Employment Discrimination Based On Gender Identity—Which He Offensively Summarized As “Equal Rights’ To Transvestites.”

In April 2004, Stephen Moore wrote that California was “A Little Quacky” because of “Same-Sex Marriage Ceremonies That Are All The Rage In San Francisco” and a legislative “Measure To Give ‘Equal Rights’ To Transvestites.” “Now California has always been considered by Americans in middle America to be a little quacky. In many ways, it has pursued policies that would lead one to believe this is the most left-leaning of states. And that reputation has certainly been enhanced in the past few weeks with the same-sex marriage ceremonies that are all the rage in San Francisco. This is a state where the legislature recently approved a measure to give ‘equal rights’ to transvestites.” [Stephen Moore, “Give voters a choice on new taxation,” *The Washington Times*, 04/13/04]

- **Assembly Bill 196, Effective January 1, 2004, Amended The States FEHA To Include “Gender” Under Sex Discrimination With Gender Also Being Defined As One’s “Gender Identity.”** “Under Assembly Bill 196, which is effective January 1, 2004, the prohibition against sex discrimination under the FEHA will now include ‘gender.’ [...] Under AB 196, employers will be permitted to require employees to comply with reasonable workplace appearance, grooming, and dress standards consistent with state and federal law. However, employees must be allowed to appear or dress consistently with their ‘gender identity,’ which appears to include cross-dressing.” [[“California’s New Employment Laws: Part Two,”](#) Jackson Lewis, 11/12/03]

Stephen Moore Said “Transgender Bathrooms” Were One Of The “Ridiculous Causes” Of The Radical Left.

Stephen Moore said “Transgender Bathrooms” were one of the “Ridiculous Causes” of the “Radicalization Of The Left.” “Here’s my point. The Trump movement — not necessarily even Trump himself — is a welcome and so needed rallying cry against the radicalization of the left and their ridiculous causes — whether it’s transgender bathrooms, climate change fanaticism, 80 percent tax rates on anyone who is successful, free college tuition for illegal immigrants, or whatever the latest liberal grievance is.” [Stephen Moore, [“This Is a War We’re in, Damn It,”](#) *The American Spectator*, 05/16/16]

Stephen Moore Claimed That The Richest Americans “Can Be Legally Discriminated Against” Because Of Their Wealth And Said Avoiding Taxes Was “Smart Personal Finance.”

Stephen Moore Believes That The Wealthiest Americans Are “The Only Group In America That Can Be Legally Discriminated Against”...

In August 2009, Stephen Moore wrote a column criticizing “Class Envy” and claimed that “The Only Group In America That Can Be Legally Discriminated Against Are The Wealthiest And Most Productive Americans.” “It is a depressing peculiarity of this age of political correctness that the only group in America that can be legally discriminated against are the wealthiest and most productive Americans. [...] Republicans should - no, they must - launch a vigorous counterassault against this greed and envy philosophy. [Stephen Moore, “Fighting the envy lobby,” *The Washington Times*, 08/06/99]

- “Class envy is not just wrongheaded, but dangerously subversive to the uniquely American idea that success and reward in this country are interlinked. Most Americans become rich because of their talent, thrift and motivation to excel.” [Stephen Moore, “Fighting the envy lobby,” *The Washington Times*, 08/06/99]

...And That “Legal Tax Avoidance” Is “Smart Personal Finance.”

In February 2001, Stephen Moore wrote that he has “No Objection To Americans Engaging In Legal Tax Avoidance” Because “It’s Smart Personal Finance.” “Now I personally have no objection to Americans engaging in legal tax avoidance. It’s smart personal finance.” [Stephen Moore, “[Befuddled Billionaires](#),” *National Review*, 02/20/01]

APPENDIX 2

Jason Isaac, A Witness For The House Oversight Committee’s June 6th Hearing On ESG, Is A Climate Denier And Conspiracy Theorist Who Uses Anti-Semitic Dog Whistles To Oppose ESG Policy

SUMMARY: [Jason Isaac](#), Director of Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Life:Powered initiative, is set to appear as a [witness](#) before the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability for an ESG-related hearing on Thursday, June 6, 2023. Isaac, a [former Texas State Representative](#) and the President of the

[Texas Natural Gas Foundation](#), pushes conspiracy theories related to the climate “hoax” and uses anti-semitic dog whistles to fight against ESG policies.

In his efforts to oppose ESG policy, Jason Isaac uses anti-semitic dog whistles. He claims that the “[evil banks](#)” pushing ESG policies are “[woke globalist elites](#)” and “[fundamentally anti-American.](#)” He further claimed that “[woke financial institutions that are colluding against and denying capital to American businesses](#)” must be stopped. According to the [American Jewish Committee](#), “globalist” is frequently used as an anti-semitic dog whistle.

Additionally, Jason Isaac promotes lies and conspiracies about climate change and ESG. He falsely claims that the real motivations of ESG are “[conformity at best, depopulation at worst](#)” and claims that the “climate cult” is “coming for our food supply.” He tweeted about the “[climate scam](#)” and retweeted a post calling Senator Ed Markey “[Climate Mental Patient Zero](#)” and a promoter of the “[climate hoax.](#)” Isaac likened carbon capture to “[burning witches](#)” in its ability to impact the climate, called 0.2°C of atmospheric warming “diddly squat,” and falsely claimed that climate science data has not been accurate to date. He also went on [PragerU](#), a group the Southern Poverty Law Center describes as an “indispensable propaganda device for the right,” to [blame renewable energy](#) for Texas’ 2021 energy grid failure.

General Background & Career Timeline

Career Timeline

Jason Isaac Is The Director Of Life:Powered, A Texas Public Policy Foundation Initiative To “Raise America’s Energy IQ.” “Jason Isaac is Director of Life:Powered, a national initiative of the Texas Public Policy Foundation to raise America’s energy IQ.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

2015 - Present: Jason Isaac Is The President, Co-Founder, And Board Member For The Texas Natural Gas Foundation. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/01/23](#)]

2011 - 2019: Jason Isaac Served As A Texas State Representative On The Energy Resources And Environmental Regulation Committees. “From 2011 to 2019, I served more than 200,000 people in the Texas Hill Country as a member of the Texas House of Representatives. During my four terms in office, I primarily served on the Environmental Regulation, Energy Resources, and Economic Development committees..” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, [07/13/22](#)]

Jason Isaac Serves As A High School Lacrosse Coach. “Jason is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and serves as a high school lacrosse coach.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

General Background

Jason Isaac Is A Frequent Contributor To Fox Business, The Hill, The Washington Examiner, The Daily Caller, And The Epoch Times. “Jason has appeared live on Fox Business Network and other national news shows, and his commentaries have been published in Fox Business, The Hill, The Washington Examiner, The Daily Caller, and other publications. He is a regular contributor to The Epoch Times.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Lives In Hays County, Texas With His Wife Carrie And Two Sons. “Prior to joining Life:Powered, Jason, a fourth-generation native Texan, was elected four times as the State Representative for

Hays and Blanco counties in the Texas Hill Country. [...] He lives in Hays County with his wife, Carrie, and two sons.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Is Scheduled To Appear As A Witness Before The House Oversight Committee For An ESG-Related Hearing On June 6, 2023.

The Honorable Jason Isaac Is Scheduled To Testify As A Witness Before The House Oversight Committee On Thursday, June 6, 2023.“WHAT: Hearing titled “ESG Part II: The Cascading Impacts of ESG Compliance” DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 [...] WITNESSES: [...] The Honorable Jason Isaac, Director, Life:Powered, Texas Public Policy Foundation” [U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, [05/30/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Uses Veiled, Anti-Semitic Dog Whistles To Argue For Anti-ESG Policies, Calling Financial Institutions With ESG “Evil Banks” That Put Foreign Allegiances Above American Business And Engage In “Woke Globalist,” “Corporate Collusion”

Jason Isaac Claims That “Evil Banks” Pushing ESG Policies Are “Woke Globalist Elites” And “Fundamentally Anti-American,” An Anti-Semitic Dog Whistle.

Jason Isaac Claims That The “Woke Globalist Elites” Pushing ESG Policies Are Part Of A “Cult,” “Fundamentally Anti-American,” And Are “Coming For Our Food Supply.” “So, it’s official: the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) movement is coming for our food supply. [...] But those woke globalist elites are not stopping at energy. Agriculture is the next target in the climate cult’s sights. [...] The climate movement is fundamentally anti-American not because of its political values, but because it exists to force a specific agenda onto the masses.” [Jason Isaac, Substack, [05/16/23](#)]

- **According To The American Jewish Committee’s Translate Hate Glossary, “Globalist” Is A Term Sometimes Used To Promote The Anti-Semitic Conspiracy That Jewish People Do Not Have Allegiance To The United States, But Rather To A Worldwide Order That Will Enhance Their Control Over The World’s Banks, Government, And Media.** “Much like dual loyalty, globalist is used to promote the antisemitic conspiracy that Jewish people do not have allegiance to their countries of origin, like the United States, but to some worldwide order—like a global economy or international political system—that will enhance their control over the world’s banks, governments, and media.” [American Jewish Committee, The Translate Hate Glossary, accessed [06/01/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Said “Bank Of America Is One Of Those Evil Banks That’s Denying Capital To American Energy Producers” Through ESG Policy. “Bank of America is one of those evil banks that’s denying capital to American energy producers. Socially responsible investing: ESG, it’s another acronym, certainly gaining momentum.” [Jason Isaac, speech at the Council for National Policy, [September 2022](#)]

Jason Isaac Told That ALEC To “Push Back Against Woke Globalist Financial Institutions That Are Colluding Against And Denying Capital To American Businesses While Investing In Chinese Companies With, Laughably, Higher ESG Ratings.” “This morning at the ALEC Task Force Meetings for Energy, Environment and Agriculture (EEA); and Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development (CIED)

you'll have the opportunity to push back against woke globalist financial institutions that are colluding against and denying capital to American businesses while investing in Chinese companies with, laughably, higher ESG ratings." [Email from TPPF's Jason Isaac, [11/30/22](#)]

Isaac Blamed “Corporate Collusion” From Financial Institutions For Declining Investments In American Fossil Fuels. “But if you’re worried about attacks from polar bears, the one thing that we need to be most concerned about is the attack from financial institutions like BlackRock, Vanguard, State Street, JPM Chase. Corporate collusion is drying up access to fossil fuel producers, to American energy producers while shifting it over to Asia, to China. In 2016, there were 59 funds used to raise money, capital for investment in energy production. Fifty-nine funds raised \$46.6 billion. Five years later because of ESG—environmental, social, and governance scoring—that 59 had dropped to 11 funds. The \$46.6 billion had dropped to \$4.6 billion, a greater than 90% reduction in access to capital for fossil fuel producers.” [Jason Isaac, speech at the Council for National Policy, [September 2022](#)]

Jason Isaac Pushed For Governments To Stop Doing Business With Companies That Engage In ESG Practices.

Jason Isaac Referred To ESG Investing As “Energy Discrimination” And Pushed For Governments To Prohibit Companies That Divest From Fossil Fuels From Doing Business With The Government.

“Finally, they should work to discourage the discriminatory practice of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing, which prioritizes political correctness over fiduciary duty and places workers’ and retirees’ futures at risk. Texas and several other states will file legislation soon to prohibit companies that boycott or divest from fossil fuels from doing business with the government. It’s a good start to ensure this energy discrimination campaign doesn’t infiltrate state pensions and investments.” [The Heartland Institute, Jason Isaac, [02/18/21](#)]

Jason Isaac Encouraged States To Cut Off Business With Companies That Engage In ESG Practices Because Those Companies Are “Acting In Concert To Force The Adoption Of Policies Absent A Democratic Process.” “Supporting this model policy, and encouraging more state legislatures to adopt it, will send a strong message that the states will fight back against this financial discrimination from the likes of BlackRock and others that are acting in concert to force the adoption of policies absent a democratic process.” [Email from TPPF's Jason Isaac, [11/30/22](#)]

Jason Isaac Pushes Conspiracy Theories, Promotes Lies About Climate Change As A “Hoax,” And Produces “Propaganda” Blaming Renewable Energy For Texas’ 2021 Energy Grid Failure.

Jason Isaac Pushes Conspiracy Theories Related To ESG Policy, Claiming Its Real Motivations Are “Depopulation” And That The Climate Movement Is “Coming For Our Food Supply.

Jason Isaac Claims That The Real Motivations Of The ESG Movement Are “Conformity At Best, Depopulation At Worst.” “It’s becoming increasingly clear that the well-being of US citizens and families isn’t the ESG movement’s goal. In fact, their goal isn’t even the environment or any social good. It’s conformity at best, depopulation at worst.” [Jason Isaac, Substack, [05/16/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Refers To Environmentalists As The “Climate Cult” And Claims They Are “Coming For Our Food Supply.” “So, it’s official: the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) movement is coming for our food supply. [...] But those woke globalist elites are not stopping at energy. Agriculture is the next target in the climate cult’s sights.” [Jason Isaac, Substack, [05/16/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Claims That The ESG “Cult” Is “Coming For Our Food Supply.” “The #ESG agenda has successfully driven up the cost of energy, crushing the poor, and the cult is coming for our food supply too.”



[Twitter, @ISAACforEnergy, [05/17/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Promotes Climate Disinformation, Including Calling The Climate Crisis A “Hoax” And “Scam,” Falsely Claiming 0.2°C Of Warming Is “Diddly Squat,” And Likening Carbon Capture To “Burning Witches” In Its Ability To Impact The Climate.

Jason Isaac Referred To Decarbonization As The “Climate Scam.” “The Dutch NL are realizing that since they've destroyed their food supply from farms they're going to have to eat more birds. #Decarbonization is dangerous and deadly. #ClimateScam”

Mr. Rep. Jason Isaac
@ISAACforEnergy

The Dutch are realizing that since they've destroyed their food supply from farms they're going to have to eat more birds. #Decarbonization is dangerous and deadly. #ClimateScam
[jasonisaac.substack.com/p/not-the-clim...](https://jasonisaac.substack.com/p/not-the-clim-...)



Dutch shut down offshore wind turbines to save birds in 'international first'

Nation stages pilot run of policy to curtail North Sea operations during peak migration

3:27 PM · May 17, 2023 · 106 views

[Twitter, @ISAACforEnergy, [05/17/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Called 0.2°C Of Global Warming “Diddly Squat” And Claimed That Climate Science Data Has Not Been Accurate To Date. “It’s also nonsense because even the absolute best-case carbon capture scenario would result in, if you’ll forgive my scientific jargon, diddly squat. If the United States eliminated every molecule of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the global temperature difference at the end of the century would be less than 0.2°C. And that’s if the data models used by the climate wing are accurate — which they’ve never been to date. They’ve overestimated warming every single time.” [Jason Isaac, The Daily Caller, [05/06/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Calls Carbon Capture A “Scam” And Likens It To “Burning Witches” In Its Ability To Impact The Climate. “Carbon capture is like burning witches. In the 15th to 17th centuries, the elite in Europe and the United States believed that “evil humans were negatively affecting the climate and weather patterns.” [...] Of course, you and I, with the benefits of hindsight and a decent education, know that burning witches had no effect on the weather whatsoever. It was cruel and fruitless, and its only benefit was making people feel good about themselves. Something, at least, was being done. Fast forward to 2023, it seems the United States has sold out to the net-zero fantasy. Legions of celebrities, influencers and politicians are crying for a magical, turn-key solution to climate change.” [Jason Isaac, The Daily Caller, [05/06/23](#)]

Jason Isaac Retweeted A Tweet Calling Senator Ed Markey “Climate Mental Patient Zero” And Referring To The Climate Crisis As “The Climate Hoax.” “It would never occur to Climate Mental Patient Zero @EdMarkey that the solution to climate anxiety is stop scaring people with the climate hoax. h/t @ISAACforTexas”



[Twitter, @ISAACforEnergy, [05/05/23](#)]

Isaac Referred To State Street As A Member Of The “Climate Cartel” Pushing The “Climate Scam” Via ESG. “NO WAY! I’m shocked 😞 A prominent member of the #ClimateCartel, @StateStreet, that has been forcing #decarbonization via #ESG, @ActOnClimate100, @UNFCCC, etc is now going to profit off of services for this #ClimateScam. Some AG’s might be interested in this: <https://wsj.com/articles/carbon-markets-get-boost-from-wall-street-3c609711> @RepublicanAGs @KenPaxtonTX”



[Twitter, @ISAACforEnergy, [05/08/23](#)]

PragerU, An Organization That Acts As An “Indispensable Propaganda Device For The Right,” Featured Jason Isaac In A Video Claiming The 2021 Texas Energy Grid Failure Was The Fault Of Renewable Energy.

PragerU Featured Jason Isaac In A Video Explaining “The Great Texas Freeze Of 2021” As The Fault Of The Expansion Of Renewable Energy. “Since 2006, the state has subsidized renewable energy to the tune of 19 billion dollars. All of this came right out of Texans’ wallets. [...] And what does Texas have to show for it? An electric grid that failed when Texans needed it most. [...] The verdict is in. Renewable energy is expensive and unreliable. And if it can render America’s leading power producer powerless, it can do the same to your state.”





[PragerU, [09/20/21](#)]

- **The Southern Poverty Law Center Describes PragerU As “An Indispensable Propaganda Device For The Right.”** “Founded as a nonprofit by conservative talk radio host Dennis Prager in 2009, PragerU’s “5 Minute Ideas” videos have become an indispensable propaganda device for the right. The videos are hosted by conservative personalities” [Southern Poverty Law Center, [06/07/18](#)]

APPENDIX 3

Mandy Gunasekara, A Witness For The House Oversight Committee’s June 6th Hearing On ESG, Is A Chemical And Fossil Fuel Industries Shill Who Uses Anti-Semitic Tropes To Attack ESG And Promotes Conspiracy Theories

SUMMARY: Mandy Gunasekara is a long-time political operative who goes back and forth between working for the government and lobbying.

Currently, Gunasekara is the Director of the Center of Energy and Conservation at the [Independent Women’s Forum](#), a senior fellow for Life:Powered at the [Texas Public Policy Foundation](#), and the principal of the lobbying firm [Section VII Strategies](#).

Mandy Gunasekara held myriad positions in Congressional offices before joining the Environmental Protection Agency under Trump. While at the EPA, Gunasekara [credits herself](#) with taking the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accords and rolling back the Clean Power Plan. She went on to write the “[playbook](#)” on the EPA for the Heritage Foundation. Gunasekara also ran the “[pro-Trump nonprofit](#)” the Energy 45 Fund, to promote fossil fuels and Trump-era energy policies.

Mandy Gunasekara is a vocal opponent of ESG practices, conspiratorially claiming they result from [collusion](#) between the government and “big business.” She routinely attacks [anti-racism training](#) and gender considerations in hiring while [falsely claiming](#) ESG prioritizes Chinese companies over U.S. companies. In her attacks against ESG, Gunasekara frequently deploys anti-semitic dog whistles, with complaints that “[global elites](#)” trying to “[control the climate](#).”

Despite her opposition to ESG, Gunasekara seems to support selective investing that suits her interests. She bemoans investments [moving away from fossil fuels](#) and is quick to tout the wishes of [anti-ESG CEOs](#) while attacking their pro-ESG counterparts. She even promoted “anti-woke” Vivek Ramaswamy’s [investment firm](#).

Gunasekara has a history of mocking climate change and [spreading doubt](#), including her role in physically handing Sen. James Inhofe a [snowball](#) for his infamous attempt to mock climate science. A former [chemical industry lobbyist](#) herself, Mandy Gunasekara’s husband, Surya, used to lobby for the [American Petroleum Institute](#). Additionally, Mandy was a member of the [CO2 Coalition](#), a group that “[rejects the scientific consensus that carbon emissions are causing catastrophic climate change](#).”

Mandy Gunasekara is an avid Trump defender, and frequently [spread](#) disinformation about voter fraud in the 2020 election. Gunasekara promoted conspiracy theories about investigations into Trump’s wrongdoings, again deploying [anti-semitic attacks](#) on the former president’s opponents. Gunasekara also lauded January 6th rioter Ashli Babbitt as a “[patriot](#).”

Mandy Gunasekara Jumps Back And Forth Between Working For The Government Gutting Environmental Protections, Lobbying For Chemical Companies, And Pushing Pro-Trump Propaganda.

Mandy Gunasekara Runs A Lobbying Firm, Advocating For A Chinese Company That Was Raided By Homeland Security, And Works On Energy Issues For Multiple Organizations

Timeline	Position	Office
July 2011-July 2012	Staff Assistant; Research Assistant	Senate Committee On Health, Education, Labor, And Pensions
July 2012-Oct. 2014	Senior Legislative Counsel	Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)
Nov. 2014-Jan. 2015	Senior Director, Legislative Affairs	National Association Of Chemical Distributors
Jan. 2015-Mar. 2017	Majority Counsel	Senate Environment And Public Works Committee
Mar. 2017-Feb. 2019	Senior Policy Advisor; Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator	Environmental Protection Agency
Feb. 2019-	Founder	Energy 45 Fund

Mar. 2020		
Mar. 2020-Jan. 2021	Chief Of Staff	Environmental Protection Agency
Jan. 2021-Present	Principal	Section VII Strategies LLC
June 2022-Present	Senior Policy Analyst	Independent Women's Forum

Mandy Gunasekara Is A Senior Fellow Of Life:Powered At The Texas Public Policy Foundation. [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Is The Director For The Center For Energy And Conservation At The Independent Women's Forum. "Mandy Gunasekara is the director of the Center for Energy and Conservation at Independent Women's Forum." [IWF, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

- **Mandy Gunasekara Is A Senior Policy Analyst At The Independent Women's Forum.** [LinkedIn, Mandy Gunasekara, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Is A Principal At The Consulting Firm Section VII Strategies. "Section VII Strategies is a boutique energy, environmental, and tax policy consulting firm dedicated to providing curated solutions to meet the business and communications objectives of our clients." [LinkedIn, Mandy Gunasekara, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Section VII Strategies Lobbied For JinkoSolar, A Chinese Company That Was Raided By Homeland Security And Has Raised Concerns Over Potential Use Of Force Uyghur Labor.

Section VII Strategies Is A Registered Lobbying Firm, Working On Behalf Of JinkoSolar US From 2021 To 2022. [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

JinkoSolar Is Based In Shanghai, China. "Jinko, which is based in Shanghai, has a solar panel factory in Jacksonville, Florida, and a sales and operations office in San Francisco." [Reuters, [05/10/23](#)]

May 2023: JinkoSolar's Factory And Sales Office In Florida And California Were Raided By The Department Of Homeland Security As "Part Of An Ongoing Federal Investigation." "The U.S. Department of Homeland Security this week raided a factory and sales office operated by one of the world's largest solar panel makers, China's Jinko Solar Holding Co Ltd (JKS.N), the agency said on Wednesday. A spokesperson for the Homeland Security Investigations arm of DHS, Mike Meares, said search warrants were executed in Florida and California on Tuesday as part of an ongoing federal investigation. He did not provide details on the substance of the probe." [Reuters, [05/10/23](#)]

- **In The Last Year, Solar Equipment Shipments From JinkoSolar Were Detained By U.S. Customs Under The Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act, However The Shipments Were Later Released.** "In the last year, Jinko and other large Chinese panel makers have had shipments of solar equipment detained by U.S. customs officials under the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act, a new law banning imports from China's Xinjiang region over concerns about forced labor. In recent months, however, Jinko and others have had shipments released from detention. U.S. Customs and Border Protection is a division of DHS." [Reuters, [05/10/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Ran The Energy 45 Fund, A “Pro-Trump Nonprofit” Advocating For Trump’s Energy Policies And Fossil Fuels.

Mandy Gunasekara Founded The Energy 45 Fund, A Non-Profit “Informing The Public About Recent Environmental And Economic Gains.” “Mandy Gunasekara is a veteran climate and energy strategist and communicator. She founded the Energy 45 Fund, a Jackson, Mississippi-based non-profit educational organization dedicated to informing the public about recent environmental and economic gains.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Gunasekara Called The Energy 45 Fund A “Pro-Trump Nonprofit.” “Gunasekara left the EPA a year ago to start what she called a “pro-Trump nonprofit” in her home state of Mississippi.” [Washington Post, [02/14/20](#)]

Energy 45 Advocates For Fossil Fuels And Trump-Era Energy Policies. “As head of the advocacy group Energy 45, she has argued on behalf of the president’s support for fossil fuels and other energy policies, writing that his approach “has brought both economic prosperity and cleaner air and water.”” [Washington Post, [02/14/20](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Helped Gut Climate Policies During The Trump Administration, Authoring The Heritage Foundation’s “Playbook” On The EPA After Leaving The Administration.

Mandy Gunasekara Credits Herself With Spearheading Leaving The Paris Climate Accords And Rollbacks To The Clean Power Plan While Working At The EPA.

Mandy Gunasekara Served As Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator For The Office Of Air And Radiation In The Trump Administration’s Environmental Protection Agency. “Prior to ENERGY 45, Mandy served in the EPA as the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Gunasekara “Spearheaded” The U.S. Leaving The Paris Climate Accords And The Repeal Of The Clean Power Plan. “While at EPA, she spearheaded many of the Trump Administration’s greatest energy and environmental policy achievements. Mandy was the chief architect of the Paris Accord withdrawal and the repeal of the Clean Power Plan. She also led efforts to develop its replacement – the proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Served At Majority Counsel For The Senate Environment And Public Works Committee Under Sen. Inhofe And Sen. Barrasso. “Previously, Mandy served as Majority Counsel for Chairman Inhofe during the 114th Congress and for Chairman Barrasso during the 115th Congress on the United States Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She led committee actions and policy development on the Clean Air Act and climate change issues.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

A Visiting Fellow At The Heritage Foundation, Gunasekara Wrote The Group’s “Playbook” On The EPA.

“Mandy Gunasekara Is A Visiting Fellow In The Heritage Foundation’s Center For Energy, Climate, And Environment.” [Heritage Foundation, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Wrote The Heritage Foundation’s “Playbook” On The EPA. “The Heritage playbook has 30 chapters on government operations and policy areas, including energy and environment. Some were authored by former Trump officials. For one, William Perry Pendley, who led the Bureau of Land Management on an acting basis, wrote the chapter on the Interior Department. Bernard McNamee, a former commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, wrote the section on the Department of Energy and FERC. And by Mandy Gunasekara, the former Trump EPA chief of staff and Heritage fellow, wrote the EPA chapter.” [E&E News, [04/21/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Attempted To Run For A Position On Mississippi’s Utility Regulatory Commission But Was Denied For Living Outside The State.

In 2023, Mandy Gunasekara Ran For A Spot On The Mississippi Public Service Commission, The State’s Utility Regulator. “A former chief of staff for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won’t appear on the ballot for a Mississippi Public Service Commission post because she failed to meet an in-state residency requirement, the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday. In a 6-0 decision, justices affirmed a decision made by a circuit court judge in the case of Mandy Gunasekera. She signed up to run as a Republican for the northern district seat on the state commission that regulates utilities.” [AP, [05/11/23](#)]

In May 2023, The Mississippi Supreme Court Ruled Mandy Gunasekara’s Name Would Not Appear On Ballots After She Failed To Meet The In-State Residency Requirement. “A former chief of staff for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won’t appear on the ballot for a Mississippi Public Service Commission post because she failed to meet an in-state residency requirement, the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday. In a 6-0 decision, justices affirmed a decision made by a circuit court judge in the case of Mandy Gunasekera. She signed up to run as a Republican for the northern district seat on the state commission that regulates utilities.” [AP, [05/11/23](#)]

Invoking Conspiracy Theories And Anti-Semitism, Mandy Gunasekara Attacks ESG And CEO Interference...

...Unless The CEOs Agree With Her Anti-ESG Crusade Or Promote Fossil Fuels

Mandy Gunasekara Conspiratorially Claimed ESG Practices Are From Collusion Between The Government And “Big Business.”

Mandy Gunasekara Called ESG Investment Collusion Between The Government And “Big Business.” “Despite growing opposition to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investment practices, government agencies are colluding with Big Business to mandate the assessment of climate change risk in financial investments.” [The American Spectator, [11/14/22](#)]

Gunasekara Blamed High Energy Prices On Decaying Infrastructure Caused By “Leftist Policies” And “Woke CEOs.” “The fact that these systems are decaying, and the cost of energy is becoming more of a luxury good than an everyday utility, is not by happenstance nor some uncontrollable factors abroad. It is the result of leftist policies that this administration is pushing through the administrative state and amongst woke CEOs.” [House Oversight And Accountability Committee, Testimony, [03/29/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Attacked ESG Policies, Critically Tying Them To Anti-Racism Training, Higher Labor Costs Due To “Social Initiatives,” And Claiming They Prioritize China Over The U.S.

Mandy Gunasekara Attacked Anti-Racism Training And Considering Race And Gender In Hiring, Attributing Both To ESG. “The “G,” or governance investments, encourage race- or gender-based hiring quotas and subject employees to anti-racism training premised on labeling co-workers as either the oppressors or the oppressed based on skin color.” [*Waco Tribune*, [09/16/22](#)]

- **Gunasekara Equated ESG Considerations With An Attorney Reading “The Latest Books On Anti-Racism And Gender Pronouns” Instead Of Discovery Materials.** “Imagine if an attorney took the same approach as ESG-focused financial experts. Let’s say you’re on trial for alleged criminal conduct, and you invest in a high-end attorney to improve your prospects of not going to jail. While preparing for trial, the attorney decides to forgo reading through piles of discovery or witness interviews relevant to exposing gaps in the case and establishing doubt in the jurors’ minds. Instead, the high-end attorney reads the latest books on anti-racism and gender pronouns.” [*Waco Tribune*, [09/16/22](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Complained About “High Labor Costs” From ESG Initiatives. “Furthermore, as social initiatives are adopted, businesses will have to spend more and accrue high labor costs — ultimately passing costs down to consumers as climate funds do.” [*The American Spectator*, [11/14/22](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Baselessly Claimed ESG Prioritized “Chinese Companies Guilty Of Egregious Humanitarian And Environmental Violations Over U.S. Companies.” “ESG prioritizes Chinese companies guilty of egregious humanitarian and environmental violations over U.S. companies. Its as backwards as the presidents woke agenda and must be stopped.” [Truth Social, @MandyGunasekara, [10/11/22](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Employed Anti-Semitic Dog Whistles To Attack “Global Elites” Trying To “Control The Climate,” Frequently Aiming Her Attacks At Prominent Jewish People.

Gunasekara Called ESG A “Tool For Global Elites Who Wield Their Enormous Financial Power.” “The real problem is that these ESG elites are in charge of trillions of dollars of investments and their decisions—even the damaging and delusional ones—have a broad reach.” [IWF, [09/07/22](#)]

Gunasekara Explicitly Called Out Larry Fink, The CEO Of BlackRock, For Supporting ESG While Claiming There’s A “Revolving Door Between Liberal Politics And Wall Street.” “As the report suggests, the driving force behind this trend may be the new revolving door between liberal politics and Wall Street. Leaders of these investment houses, including Larry Fink who is the CEO of BlackRock, have denied that ESG is about politics or any particular social or ideological agenda and emphatically stated that ESG “is not woke.”” [IWF, [09/07/22](#)]

- **Larry Fink Is Jewish.** “It’s a familiar playbook, similar to the one the right uses against progressive billionaires George Soros and Mike Bloomberg: Elitist globalists expand their power by taking away your freedom. Like Fink, those two men are Jewish.” [*Washington Post*, [05/06/23](#)]
- **According To The American Jewish Committee, “Elite” Has Been Used To Incite Anti-Semitism By Accusing Jewish People Of Being Part Of A Wealthy And Insular “Elite Class.”** ““Cosmopolitan” and “elite” are terms that have separately incited antisemites across the political spectrum. Based on stereotypes of Jewish wealth and insularity, Jews have been accused of being part of an elite class for centuries.” [AJC, accessed [06/01/23](#)]

Mandy Gunsekara Claimed That Bernie Sanders Wants To “Control The Climate.” “Bernie thinks he can control the climate - all you need to do america is hand over trillions of dollars alongside your liberty and freedom to this socialist ☺” [Twitter, @MississippiMG, [08/23/19](#)]

- **Connecting Jewish People With “Control,” Especially Around Media, Banks, And Governments Is An Anti-Semitic Dog Whistle Rooting In “A Longstanding Conspiracy Of Secret Jewish Power.”** “False reports that claim Jews control the media, banks, and governments are part of a longstanding conspiracy of secret Jewish power. This antisemitic trope is rooted in the discredited publication, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which was published in Russian tsarist times and accused Jews of trying to control the world (see Protocols of the Elders of Zion).” [AJC, accessed [05/31/23](#)]

Gunasekara Seems To Have No Problem With Selective Investing... As Long As It Isn’t Tied To ESG.

Mandy Gunasekara Complained ESG Practices Take Money Away From Fossil Fuels.

Mandy Gunasekara Complained ESG Funds Take Investments Away From Fossil Fuel Companies. “The ‘E’ standards are designed to shift investment and credit away from fossil energy companies and stunt high-cost improvements for affiliated infrastructure across the U.S.” [House Oversight And Accountability Committee, Testimony, [03/29/23](#)]

Gunasekara Touted CEO Opinions When They Are Opposed To ESG Practices.

Mandy Gunasekara Touted Apparent CEO Opposition To ESG Practices. “A September 2022 CNBC CFO Council Survey revealed executive frustration with both regulators and asset managers that force ESG behaviors on business practices. Only 25 percent of CFOs polled support the proposed Security and Exchange Commission Scope 3 rules, compared to 55 percent of CFOs who oppose it. Thirty-five percent of respondents “strongly oppose” the SEC rule.” [*The American Spectator*, [11/14/22](#)]

Gunasekara Praised Anti-ESG Investor Vivek Ramaswamy And His Firm.

Mandy Gunasekara Praised Flexibility For Investors When Talking About Vivek Ramaswamy’s Strive Asset Management. “Leading this is Strive Asset Management, a company that offers investors the ability to partake in good old-fashioned planning, where maximizing value takes precedence. Strive CEO Vivek

Ramaswamy even has the audacity to let those that reap the benefits of his fund's returns use their own money to be the change in the world they want to be." [IWF, [09/21/22](#)]

New York Times: "The Anti-Woke Presidential Candidate Who Wants To Crush ESG And Gut The Fed." "Vivek Ramaswamy's long-shot campaign for the Republican nomination revolves around issues on the fringes of finance" [*New York Times*, [05/27/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Shills For Big Oil, Claiming The Industry Is The Victim Of Attacks While Spreading Climate Denial.

Mandy Gunasekara Claimed Agencies Protecting Public Health And The Environment Are "Socialist Forces To Control The Economy And Put Down Great American Industries."

Mandy Gunasekara Claimed Agencies Protecting Public Health And The Environment Are "Socialist Forces To Control The Economy And Put Down Great American Industries." "Agencies created to "protect public health and the environment" have been co-opted by socialist forces to control the economy and put down great American industries instead of improving their efficiencies and relative environmental footprint." [The Daily Caller, [02/28/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Mocked Concerns Over Climate Change, Mischaracterizing The Consensus On Global Warming As "Varied And Nuanced."

Mandy Gunasekara Participated In Sen. Inhofe's Political Stunt Of Taking A Snowball On The Senate Floor To Mock Concerns Over Climate Change. "Gunasekara had not worked for Inhofe long when, in early 2015, he asked her to hand him a snowball on the Senate floor, as he mocked the idea that the planet was warming in troubling ways." [*Washington Post*, [02/14/20](#)]

When Asked If She Accepts The Science Of Climate Change, Gunasekara Called The Consensus "Varied And Nuanced." "[Interviewer:] What are your views on climate change? Do you agree with the mainstream scientific consensus? [Gunasekara:] Consensus on global warming is varied and nuanced. As a general matter, the climate is changing, and humans have a role. That's a serious issue that deserves our continued attention." [*E&E News*, [02/22/19](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara And Her Husband Lobbied For The Chemical And Oil Industries.

Mandy Gunasekara Lobbied For The Chemical Industry Through The National Association Of Chemical Distributors. "A staffer who became a chemical industry lobbyist is back on the Hill as counsel on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee after just a two-month absence. [...] In the fourth quarter of 2014, Gunasekara registered to lobby with the National Association of Chemical Distributors while working as the organization's senior director of legislative affairs." [Legisotrm, [01/29/15](#)]

Surya Gunasekara Was A Lobbyist For The American Petroleum Institute.

Mandy Gunasekara's Husband, Surya, Is A "Former Oil And Gas Lobbyist" That Worked For The American Petroleum Institute. "Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Ohio) has hired a former oil and gas lobbyist as his chief of staff. Surya Gunasekara will join Renacci's office in May after most recently working at Airlines for America. His wife, a chemical industry lobbyist, also moved through the revolving door to a job on the Hill earlier this year. Gunasekara registered to lobby in 2012 and 2013 for the American Petroleum Institute on issues including Dodd-Frank and oil and gas industry regulations. He has also worked at the Defense Logistics Agency and Departments of Health and Human Services and Defense." [Legistorm, [04/30/15](#)]

Gunasekara Was A Member Of The CO2 Coalition, A Group Promoting CO2.

Mandy Gunasekara Was A Member Of The CO2 Coalition. [CO2 Coalition, archived 02/19/20, accessed [06/01/23](#)]

CO2 Coalition Complained About A “Campaign Demonizing CO2,” Praising Higher CO2 Levels. “The debate about global warming and climate change has shifted from genuine scientific exploration to a campaign demonizing CO2. [...] CO2 is a nutrient that is essential to life. CO2 at current levels and higher enables plants, trees, and crops to grow faster and more efficiently. It is essential for life.” [CO2 Coalition, archived 02/19/20, accessed [06/01/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Is An Extremist And Avid Trump Defender, Spreading Disinformation About COVID-19 And The 2020 Election, Praising January 6th Rioter Ashli Babbitt, And Alleging An Anti-Semitic Conspiracy Against Trump.

Mandy Gunasekara Spread Disinformation About Voter Fraud In The 2020 Election, Claiming Democrats Were Trying To “Steal” The Election.

Mandy Gunasekara Spread Misinformation About Voter Fraud Following The 2020 Election.



[Twitter, @MississippiMG, [11/10/20](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Claimed Trump “Already Won Georgia” And The Media Tried To Help Democrats “Steal” The Election. “We have already won Georgia, by all objective accounts. “Officials”/MSM won’t call it because they are trying to stall so Dems can steal the election.” [Twitter, @MississippiMG, [11/04/20](#)]

- **On November 4, 2020, Mandy Gunasekara Tweeted Donald Trump “Will Still be Our President” For The Next Term.** “#BeijingBiden is already committing to selling out American jobs to China. Not on out watch! In 77 days @realDonaldTrump will still be our President and we will continue to lead the world in energy growth & environmental progress (without the failing Paris Accord).” [Twitter, @MississippiMG, [11/04/20](#)]

Gunasekara Spread Conspiracy Theories About The Investigation Into Trump's Collusion With Russia...

Mandy Gunasekara Called Investigation Into Trump Colluding With Russia A “Hoax” Manufactured By Hillary Clinton, Calling The Mueller Investigation “Worse Than Watergate.”



[Truth Social, @MandyGunasekara, [05/17/23](#)]

...And Used Anti-Semitic Attacks To Criticize The Former President's Recent Indictment.

Mandy Gunsekara Called Donald Trump's April 2023 Indictment “Soros-Funded Political Persecution.” “I'm on the beautiful grounds of Mar-a-Lago. Tonight, you're either with President Trump or with a Soros-funded political persecution. There is no middle ground. Pick a side.” [Truth Social, Mandy Gunasekara, [04/04/23](#)]

Mandy Gunsekara Claimed She And Trump Were Attacked By “George Soros And His Fake News Allies” Over Pro-Oil And Gas Policies. “George Soros & his fake news allies are attacking President Trump & I because they don't like facts about energy. Under President Trump greenhouse emissions have been reduced & we have robust economic growth. I will always defend the President & his pro-American pro-energy plans.” [Twitter, @MississippiMG, [08/28/19](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Praised January 6th Rioter Ashli Babbitt.



[Truth Social, @MandyGunasekara, [05/10/23](#)]

Gunasekara Spread Disinformation And Conspiracy Theories About COVID-19.

Mandy Gunasekara Claimed COVID-19 Is “Like The Flu”, “Masks Don’t Work,” And The “Virus Came From A Lab In China.”



[Truth Social, @MandyGunasekara, [02/28/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara Complained About Sending “Blank Checks To Ukraine.”

Mandy Gunasekara Complained About Sending “Blank Checks To Ukraine.” “Instead of sending blank checks to Ukraine, we should be sending American natural gas to our allies abroad.” [House Oversight And Accountability Committee, Testimony, [03/29/23](#)]

Mandy Gunasekara’s Profile Picture On Truth Social Shows Her Holding An Assault Rifle While Wearing A MAGA Hat.

Mandy Gunasekara’s Profile Picture On Truth Social Shows Her In A “Make America Great Again” Hat Holding An Assault Rifle.



[Truth Social, @MandyGunasekara, accessed [05/31/23](#)]