Thom Tillis

Siding With Fossil Fuel Special Interests And Anti-Science Extremists

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TILLIS VOTES WITH THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

North Carolina has been battered by severe hurricanes linked to climate change in recent years, but Thom Tillis lobbied Donald Trump to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement and opposed developing a stronger clean energy economy.

Instead of doing something to tackle the threat of climate change, Thom Tillis has taken $489,634 in 7 years from the oil and gas industry and supported tax breaks that gave the industry $25 billion and let Chevron pay nothing in federal income taxes.

Thom Tillis voted three times to block the Clean Power Plan from being implemented, and once to repeal it. The Clean Power Plan would have created 560,000 clean energy jobs.

LCV Scorecard; Senate Vote #324, 10/17/2019
LCV Scorecard; Senate Vote #307, 11/17/2015
LCV Scorecard; Senate Vote #306, 11/17/2015
Thom Tillis voted against an amendment that would have expressed the Sense of Congress that climate change is real, and that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change.

LCV Scorecard; Senate Vote #12, 01/21/2015

Thom Tillis voted against an amendment to an education bill that would have funded K-12 education about climate change.

LCV Scorecard; Senate Vote #238, 07/15/2015

Thom Tillis has been a cheerleader for opening up North Carolina's coast to dangerous offshore drilling that could threaten North Carolina's significant tourism and fishing economies. In 2015, he added an amendment to a bill that would have allowed offshore drilling on the Continental Shelf.

While he was Speaker of the House in North Carolina, the legislature passed a law banning the use of scientific predictions of sea level rise in "any state rules, plans, or policies."

TILLIS IS IN LEAGUE WITH ANTI-SCIENCE FRINGE GROUPS

Where does he get this from? Tillis has ties to key individuals and groups who have promoted science denial on climate change and COVID-19.

In 2013, Tillis was named one of ALEC's Legislators of the Year, the same year that ALEC teamed up with the Heartland Institute to roll back North Carolina's landmark law promoting renewable energy.

Climate-denying think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute celebrated Tillis's co-signing a letter, along with David Perdue, Kelly Loeffler, Mike Lee, and Marsha Blackburn, urging the OMB to eliminate all regulations Trump suspended during COVID-19. CEI celebrated the letter, as it resembled their #NeverNeeded campaign. Tillis's office has cited CEI research in his press releases, and they worked together on a bill to eliminate the Office of Financial Research, to fight regulations on cigarettes.

Tillis expressed support for Stephen Moore for Federal Reserve Board. In our previous research, we showed that Moore, an economic advisor to the President and climate-denier, went on to be a core advisor to Liberate protestors demonstrating against public health measures to combat COVID-19.