

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rallies Nationwide Call on U.S. Senators to Reject Trump's 'Climate Denial Cabinet'**

***#DayAgainstDenial shows widespread grassroots resistance to anti-climate, pro-fossil fuel administration***

Photos: <http://bit.ly/bestjan9photos>

**Washington, DC** -- People across the country today joined a coalition of climate and environmental organizations at rallies for the #DayAgainstDenial to stop President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet. More than 70 rallies and office visits took place at U.S. Senators' in-state offices, with thousands of people calling for the elected officials to take a stand for science and against Trump's anti-climate nominees. Trump's Climate Denial Cabinet includes Rex Tillerson, recent former ExxonMobil CEO, for Secretary of State; Oklahoma AG Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator; Ex-Gov. Rick Perry for Energy Secretary; and Rep. Ryan Zinke for the Department of the Interior. As events continue throughout the day, local organizers have shared the following updates so far:

- More than 200 people showed up at Senator Susan Collins' office in Portland, Maine. 184 attendees spoke with the Collins' staff, who said it was the largest gathering they've seen there.
- In New York City, hundreds rallied outside the Manhattan offices of Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, calling on them to defend science and their communities against climate denial.
- 300 people in Philadelphia marched from Senator Bob Casey's office to Senator Pat Toomey's, delivering stacks of letters calling for climate action at both locations.
- South Carolinians brought letters and fact sheets to Senator Lindsey Graham's Columbia office, carrying cutout signs of the Cabinet nominees with their hands covered in oil.
- In Boston, hundreds rallied in front of the State House, enacting a mock hearing where activists portraying Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey and Senator Elizabeth Warren rejected Trump's Climate Denial Cabinet.
- Ralliers in Newark, New Jersey, calling for Senator Cory Booker and Senator Robert Menendez to reject Trump's cabinet nominees were joined by Congressman Frank Pallone, who urged climate activists to "keep up the fight" on Twitter.

Groups supporting the nationwide action against the climate denial Cabinet include [350.org](http://350.org), Greenpeace USA, CREDO Action, The Sierra Club, ClimateTruth.org, Corporate Accountability International, Food & Water Watch, Oil Change International, Franciscan

Action Network, Peace Action, The Power Shift Network, and many more local and statewide groups. A full map of rallies can be found here: <http://bit.ly/dayagainstdenial>

The 'Day Against Denial' is one in a series of actions planned for the month of January to challenge Trump's Cabinet nominees and hold elected officials accountable to resisting his pro-fossil fuel, anti-climate agenda.

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### Quote Sheet:

**May Boeve, Executive Director of [350.org](http://350.org)**, said, "Whoever thought the climate movement would lose hope and shrink away from the challenges we'll face under Trump was proven wrong today. The fight to stop Trump's climate-denial Cabinet is only the beginning. Our resistance to his fossil fuel-loving, climate-denying administration is more important than ever as inauguration approaches -- and it will continue to grow as we take national action and support the local solutions needed for a livable future."

**Josh Nelson, Deputy Political Director at CREDO**, said, "Trump wants to put anti-science climate change deniers in charge of climate, energy and environmental policy in the United States. The stakes couldn't be higher," Nelson continued. "When the Senate votes on the confirmation of Trump's climate denial cabinet, every U.S. Senator will be forced to choose between the fate of the planet and the profits of the fossil fuel industry," Nelson added. "The American people will be watching."

**Annie Leonard, Executive Director of Greenpeace USA**, said, "Trump's nominees are science-denying corporate lackeys who have vowed to pick apart the critical protections their agencies oversee. The American people see the elevation of Pruitt, Tillerson, Zinke, Perry, and Sessions for what it is: An attack on our collective well-being. Now is the time to strengthen our checks on the corporate takeover of our democracy and the climate -- not erase them. Resisting these appointments is a message from the majority of Americans who didn't vote for Trump to their Senators: If you don't choose us over corporate interests, we'll choose somebody else."

**Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club**, said, "If it wasn't clear before, it's painfully obvious now: Donald Trump's priorities as president will not be to protect our communities and climate but to push a dangerous agenda of denial and toxic politics that puts our families at risk. His cabinet has been stacked with dangerous and divisive extremists -- a veritable who's who of climate-deniers and fossil fuel hacks. In the interest of our families, communities, climate and future, we're committed to stopping every last one of Trump's racist, misogynistic, bigoted, climate-denying nominees."

**Emily Southard, Campaign Director of [ClimateTruth.org](http://ClimateTruth.org)**, said, "Americans want clean air, clean water, and a safe climate — Trump's cabinet picks undermine all of those ideals. Today we're demanding our senators stand with their constituents and against the nomination of corporate climate deniers like Tillerson, Pruitt, Perry, and Zinke."

**Janet Redman, U.S. Policy Director, Oil Change International**, said, "The oil, gas and coal industry has been rigging the rules for decades. It was bad enough when the fossil fuel industry was buying the government with millions in lobbying and contributions to get the billions of subsidies they depend on. Now they're becoming the government. For the health of our democracy, our communities and our planet, the Senate must Reject Rex and the rest of Trump's fossil fueled corporate cronies for Cabinet."

**Tamar Lawrence-Samuel, Associate Research Director at Corporate Accountability International**, said, "Donald Trump's cabinet-- a cadre of oil barons, corporate CEOs, and Wall Street bankers--if confirmed, would represent an unprecedented level of corporate control over our democracy and threaten to put corporate profits before human rights, the environment, and our democracy. Congress must block these appointments in order to protect human rights, the environment and our democracy at large."

**Jon Rainwater, Executive Director of Peace Action and the Peace Action Education Fund**, said, "President-elect Trump campaigned against a rigged economy. To now put Big Oil and the rest of the corporate establishment in charge of economic, environmental and foreign policy might be the biggest bait and switch in U.S. political history. Voters weren't told that when Trump promised to drain the swamp he had in mind using oil rigs and fracking drills. Rex Tillerson's nomination is chock-full of conflicts of interest. Tillerson brings a long history of funding climate science denial at a time when climate diplomacy is at the top of the global agenda. At the same time, Exxon under Tillerson's leadership cozied up to oligarchical, autocratic regimes and participated in human rights violations in countries in which Exxon operated. The U.S. Senate should reject his nomination."

**Patrick Carolan, Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network**, said, "Protecting God's creation is a moral issue that we, as Franciscans, uphold. We look to Pope Francis as our example, who, at a plenary session of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican in November, implored world leaders not to postpone the implementation of global environmental pacts, stating there has "never been such a clear need for science" to guide human actions to safeguard the future of the planet. People of faith can not ignore, nor let their political leadership ignore, what science has confirmed: that human-kind needs to transform our thinking and act on behalf of those people who are most negatively impacted by climate change."

**Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch**, said, "Donald Trump's shocking crew of nominees has some downright frightening things in common. One is the dismissal of science. Another is apparent disdain for the very agencies they've been selected to lead. And the third is a shameful disregard for the protection of our environment and the wellbeing of our communities. Today we're putting our senators on notice: either you stand unambiguously against each of these nominees, or we the people will hold you accountable when you seek reelection."

**Eddie Junsay, the Environmental Justice Organizer with the Power Shift Network**, said, "Rex Tillerson, Scott Pruitt, and the rest of Trump's entire unqualified, dangerous cabinet deny the reality of climate change and want to strip away rights and power from

cannot deny the reality of climate change and want to strip away rights and power from women, people of color, queer people, and workers. We need to show that our communities are still standing strong by resisting Trump's team of climate deniers, racists, and anti-worker billionaires whose destructive agenda will ruin our planet and foreclose on my generation's future."

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