

EPA Fact Sheet - Sample deliverable #2

Dear Staffer,

Memo: Key points to mention to Rep. Lamar S. Smith to get him to reconsider disrupting the budget of the EPA.

Note: But first please be aware of the following in regards to Rep. Lamar S. Smith →

- Top industry associated campaign contributors → Oil & Gas followed by retired individuals
- Largest 2015/16 campaign contributor → Nustar energy
- Since 1998, has received ~\$700,000 from Oil & Gas industry
- Since 1999, has accepted ~\$25,000 campaign contributions from Exxon
- Steer clear of “global warming/climate change” → A noted climate skeptic, Lamar has taken to the House floor to rant against scientists and journalists “... determined to advance the idea of human-made global warming.”

The information has been broken down into two major parts: (1) Economic impact; (2) polling related data that might make the 21st congressional district of Texas competitive in 2018.

(1) Economic impact

The severe cuts to the EPA by the White House Budget could put state funded programs in jeopardy with losses to the workforce.

- State programs funded by EPA grants totaled \$48,416,241 (9% of TCEQ budget)
 - Jerry Parr, executive director of NELAC institute in Weatherford, is nervous about his funding situation, with the grants factoring in as a tenth of the institute’s budget
- 18 separate programs receive EPA funds through the TCEQ
 - Dam-safety programs (look to Oroville Dam incident in California)
 - Clean air act surveys
 - Leaking underground storage tank trust fund program
- EPA’s region 6 (includes Texas) has received \$73 million in grants from the Brownfields Program
 - “... over 1,400 sites have been assessed, 18,000 jobs created and \$3.5 billion leveraged in redevelopment.”
 - American Airlines Center is one of the Brownfields success stories

(2) Political impact

The cuts of the EPA could lead to reduced oversight on clean water and air programs especially when emissions cross state borders. This could impact health in the state of Texas.

- 48% of republicans support taking steps to reduce carbon emissions
- This support is strongest amongst millennials (UT Energy Poll)
 - 62% support decreasing the use of coal as an energy source

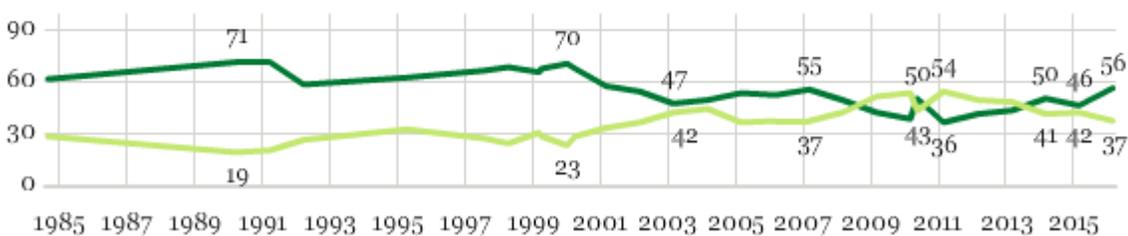
- 52% support a carbon tax
- 66% likely to buy an alternative fuel or electric vehicle
- The San Antonio Express-News editorial board revoked its support for his re-election (2016) despite previous support → cited Smith’s “bullying” of scientists and journalists on the climate change issue
- Lamar Smith won with less than 60% of the vote (70k vote difference), down from 72% in 2014 → energy related issues, especially secure energy (i.e. predictable prices) could make the difference in the next election cycle (2018)
 - Georgetown, TX → Electric grid is 100% renewable because of an economic reason; wind and solar power are more predictable. A municipality can sign a contract today and know what the price will be in 25 years.
 - Especially important to consider in a region where there are a lot of retirees with fixed incomes (~16% of 21st congressional district >68 yrs old)
- Environmental gallup polls show strong support for growth in alternative energy sector
 - 65% in favor of higher emission standards for business and industry
 - 62% in favor of higher emission standards for automobiles
 - 67% in favor of spending more gov’t money on developing solar and wind power
 - 44% have no trust at all in large corporations to protect the environment
 - 64% have a great deal/moderate amount of trust in the EPA/Federal gov’t to protect the environment

Graphics to distribute:

With which one of these statements about the environment and the economy do you most agree -- protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth (or) economic growth should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent?

■ % Protection of the environment should be given priority

■ % Economic growth should be given priority

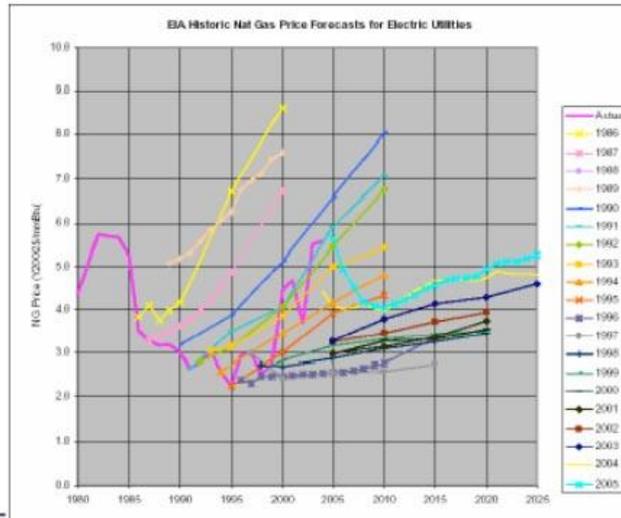


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Link to report from American Wind Energy Association, which shows that Wind Power can provide stability to an electric grid that conventional power plants cannot: <http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/AWEA%20Reliability%20White%20Paper%20-%20202-12-15.pdf>

Overall, the economic and political impact within the state of Texas and the 21st congressional might be large enough to dissuade such a drastic cut to the EPA. We should plan on targeting the under 35 through social media, with a focus on how emissions and pollution of water supplies impact health (images and examples prior to the EPA and post). For the over 65 years old population we should target them with polls related to importance of predictable utilities pricing with a focus on the success of the Georgetown municipality transition to renewable energy.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen