

# What happened in the energy and environment hearings?

Discussion points of the committee hearings for Zinke, Pruitt and Perry

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**Producer:** Claire Garney

**Director:** Alistair Taylor

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# Key topics in the discussions with the Senate committees

## Nominees point to what action they will take in their agencies, answer Senator's questions

Ryan Zinke	Scott Pruitt	Rick Perry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zinke asserted he would try to balance conservation with the use of public lands and waters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If he can, Pruitt will want to reform or repeal the Waters of the United States rule that defines and protects federal waterways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perry said he regrets earlier comments about eliminating the DOE, and would protect its mission if confirmed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differing from conservative orthodoxy, Zinke stressed the federal ownership of public lands and the need for federal funding for preservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) announced he will support Pruitt, despite being one of the few Republican senators who support policies that fight climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perry stated he would defend DOE programs for renewables, fossil fuels, advance nuclear energy, and research and development</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of his priorities would be addressing an estimated \$12.5 billion backlog of maintenance work for national parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He believes that the EPA has an obligation to regulate carbon dioxide due to a 2007 Supreme Court case and 2009 finding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He asserted his commitment to advocating for economics and scientific research, and the connection between science and economics</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zinke wants to move towards energy independence, and supports drilling, mining and logging on federal land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He implied he would devolve some regulatory authority of the EPA to the states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Democratic senators were pleased that he seems to be a counterweight to the Trump administration's planned funding cuts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actions he wants to take include ending the moratorium on coal mining leases on federal land and repealing the methane venting and flaring rule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pruitt did not want to discuss his personal views on climate change or his decision to drop a lawsuit against Arkansas after receiving donations from executives in the poultry industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to a recent article in The Hill Trump's team is considering rolling back DOE funding and cutting certain programs, and Perry tried to distance himself from the cuts</li> </ul>

All three energy and environment nominees broke from Trump's stance on climate change as a hoax, and instead they said they believed in climate change but would need more research to determine the pace of change and the extent that it is manmade.

Sources: Emmarie Huetteman, "Nominee for Interior vows to preserve, and develop, public lands," *The New York Times*, January 17, 2017; Timothy Cama and Devin Henry, "Interior pick walks fine line on climate, highlights conservation," *The Hill*, January 17, 2017; Timothy Cama, "Graham to vote for Trump's EPA pick," *The Hill*, January 19, 2017; Robinson Meyer, "As the planet warms, Trump's EPA pick hedges," *The Atlantic*, January 19, 2017; Gavin Bade, "Trump DOE pick Perry pledges to protect energy R&D, climate science," *Utility Dive*, January 19, 2017; Devin Henry and Timothy Cama, "What we learned from Rick Perry's confirmation hearing," *The Hill*, January 19, 2017.

# In their own words



**"I am absolutely against transfer and sale of public lands. I can't be more clear,"** said Ryan Zinke in his hearing for the nomination to Secretary of the Interior



**"We need a partnership, a true partnership, between the EPA in performing its role and the states performing theirs,"** said Scott Pruitt in his hearing for the nomination to Administrator of the EPA



**"My past statements made over five years ago about abolishing the Department of Energy do not reflect my current thinking,"** said Rick Perry in his hearing for the nomination to Secretary of Energy

Sources: Timothy Cama and Devin Henry, "Interior pick walks fine line on climate, highlights conservation," *The Hill*, January 17, 2017; David Henry and Timothy Cama, "Five takeaways from Pruitt's EPA hearing," *The Hill*, January 18, 2017; Devin Henry and Timothy Cama, "What we learned from Rick Perry's confirmation hearing," *The Hill*, January 19, 2017.