

FROM BAD TO CATASTROPHICALLY WORSE:

THE FAILING GRADES OF FIVE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND MANCHIN



CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY ACTION FUND







With the first presidential caucuses and primaries only a month away, the Center for Biological Diversity Action Fund has assessed and evaluated each Republican candidate's environmental positions.

Given the general hostility of virtually all Republican politicians to environmental protection, we used a weaker set of criteria to evaluate the candidates to shed light on their differences. The 10 criteria we selected included the candidate's acceptance that climate change is real, support for mechanisms to address climate change, belief in maintaining clean air and water, and stance on endangered species protection.

Even with the watered-down criteria, none of the candidates could muster a passing grade, with Donald Trump and Vivek Ramaswamy receiving the lowest grade of F Triple Minus (0 out of 10). Given Trump's animosity to the environment and policies during his first term, which were the most regressive in at least 100 years, this result is not surprising.

Gov. Ron DeSantis scored second worst, with an F Double Minus (2 out of 10). Ambassador Nikki Haley also received an F Double Minus and scored slightly higher with a 3 out of 10. Gov. Chris Christie received the highest score of 5 out of 10, but still received a straight F on the environment.

As one of the few candidates that benefit personally from fossil fuels, Sen. Joe Manchin's environmental score is between Christie's and Haley's at an F Minus (4 out of 10). Despite his coy protestations to the contrary, Manchin is clearly running for president, as no retiring senators go on a "listening tour" of the United States in their final year of office. Given that his candidacy would only serve to elect Trump and his abysmal record on the environment, Sen. Manchin is best classified as a Republican.

						
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	Trump	DeSantis	Haley	Christie	Ramaswamy	Manchin
Acknowledges Climate Change	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Acknowledges Human Cause of Climate Change	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Supports Domestic Emissions Reduction Policies	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Supports International Treaties to Address Climate Pollution	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Opposes Expansion of Offshore Drilling	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Does not Personally Benefit from Fossil Fuels	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Supports Protections for Endangered Wildlife	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Supports Maintaining EPA Funding	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Opposes Weakening Clean Air Protections	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Opposes Weakening Clean Water Protections	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
SCORES	0/10	2/10	3/10	5/10	0/10	4/10
	F---	F--	F--	F	F---	F-

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