

Billionaire Oil Baron Philip Anschutz, A Longtime Associate And Client Of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, Has Fought To Undermine Federal Environmental Regulations – His Businesses Stand To Benefit If The Court Rules To Overturn Chevron Deference

Summary: An upcoming Supreme Court case, *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, throws into question the future of Chevron deference — a Supreme Court precedent that gives federal agencies discretion to issue rules within their regulatory scope without explicit approval from Congress. If the doctrine is overturned, it could lead to consolidated power for corporate interests challenging federal regulations. [Legal analysts point out](#) that many of the regulations at stake are key health and environmental protections.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, who has maintained a [close personal and financial connection to billionaire oil baron Philip Anschutz](#) over the years, is set to rule on the landmark case that could upend how federal agencies regulate the oil and gas industry — including Anschutz's own energy company, the Anschutz Exploration Corporation. While Justice Gorsuch has not recused himself from ruling in *Loper*, research by Accountable.US shows that Gorsuch has clear conflicts of interest at stake.

Anschutz owns an oil and natural gas company, Anschutz Exploration Corporation, that has previously profited from dodging water pollution regulations. Our investigation shows that Anschutz's oil and natural gas company has [already profited](#) from challenging regulations made possible under *Chevron*: after suing the Bureau of Land Management over a requirement to report water contaminants used in its fracking operations, which would have added a measly \$11,000 to the cost of each well it operates, Anschutz' company was able to delay a final ruling until the Trump Administration took office and dropped the suit. Anschutz' company also plays a leading role on the Petroleum Association of Wyoming trade group, which lobbies against the kinds of environmental regulations that would be threatened if Chevron deference were overturned. With *Chevron* overturned, energy companies like Anschutz Exploration Corporation would stand to profit from the widespread weakening of regulation likely to follow.

Amidst what has been an ethics-plagued last year for the Supreme Court, which was recently pushed to unveil a new self-imposed, unenforceable ethics code after mounting concerns, the relationship between Anschutz and Gorsuch as well as Gorsuch's refusal to recuse presents a major conflict in *Loper*.

Philip F. Anschutz Is A “Reclusive” Billionaire Whose Business Empire Spans Multiple Industries, Including Real Estate, Entertainment, And The Energy Sector.

Philip F. Anschutz Is A “Reclusive” Billionaire Whose Business Empire Spans The Energy Sector, Real Estate, Sports Teams, Entertainment Venues, And Telecommunications

Philip F. Anschutz “Inherited An Oil And Gas Firm And Built It Into An Empire That Has Sprawled Into Telecommunications, Railroads, Real Estate, Resorts, Sports Teams, Stadiums, Movies And Conservative Publications.” “The publicity-shy billionaire Philip F. Anschutz inherited an oil and gas firm and built it into an empire that has sprawled into telecommunications, railroads, real estate, resorts, sports teams, stadiums, movies and conservative publications like The Weekly Standard and The Washington Examiner.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

- **The Writer George Parker Has Described Anschutz As “America’s Most Reclusive Billionaire.”** “Phil Anschutz, America’s most reclusive billionaire, with his fingers in everything from international properties, to movies, to entertainment, is expected to start accepting bids on the sale of his Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) at \$10 billion and up.” [Quartz, [10/16/12](#)]
- **In 2012, The New Yorker Dubbed Anschutz “The Man Who Owns L.A.” Given The Numerous Commercial Properties And Venues That Anschutz Owns In Los Angeles.** “The Man Who Owns L.A...Tim Leiweke, the president and C.E.O. of the Anschutz Entertainment Group, likes to show off the view from his office window in downtown Los Angeles...Now Leiweke can point to Staples Center, a twenty-thousand-seat arena, and to L.A. Live, a bustling entertainment district, which are almost entirely owned by A.E.G. Beneath flashing billboards advertising L.A. Live sponsors like Coca-Cola and Toyota, there are dozens of restaurants, a J.W. Marriott/Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the Nokia Theatre, the Grammy Museum, and a multiplex Regal Cinema. Across the plaza from Leiweke’s office window is the entrance to Staples Center, home to the Lakers (partly owned by Philip Anschutz, the chairman of A.E.G.) and the Kings (majority-owned by A.E.G.).” [The New Yorker, [1/8/12](#)]

Philip F. Anschutz Owns Anschutz Exploration And Anschutz Entertainment Group, The Conglomerate That Owns The Los Angeles Kings And A Stake In The Staples Center.

“Phil Anschutz’s business holdings are wide-ranging. They include oil and gas interests in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah through Anschutz Exploration Corporation. He also has ownership interest through Anschutz Entertainment Group in events like Coachella as well as various sports teams and arenas, like the Los Angeles Kings, and the stadium they play in, the Staples Center.” [Colorado Sun, [08/27/21](#)]

Philip F. Anschutz Is Also A Member Of The Secretive, Right-Wing Organization The Council For National Policy Alongside The Activist Leonard Leo And Ginni Thomas.

The Council For National Policy Is A Secretive Conservative Organization Consisting Of Corporations, GOP Officials, Extremists, And SPLC-Designated Hate Groups

The Council For National Policy (CNP) Is A Intensely Secretive Group Of The Most Powerful Conservatives In The Country. “Three times a year for 23 years, a little-known club of a few hundred of the most powerful conservatives in the country have met behind closed doors at undisclosed locations for a confidential conference, the Council for National Policy, to strategize about how to turn the country to the right.” [New York Times, [8/28/04](#)]

A Leaked Member List Revealed That The CNP Includes Representatives Of Major Corporations, Trump Administration Officials, Extremists, Conspiracy Theorists, And Numerous SPLC-Listed Hate Groups, Among Others. “The document – which reveals email addresses and phone numbers for most members – shows that the CNP includes members of SPLC-listed hate groups... Along with these representatives of extremist positions, the CNP rolls include members of ostensibly more mainstream conservative groups, and representatives of major American corporations. Still others come from the Republican party, a network of rightwing activist organizations, and the companies and foundations that back them.” [The Guardian, [9/30/21](#)]

The Southern Poverty Law Center Described The CNP As A Shadowy Organization Building The Conservative Movement. “For 35 years, a shadowy and intensely secretive group has operated behind the scenes, providing a venue three times a year for powerful American politicians and others on the right to meet privately to build the conservative movement.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, [5/17/16](#)]

Philip Anschutz Is A Member Of The Council For National Policy, Alongside Leonard Leo And Ginni Thomas

Philip Anschutz, Leonard Leo, And Ginni Thomas Are All Members Of The Council For National Policy. [Documented, [3/18/22](#)]

- **All Three Trump Appointees To The Supreme Court Were Selected From A List Of Potential Nominees That Leonard Leo Personally Curated.** “Those three justices were Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett — all of whom voted to overturn Roe. And all of whom were, at some point, on a much publicized list of potential SCOTUS nominees that Trump publicly shared. A list that was personally curated by Leo.” [The Guardian, [6/30/22](#)]
- **Virginia “Ginni” Thomas Is A Longtime Conservative Activist And The Wife Of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.** “Conservative judicial activist Leonard Leo arranged for the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to be paid tens of thousands of dollars for consulting work just over a decade ago, specifying that her name be left off billing paperwork, according to documents reviewed by The Washington Post...Ginni Thomas, a political activist and former GOP aide on Capitol Hill, has long maintained that she and her husband keep their careers separate.” [The Washington Post, [5/4/23](#)]

Philip F. Anschutz Has A “Web Of Ties” To Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch And Even Lobbied The George W. Bush Administration To Nominate Gorsuch To The Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals Whose Territorial Jurisdiction Covers An Area Where Anschutz Has Many Business Interests.

From 1995 To 2005, Neil Gorsuch Worked At The Boutique Law Firm In Washington D.C. Where He Represented Anschutz And His Corporations

Neil Gorsuch Worked At The Boutique Law Firm Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel In Washington D.C. From 1995 To 2005. “From 1995 to 2005, Gorsuch worked at boutique law firm Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel in Washington, becoming a partner in 1998.” [Reuters, [2/1/17](#)]

- **Neil Gorsuch Became A Partner At The Law Firm In 1998.** “1998-2005 - Partner at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel.” [CNN, [8/15/22](#)]

While Working At Kellogg Huber, Gorsuch Represented Philip Anschutz And His Companies In A Number Of Cases. “Judge Gorsuch began representing Mr. Anschutz and his companies when he was working for the Washington law firm then known as Kellogg Huber. Mark Hansen, a senior partner at the firm, said he assigned the future judge, then a junior partner, to help on various cases involving the Anschutz Company ‘both because of his skills and experience and because he had expressed to me an interest in getting involved in things relating to his home state.’” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

- **In 2004, Gorsuch Successfully Defended The Regal Entertainment Theater Chain, Which Was Partly Owned By Anschutz, After It Was Sued By A Teachers’ Retirement Fund Over An Alleged Self-Dealing Arrangement That Benefited Anschutz.** “A 2004 case was typical. A teachers’ retirement fund that owned shares in the Regal Entertainment theater chain sued over its decision to issue a debt-financed dividend that would permit Mr. Anschutz, who owned 58 percent of the company, to extract \$368 million. The plaintiffs said this amounted to self-dealing. Judge Gorsuch helped win a ruling in Regal’s favor by arguing that it could handle the extra debt, telling a judge, ‘This company is what some analysts call a cash cow.’” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

In 2006, George W. Bush Nominated Neil Gorsuch To The 10th Circuit Court Of Appeals On The Recommendation Of Philip Anschutz, Whose Business Interests Lie Within The Court’s Jurisdiction

In January 2006, A Lawyer Wrote President George W. Bush’s White House Counsel, Harriet E. Miers, “At The Request Of Philip F. Anschutz,” Recommending Neil Gorsuch For The Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals.

Re: Neil M. Gorsuch

Dear Ms. Miers:

I am writing at the request of Philip F. Anschutz to suggest that the President consider nominating Neil M. Gorsuch to fill the vacancy on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals arising from the retirement of Judge David M. Ebel. Mr. Anschutz spoke with Senator Allard about Neil Gorsuch, and Senator Allard suggested that we pass along Mr. Gorsuch's resume to you. Accordingly, enclosed for your consideration is a copy of Mr. Gorsuch's resume and a brief summary of his qualifications.

[Letter from Bruce F. Black, [1/12/06](#)]

- **Neil Gorsuch's Resume Was Appended To The Letter That Was Sent To The White House.**

NEIL M. GORSUCH

EXPERIENCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, D.C.
Principal Deputy to the Associate Attorney General, June 2005-present.
Assist the Department's number three officer in managing the Justice Department's civil justice components, including the Antitrust, Tax, Civil, Civil Rights, and Environment and Natural Resources divisions. Responsible for advising the Attorney General and Associate Attorney General on civil justice, federal and local law enforcement, and public safety matters, including the oversight and management of the Department's terrorism and national security-related litigation.

[Letter from Bruce F. Black, [1/12/06](#)]

President George W. Bush Nominated Neil Gorsuch To The Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals On May 10, 2006. [archived George W. Bush White House webpage, dated [4/10/06](#)]

The Senate Confirmed Neil Gorsuch's Nomination To The Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals On July 20, 2006. "Neil Gorsuch was confirmed on July 20, 2006, to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, which hears appeals from the federal district courts of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming. [archived George W. Bush White House webpage, [accessed 8/7/23](#)]

The Territorial Jurisdiction Of The Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals Covers The Mountain West Where Philip Anschutz Has Business Interests

The Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals Covers Oklahoma, Kansas, Nex Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. "The territorial jurisdiction of the Tenth Circuit includes the six states of Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, plus those portions of the Yellowstone National Park extending into Montana and Idaho." [United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, [accessed 8/10/23](#)]

The Anschutz Corporation Is Based In Denver, Colorado. “The Anschutz Corporation is an American private holding company headquartered in Denver, Colorado, United States. It was started in 1958 by Fred Anschutz, the father of Philip Anschutz, who assumed control of the company in 1962.” [LinkedIn, [accessed 8/11/23](#)]

After Being Confirmed To The Federal Judiciary, Gorsuch Became A “Semiregular” Speaker At Anschutz’s Private, Elite Dove-Hunting Retreats

After Joining The Federal Bench, Neil Gorsuch Was A “Semiregular” Speaker At Anschutz’s Private Dove-Hunting Retreats At His 60-Square-Mile Ranch Called The Eagles Nest Ranch. “And since joining the court, Judge Gorsuch has been a semiregular speaker at the mogul’s annual dove-hunting retreats for the wealthy and politically prominent at his 60-square-mile Eagles Nest Ranch.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

- **Eagles Nest Ranch Is Located In Northeastern Colorado.** “Head east on US highway 34 from the small Colorado city of Greeley and after about five miles the road passes a community known as Kersey. There are several large animal lots, some with perhaps as many as 100,000 head of cattle. The route bends to the south-east, following the course of the South Platte River, and then after another eight or so miles, there are sign-posts pointing to a road that leads to a ranch located in the river valley, out of sight from the highway. The property is called Eagle's Nest. This extensive property is owned by the conservative billionaire Philip Anschutz...” [The Independent, [7/8/06](#)]

Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch Is Also Connected To The Anschutz Business Empire Through A 40-Acre Property In Rural Colorado, Which He Co-Owned With Two Close Associates Of Philip Anschutz—including A Current Director At The Anschutz Exploration Corporation—from 2005 Until 2017, When They Sold The Estate To The CEO Of A Major Law Firm With A Supreme Court Practice.

Walden Group, LLC, Was A Company Jointly Owned By Neil Gorsuch; A Lawyer For Philip Anschutz; And An Executive At The Anschutz Corporation, Who Is Now A Director At The Anschutz Exploration Corporation

The Walden Group, LLC Was A Limited Liability Company Formed In Colorado In October 2005.

Details			
Name	The Walden Group, LLC, Dissolved October 26, 2017		
Status	Voluntarily Dissolved	Formation date	10/11/2005
ID number	20051377207	Form	Limited Liability Company
Periodic report month	August	Jurisdiction	Colorado
Principal office street address	236 Dexter Street, Denver, CO 80220, United States		
Principal office mailing address	1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 4100, Denver, CO 80203, United States		

[Colorado Secretary of State, Summary for Walden Group, LLC, accessed [4/14/23](#)]

The Walden Group Had Three Partners, Including Neil Gorsuch, Kevin Conwick, And Cannon Harvey. “Ms. Johnson said the Walden Group has three partners: Judge Gorsuch, Mr. Harvey and Kevin Conwick.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

- One Of The Three Partners Was Kevin Conwick, A Long-Time Friend Of The Gorsuch Family And An “Important Member” Of The Anschutz Network, Serving As Mr. Anschutz’s Counsel.** “Ms. Johnson said the Walden Group has three partners: Judge Gorsuch, Mr. Harvey and Kevin Conwick. The judge befriended Mr. Harvey while representing Anschutz companies, and Mr. Conwick was a friend of the judge’s late father, a Denver lawyer, she said. [...] Mr. Conwick is also another important member of Mr. Anschutz’s network. His law firm profile focuses on his work through the years as the billionaire’s counsel in deals to buy sports teams and develop stadium and entertainment district projects, like the Staples Center in Los Angeles.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]
- One Of The Three Partners Was Cannon Harvey, An Executive At The Anschutz Corporation, Whom Gorsuch Had Represented In A Lawsuit.** “One of the Anschutz executives Judge Gorsuch represented in a Qwest lawsuit was Cannon Harvey, the head of the venture capital investment arm of Mr. Anschutz’s empire. In 2005, a company called the Walden Group filed paperwork with the Colorado secretary of state that listed Mr. Harvey as the company’s registered agent, but did not disclose any other partners’ identities. [...] Ms. Johnson said the Walden Group has three partners: Judge Gorsuch, Mr. Harvey and Kevin Conwick.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]
 - As Of Early 2022, Cannon Harvey Was A Director, Alongside Philip Anschutz, At The Anschutz Exploration Corporation.**

3: Officers and Directors	
Director	Philip Anschutz - 555 17th St, Ste 2400, Denver, CO 80202
Director	Cannon Harvey - 555 17th St, Ste 2400, Denver, CO 80202

[Wyoming Secretary of State, 2022 Annual Report, filed [2/28/22](#)]

In 2005, The Walden Group Purchased A 40-Acre Property In Rural Colorado For \$900,000

October 2005: The Walden Group Purchased Property In Grand County, Colorado, For \$900,000.

PARTY TYPE	FIRST CROSSPARTY NAME	FIRST CROSS PARTY	RECORD DATE	DOC TYPE	BOOK TYPE	SALES PRICE	DOC LEGAL
To	WALDEN GROUP LLC	FRALEY JAMES B	10/19/2005	WARRANTY DEED	RE	\$900,000.00	SEC 14 TWP 2N R 76W PARTIAL LEGAL SEE DOC

[Search for Walden Group LLC, Grand County CO Clerk & Recorder's Office, accessed [4/14/23](#)]

- **The Address For The Property Is 1446 County Road 627 Granby, CO 80446.**

1446 County Road 627
Granby, CO 80446
\$1,950,000 STATUS: ACTIVE ON SITE: 606 DAYS ID#: 7165991
UPDATED: 34 min ago

[Wayback Machine, [jimgarciashomes.com](#), archived [3/26/17](#)]

- **Gorsuch Reportedly Contributed \$360,000 To The Walden Group, Giving Him A 20 Percent Stake In The Property.** “Ms. Johnson said Judge Gorsuch contributed \$360,000 to the Walden Group, giving him a 20 percent stake; Mr. Harvey and Mr. Conwick each own 40 percent. She said the partners divide the time when each has a right to vacation on the river property, as well as taxes and utilities, based on their respective shares.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]
- **The Walden Group Eventually Built A Log House On The 40-Acre Estate.** “Days after its formation, the Walden Group purchased a 40-acre property along the Colorado River’s headwaters in the mountains northwest of Denver. The group then built a 2,923-square-foot log house there overlooking ‘the quiet seclusion of the private fishery,’ including both sides of 2,000 feet of the river, according to a real estate listing.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

In 2015, Gorsuch And His Associates Put The Granby Property On The Market Where It Sat For Two Years

July 2015: The Walden Group LLC Put The Granby Property On The Market For Nearly \$2.5 Million.

Price History			
Date	Days Ago	Event	New Price
Dec 21, 2016	95 days ago	Price Reduced : \$-150,000 (-7.14%)	\$1,950,000
Aug 19, 2016	219 days ago	Price Reduced : \$-395,000 (-15.83%)	\$2,100,000
Jul 28, 2015	607 days ago	New on market	\$2,495,000

[Wayback Machine, [jimgarciashomes.com](#), archived [3/26/17](#)]

The Property Was Still On The Market During Gorsuch’s Nomination To The Supreme Court. “Mr. Anschutz’s influence is especially felt in his home state of Colorado, where years ago Judge Neil M. Gorsuch, a Denver native, the son of a well-known Colorado Republican and now President Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court, was drawn into his orbit. [...] Mr. Conwick and Mr. Harvey declined to discuss the partnership, but since 2015, the Walden Group

has been trying to sell the property, and few neighbors know who owns it.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

- **The Property Was Still On The Market A Week Ahead Of Gorsuch’s Confirmation Hearing In March 2017.** “With the Senate Judiciary Committee set to take up Judge Gorsuch’s nomination next week, Democrats have based much of their criticism of him on the argument that his judicial and economic philosophy unduly favors corporations and the wealthy.” [The New York Times, [3/14/17](#)]

One Month After Gorsuch Was Appointed To The Court, The Walden Group Sold Its Granby Property For More Than \$1.8 Million To Brian Duffy, The CEO Of One Of The Largest Law Firms In The United States, Which Has A Supreme Court Practice And Has Represented An Anschutz Subsidiary.

April 2017: The Senate Confirmed Neil Gorsuch As An Associate Justice Of The Supreme Court By A Vote Of 54-45. “Judge Neil M. Gorsuch was confirmed by the Senate on Friday to become the 113th justice of the Supreme Court, capping a political brawl that lasted for more than a year and tested constitutional norms inside the Capitol’s fraying upper chamber. [...] The final tally was 54-45 in favor of confirmation.” [The New York Times, [4/7/17](#)]

May 2017: The Sale Of The Walden Group’s Granby Property Was Recorded In Grand County, Colorado.

PARTY TYPE	FIRST CROSSPARTY NAME	FIRST CROSS PARTY	RECORD DATE	DOC TYPE ↑	BOOK TYPE	SALES PRICE	DOC LEGAL
To	DUFFY BRIAN L	THE WALDEN GROUP LLC	05/19/2017	WARRANTY DEED	RE	\$1,825,000.00	SEC 14 TWP 2N R 76W PARTIAL LEGAL - SEE ...

[Search for Brian L Duffy, Grand County Clerk CO & Recorder’s Office, accessed [4/14/23](#)]

- **In 2017, The Property’s Assessed Value Was Just Over \$1 Million.**

Value Summary						
Type	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Residential	\$2,079,280	\$2,079,280	\$1,735,770	\$1,735,770	\$1,062,440	\$1,062,440
Residential Assessed	\$144,510	\$148,670	\$124,100	\$124,100	\$76,490	\$76,490
Total Actual Value	\$2,079,280	\$2,079,280	\$1,735,770	\$1,735,770	\$1,062,440	\$1,062,440
Total Assessed Value	\$144,510	\$148,670	\$124,100	\$124,100	\$76,490	\$76,490

[Search for Account R100960, Grand County CO, Assessor’s Office, accessed [4/17/23](#)]


- **The Property Sold For \$1,825,000 To Brian And Kari Duffy.**

Record Date:	5/19/2017
Book Type:	RE - Real Estate
Reception Number:	2017003803
Number Of Pages:	2
Doc Type:	WD - WARRANTY DEED
Grantor:	THE WALDEN GROUP LLC
Grantee:	DUFFY KARI S DUFFY BRIAN L
Sales Price:	1825000.0000
Record Date:	5/19/2017 3:34:01 PM
# of Pages in Transfer Dec:	2
DocLegal:	SEC 14 TWP 2N R 76W PARTIAL LEGAL - SI YAGER TRACT TRT 1 YAGER TRACT TRT 2

[Search for Brian L Duffy, Grand County Clerk CO & Recorder's Office, accessed [4/14/23](#)]

Since 2016, Brian L. Duffy Has Served As The Chief Executive Officer Of Greenberg Traurig, Which Practices In The U.S. Supreme Court, All Federal Circuit Courts, And Has Represented Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG).

Experience



Greenberg Traurig
21 yrs 11 mos
Greater Denver Area

- Chief Executive Officer**
Jan 2016 - Present · 7 yrs 4 mos

Brian L. Duffy is the Chief Executive Officer of the firm and previously served as a Co-President and Chair of the firm's 600-member Global Litigation Department from 2009-2013. He focuses his practice o ...see more

[Brian Duffy, LinkedIn profile, accessed [4/14/23](#)]

- **As Of 2022, Greenberg Traurig Is The Ninth Largest Law Firm In The United States.** "According to the National Law Journal's 2022 NLJ 500 ranking of firms based on size, Greenberg Traurig has 2209 attorneys and is ranked 9th in the United States." [Law.com, accessed [4/14/23](#)]
- **Greenberg Traurig Has A U.S. Supreme Court Practice And Its Lawyers Has Litigated Before "All 13 Federal Circuit Courts."** "Our work includes: [...] U.S. Supreme Court practice [...] Amicus curiae briefs [...] In recent years, team members have litigated before the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest courts in many states, all 13 federal circuit courts, including the Federal Circuit, and many states' lower appellate courts." [Greenberg Traurig LLP, accessed [04/17/23](#)]

- **Franklin D.R. Jones, Co-Chair Of Greenberg Traurig's National Public Finance Practice, Has Represented The Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG).** "Franklin D.R. Jones Jr. is Co-Chair of the National Public Finance Practice and focuses his practice on public finance, sports and entertainment facilities development, project and infrastructure finance, urban development, and local and state governmental matters. [...] Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG), a majority owner of the Houston Dynamo, as lead counsel in matters related to the development and operation of BBVA Compass Stadium (ongoing). [...] AEG/Houston Dynamo in the acquisition of the first expansion franchise of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), the Houston Dash." [Greenberg Traurig LLP, accessed [04/17/23](#)]

Gorsuch Reported Collecting Between \$250,001–\$500,000 From The Sale Of The Property

Gorsuch Reported Collecting The Sale Of The Property In His Financial Disclosure Report For 2017.

56. Walden Group LLC		None			Sold	12/31/17	N		
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[Neil Gorsuch, 2017 Financial Disclosure Report, filed on [5/15/18](#)]

- **Gorsuch Used The Code "N" To Indicate The Value Of The Sale, Meaning He Received Between \$250,001 And \$500,000.**

1. Income Gain Codes: (See Columns B1 and D4)	A = \$1,000 or less F = \$50,001 - \$100,000	B = \$1,001 - \$2,500 G = \$100,001 - \$1,000,000	C = \$2,501 - \$5,000 H1 = \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	D = \$5,001 - \$15,000 H2 = More than \$5,000,000	E = \$15,001 - \$50,000
2. Value Codes (See Columns C1 and D3)	J = \$15,000 or less N = \$250,001 - \$500,000 P3 = \$25,000,001 - \$50,000,000	K = \$15,001 - \$50,000 O = \$500,001 - \$1,000,000	L = \$50,001 - \$100,000 P1 = \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 P4 = More than \$5,000,000	M = \$100,001 - \$250,000 P2 = \$5,000,001 - \$25,000,000	
3. Value Method Codes (See Column C2)	Q = Appraisal U = Book Value	R = Cost (Real Estate Only) V = Other	S = Assessment W = Estimated	T = Cash Market	

[Neil Gorsuch, 2017 Financial Disclosure Report, filed on [5/15/18](#)]

Gorsuch And His Associates Dissolved Walden Group LLC In Late 2017

October 2017: The Walden Group Was Voluntarily Dissolved.

Details			
Name	The Walden Group, LLC, Dissolved October 26, 2017		
Status	Voluntarily Dissolved	Formation date	10/11/2005
ID number	20051377207	Form	Limited Liability Company
Periodic report month	August	Jurisdiction	Colorado
Principal office street address	236 Dexter Street, Denver, CO 80220, United States		
Principal office mailing address	1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 4100, Denver, CO 80203, United States		

[Colorado Secretary of State, Summary for Walden Group, LLC, accessed [4/14/23](#)]

Gorsuch's Property Sale Was One Of Many Supreme Court Ethics Revelations That Came Out In 2023, Leading The Court To Unveil A New Ethics Code

Politico, April 2020: Justice Gorsuch Sold A Property To The Chief Executive Of A Law Firm Involved With Cases Before The Court. "For nearly two years beginning in 2015, Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch sought a buyer for a 40-acre tract of property he co-owned in rural Granby, Colo. Nine days after he was confirmed by the Senate for a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court, the then-circuit court judge got one: The chief executive of Greenberg Traurig, one of the nation's biggest law firms with a robust practice before the high court. Gorsuch owned the property with two other individuals." [Politico, [4/25/23](#)]

November 2023: The Supreme Court Issued A New Ethics Code Following A Series Of Revelations About Undisclosed Property Deals And Gifts. "The Supreme Court issued an ethics code on Monday after a series of revelations about undisclosed property deals and gifts intensified pressure on the justices to adopt one. In a statement, the justices said they had established the code of conduct "to set out succinctly and gather in one place the ethics rules and principles that guide the conduct of the members of the court." Left unclear was how the rules would be enforced, and the court said that it was still studying how any code would be put into effect." [New York Times, [11/13/23](#)]

In 2024, The Supreme Court Will Issue A Ruling In *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, A Case That Could Result In The Overruling Of The *Chevron* Doctrine, Significantly Weakening The Federal Government's Ability To Regulate The Oil And Gas Industry.

In May 2023, The Supreme Court Agreed To Hear *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, A Case That Could Overturn *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* And Dramatically Weaken Federal Regulatory Authority

The Supreme Court Agreed To Hear The Case That Could Overturn Chevron Deference On May 1, 2023. "The Supreme Court agreed Monday to reconsider long held precedent and decide whether to significantly scale back on the power of federal agencies in a case that can impact everything from how the government addresses everything from climate change to public health to immigration." [CNN, [5/01/23](#)]

The Upcoming Case Allows The Court To Reevaluate *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, Which Set A Standard For When Courts Should Defer To The Legal Interpretations Of Federal Agencies. "Their action means they will reconsider a 1984 case – *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* – that sets forward factors to determine when courts should defer to a government agency's interpretation of the law." [CNN, [5/01/23](#)]

- **Overtaking Chevron Could Grant Courts More Power Over The Executive Branch And Regulatory Agencies.** “‘If it’s up to courts rather than agencies to resolve ambiguities even in statutes delegating highly technical authority to the executive branch, that will give courts more power – and the executive branch less – on everything from environmental regulation to immigration to public health to meat inspections to telecommunications policy,’ Vladeck said. ‘In that respect, it’s consistent with the current conservative majority’s pattern of weakening the administrative state – in favor of judicial power to answer all of these questions.’” [CNN, [5/01/23](#)]
- **The Fall Of Chevron Could Empower Lower Courts To Usurp Federal Agencies And Disrupt The Separation Of Powers By Making Public Policy Through Their Rulings.** “For instance, in *Chevron v. NRDC*, the Supreme Court admonished the lower courts to not usurp agency prerogatives by making public policy through their rulings. Now the Supreme Court could reopen the door for federal judges to decide how executive-branch agencies should go about their daily business whenever Congress has used ambiguous language, which, it should be noted, isn’t always unintentional.” [Natural Resources Defense Council, [6/21/23](#)]

The Overturning Of *Chevron* Would Greatly Benefit The Oil And Gas Industry By Limiting The Regulatory Authority Of The Environmental Protection Agency, The Bureau Of Land Management, And Other Federal Agencies That Protect The Environment And Regulate The Causes Of Climate Change

The Oil And Gas Companies Have Long Opposed *Chevron* As Their Industry Is Often Affected By Agency Actions Founded On The Standard. “Gregory Ellison, an assistant professor of law at Northern Illinois University, said the backlash also came from businesses, including oil and gas companies, as they were affected by agency actions. Ellison said the ‘traditional alliance between business and conservatives writ large’ drove anti-Chevron sentiment in the mid-2010s.” [Bloomberg, [5/3/23](#)]

- **Overtaking The *Chevron* Doctrine Would Undermine Federal Rules Protecting Public Health And The Environment, Such As Environmental Protection Agency Regulations Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Under The Clean Air Act.** “Chevron deference underpins many federal rules protecting public health, the environment, and other important areas. Federal agencies have invoked it regularly since 1984. The legal principle was an important part of the Supreme Court’s 2007 ruling authorizing the EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. In 2015, the agency used deference to defend its interpretation of the Clean Air Act against the National Mining Association, which argued that the EPA should have considered the costs to industry when writing its hazardous air pollutant rules.” [Grist, [5/4/23](#)]
- **The End Of Chevron Would Likely Invalidate The Bureau Of Land Management’s Proposed “Conservation And Landscape Health” Rule, Which Identifies “Conservation” As A Use Of Public Lands On Par With Extractive Uses Under The Federal Land Policy And Management Act Of 1976.** “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently unveiled its proposed Conservation and Landscape Health rule, which identifies “conservation” as a use of public lands on par with other extractive and non-extractive uses under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

(FLPMA)...If the proposed rule is adopted, we anticipate legal challenges will follow...Depending on how the timing plays out, the proposed rule could be among the first major federal agency rulemakings challenged after the Supreme Court hands down its decision in Loper.” [Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, [6/15/23](#)]

Philip Anschutz Is Invested In The Oil And Gas Industry Through His Privately-Held Company, The Anschutz Exploration Corporation, Which Operates In The American West.

The Anschutz Exploration Corporation, An Energy Company That Operates In Utah, Colorado, And Wyoming, Is Part Of The Anschutz Business Empire

The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Is A Subsidiary Of Anschutz Corporation.

“Anschutz Exploration Corp., the private oil and gas subsidiary of Denver’s Anschutz Corp., has a new leader.” [Denver Business Journal, [1/7/14](#)]

- **Philip Anschutz Owns The Anschutz Corporation.** “Anschutz owns Anschutz Corp, a conglomerate that controls the world's largest group of sporting teams and events.” [Bloomberg, [accessed 8/10/23](#)]

The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Currently Drills And Extracts Oil And Gas In Wyoming, Colorado, And Utah. “The company’s experienced operations team has drilled and completed hundreds of oil and gas wells, applying advanced technologies and practices to achieve multiple successes across a spectrum of assets. We are currently focused on projects within the US Rockies, which leverages our company history and technical experience. We currently operate in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, the Piceance Basin of Colorado and the Uinta Basin of Utah.” [Anschutz Exploration Corporation, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

- **The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Was Founded In 1993.** “John Masters, a Calgary oilfield veteran who helped build Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. on drilling successes in Alberta and British Columbia, has joined a team that aims to repeat the feat in the United States. He has been named president of a new Denver firm called Anschutz Exploration Corp. In announcing the appointment, the company said it believes more oil and gas can be found in the U.S. by new techniques and organizational methods. The company said that under Masters, as a pioneer of integrated technical teams, it will operate as an association of exploration consultants who team up in different ways for various projects and recruit outside talent when necessary. Masters remains chairman of Canadian Hunter.” [The Canadian Press, 11/1/93, LexisNexis]
- **The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Is Based In Denver, Colorado.** “Based in Denver, Colorado, Anschutz Exploration Corporation (AEC) is a private, independent oil and gas company with assets located in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah.” [Anschutz Exploration Corporation, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

In 2012, The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Voiced Its Opposition To An Obama-Era Regulation Governing Hydraulic Fracturing And Then Successfully Fought The *Chevron*-Based Rule In Federal Court Through Its Involvement In The Western Energy Alliance.

In May 2012, The Obama Administration Issued A Proposed Rule Requiring Oil And Gas Producers To Disclose The Chemicals They Used In Hydraulic Fracturing

May 2012: The Bureau Of Land Management Proposed A New Rule Regulating Hydraulic Fracturing On Public Land And Indian Land. “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a rule to regulate hydraulic fracturing on public land and Indian land. The rule would provide disclosure to the public of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on public land and Indian land, strengthen regulations related to well-bore integrity, and address issues related to flowback water. This rule is necessary to provide useful information to the public and to assure that hydraulic fracturing is conducted in a way that adequately protects the environment.” [Federal Register, [5/11/12](#)]

- **The Proposed Rule Was The First Of Its Kind To Require Oil And Gas Producers To Disclosure The Chemicals They Used In The Process Of Hydraulic Fracturing.** “The Obama administration on Friday issued a proposed rule governing hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas on public lands that will for the first time require disclosure of the chemicals used in the process.” [The New York Times, [5/4/12](#)]

In August 2012, Anschutz Exploration Corporation Filed A Public Comment Describing The The Bureau Of Land Management’s Proposed Hydraulic Fracturing Rule As “Repetitive” And “Unneeded”

August 2012: Anschutz Exploration Corporation Filed A Public Comment Concerning The Hydraulic Fracturing Rule With The Bureau Of Land Management.



EXPLORATION CORPORATION

555 Seventeenth Street • Suite 2400 • Denver, Colorado 80202 • Telephone 303/298-1000 • Fax 303/299-1518

August 27, 2012

U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management
Mail Stop 2134 LM, 1849 C. Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20240
Attention1004-AE26

Subject: Comments on Proposed Rule 43 CFR Part 3160: Oil and gas; Well Stimulation, Including Hydraulic Fracturing, on Federal and Indian Lands.

[Regulations.gov, [9/13/12](#)]

- **Anschutz Exploration Wrote That The Regulations Were “Repetitive” And “Unneeded.”** “Anschutz Exploration Corporation (Anschutz) has reviewed the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) referenced proposed Rule updates. We join our colleagues in the energy industry in expressing concerns over the hindrance the rules would place on innovation, efficiency, and business success. By adding layers of repetitive regulations and disclosures, the BLM risks discouraging operators from further exploration on federal and tribal lands. Unneeded regulations ultimately could prevent tribes and taxpayers from deriving benefits from important oil and gas resources on these lands.” [Regulations.gov, [9/13/12](#)]
- **Anschutz Exploration Concluded That The Bureau Of Land Management’s Proposed Rule Would “Impede Resource Recovery And Economic Progress.”** “The BLM’s proposed new rules, as drafted, will impede resource recovery and economic progress.” [Regulations.gov, [9/13/12](#)]

Anschutz Exploration Stated That The Estimated Added Cost For Complying With The New Rule Would Amount To \$11,833 Per Well, Triple What The Bureau Of Land Management Had Estimated. “The BLM estimates an added compliance cost of \$11,833 per well for the updated regulations. The added administrative burden and resulting project delays would cost far more than this estimate. Our initial calculations are at least triple the BLM’s estimate per well.” [Regulations.gov, [9/13/12](#)]

- **The Bureau Of Land Management Estimated That Approximately 3,400 Hydraulic Fracturing Wells Were Being Drilled Each Year, As Of 2012, Meaning The Total Cost Of Compliance For The Industry Would Have Been Roughly \$40 Million Annually.** “The BLM estimates that about 90 percent (approximately 3,400 wells per year) of wells currently drilled on Federal and Indian lands are stimulated using hydraulic fracturing techniques.” [Federal Register, [5/11/12](#)]

Nevertheless, The Bureau Of Land Management Published Its Final Rule In March 2015—To The Ire Of The Domestic Oil And Gas Industry

March 2015: The Bureau Of Land Management Published Its Final Rule “Oil And Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing On Federal And Indian Lands” To The Federal Register.

Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands

A Rule by the [Land Management Bureau](#) on 03/26/2015



[Federal Register, [3/26/15](#)]

- **Secretary Of The Interior Sally Jewell Said In A Statement That The New Rule Would “Allow For The Continued Responsible Development Of Our Federal Oil And Gas Resources.”** “Current federal well-drilling regulations are more than 30 years old and they simply have not kept pace with the technical complexities of today's hydraulic fracturing operations,’ Secretary Jewell said. ‘This updated and strengthened rule provides a framework of safeguards and disclosure protocols that will allow for the continued responsible development of our federal oil and gas resources. As we continue to offer millions of acres of public lands for conventional and renewable energy production, it is absolutely critical the public have confidence that transparent and effective safety and environmental protections are in place.’” [Department of the Interior, [3/20/15](#)]

The American Petroleum Institute Said The New Rule Imposed “New Costs And Delays On Energy Development Without Improving On Existing State And Federal Regulations.”

“The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) hydraulic fracturing rule imposes new costs and delays on energy development without improving on existing state and federal regulations, according to API.” [American Petroleum Institute, [3/20/15](#)]

- **The American Petroleum Institute Is A Nationwide Trade Association Of Nearly 600 Oil And Gas Producers.** “API represents all segments of America’s natural gas and oil industry, which supports more than 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our nearly 600 members produce, process and distribute the majority of the nation’s energy, and participate in API Energy Excellence®, which is accelerating environmental and safety progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting.” [American Petroleum Institute, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

Kathleen Sgamma, Vice President Of Government And Public Affairs For The Western Energy Alliance, Told The Senate Subcommittee On Public Lands, Forests, And Mining That The New Rule Had “No Real Justification” And “No Identified Environmental Benefit.” “If the goal is to continue to discourage oil and natural gas development on federal lands, then this rule will indeed further that goal. The rule is a broad new regulatory regime with no real justification as it adds cost and delay to energy development with no identified environmental benefit; duplicates yet usurps state regulation; and cannot be implemented in an efficient manner.” [Kathleen Sgamma testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mines, [4/30/15](#)]

The Day The New Rule Was Published, The Western Energy Alliance And The Independent Petroleum Association Of America Sued The Obama Administration

March 20, 2015: The Western Energy Alliance And The Independent Petroleum Association Of America Petitioned A Federal Court In Wyoming To Review The New Rule Regulating Hydraulic Fracturing.

PETITION FOR REVIEW OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION

Petitioners Independent Petroleum Association of America (“IPAA”) and Western Energy Alliance (“the Alliance”) submit respectfully this petition for review of final agency action under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706 (“APA”) and Local Civil Rule 83.6. On March 20, 2015, the federal Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) issued a final

Case 2:15-cv-00041-SWS Document 1 Filed 03/20/15 Page 2 of 3

rule intended to regulate hydraulic fracturing associated with oil and gas development on federal and Indian lands. *See* Docket ID BLM-2013-0002, Regulatory Information Number 1004-AE26.¹

[Independent Petroleum Association of America, and Western Energy Alliance v. Sally Jewell, [3/20/15](#)]

- **The Western Energy Alliance Represents 200 Independent Oil And Gas Producers Operating Across The American West.** “Western Energy Alliance represents 200 member companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production (E&P) of oil and natural gas in the West. The Alliance represents independent oil and gas producers, the majority of which are small businesses with an average of fourteen employees.” [Western Energy Alliance, accessed [9/20/23](#)]
- **The Independent Petroleum Association Of America Represents Independent Oil And Natural Gas Producers.** “The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) has represented independent oil and natural gas producers for more than 90 years.” [Independent Petroleum Association of America, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

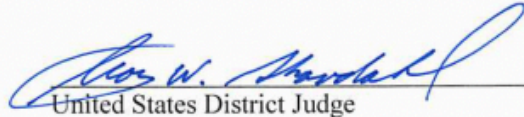
In Their Case Was Eventually Consolidated In State Of Wyoming, Et Al. v. United States Department Of The Interior Secretary, Et Al.

Upon consideration of Federal Respondents' and Industry Petitioners' Joint Motion to Consolidate, the Court hereby:

GRANTS the motion and consolidates the above-captioned matter, 2:15-cv-00041-SWS, with *State of Wyoming, et al. v. United States Department of the Interior Secretary et al.*, 2:15-cv-00043-SWS (D. Wyo.), and

SETTING *State of Wyoming, et al. v. United States Department of the Interior Secretary et al.*, 2:15-cv-00043-SWS (D. Wyo.), as the lead case in the consolidation of these matters, to which all future filings will be made.

Dated: 4th of June, 2015


United States District Judge

[State of Wyoming, et al. v. United States Department of the Interior Secretary et al., [6/4/15](#)]

The Western Energy Alliance Argued In A Subsequent Brief That The Bureau Of Land Management Misinterpreted Existing Statutes And, In Fact, Congress Had Not Authorized The Agency To Enact Regulations

A Brief Jointly Filed By The Western Energy Alliance And The Independent Petroleum Association Of America Argued That, In Spite Of The Bureau Of Land Management's Claims To The Contrary, Congress Had Not Authorized The Agency To Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing, And Therefore The Rule Should Be "Set Aside." "The general statutes under which BLM grasps for regulatory authority over hydraulic fracturing simply cannot provide a backdoor for BLM to regulate in a space where Congress has specifically revoked regulatory authority from the federal government. Congress has not authorized BLM to regulate hydraulic fracturing on federal or tribal lands...Because BLM's hydraulic fracturing rule attempts to exercise authority Congress has not granted the agency, the rule must be set aside." [State of Wyoming, et al. v. United States Department of the Interior Secretary et al., [3/4/16](#)]

At The Time Of The Lawsuit (And Still Today), Anschutz Exploration Corporation Was A Sponsor Of The Western Energy Alliance—One Of Many Linkages Between The Company, Its Executives, And The Trade Association

In 2015, The Western Energy Alliance Identified Anschutz Exploration Corporation As One Of Its Members.

A-Plus Well Service, Inc	A.G. Andrikopoulos Resources, Inc.	ACI Group, LLC
Adam James International	Aeon Energy	Air Resource Specialists, Inc.
Allison Drilling Company, Inc.	Alpine Gas LLLP	Amadeus Petroleum Inc.
Amegy Bank N. A./ Vectra Bank Colorado	Anchor Bay Corporation	Anderson Management Company
<u>Anschutz Exploration Corporation</u>	Antelope Energy Company, L.L.C.	Antero Resources Corporation
ARK Directional Services, Inc. U.S.	Armstrong Oil & Gas	Arnell Oil Company

[Wayback Machine, westernenergyalliance.org, captured [4/11/15](#)]

- **Anschutz Exploration Corporation Remains A Member And Sponsored The Western Energy Alliance's Annual Meeting Held In September 2023.**



[Western Energy Alliance, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

- **Anschutz Exploration Corporation Paid At Least \$1,500 To Sponsor The Western Energy Alliance's Upcoming Holiday Party—One Of Only Four Members To Do So.**

Event Item Name	Expires	Pricing
Member Registration	Dec 04, 2023	\$0.00
Event Sponsor	Dec 01, 2023	\$1,500.00

[REGISTER](#)

Sponsors

[Western Energy Alliance, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

Philip F. Anschutz Was Among The Inaugural Class Of Inductees Into The Western Energy Alliance's "Rocky Mountain Hall Of Fame."

2004 Inductees

Edward Ackman
George Anderman
Philip Anschutz

George Fancher, Jr.
Samuel Gary
Maury Goodin

W.A. (Tex) Moncrief, Jr.
Robert Nance
J. Larry Nichols

[Western Energy Alliance, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

- **The Rocky Mountain Hall Of Fame "Recognized Leaders Who Have Made Significant Contributions To The Development Of Oil And Natural Gas In The West."** "Created in 2004, the Hall of Fame recognizes leaders who have made significant contributions to the development of oil and natural gas in the West over the past 35 years as well as the communities where their companies operate." [Western Energy Alliance, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

During The 2021-2022 Election Cycle, Joe DeDominic Of The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Contributed \$7,000 To The Western Energy Alliance PAC, Making Him Among The Most Generous Contributors That Cycle.

Ending 12/31/2024

WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE PAC (C00426569)

2021-2022

"Anschutz"

Contributor name	Recipient	State	Employer	Receipt date	Amount
DEDOMINIC, JOSEPH	WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE PAC	CO	ANSCHULTZ EXPLORATION CORP	05/23/2022	\$3,000.00
DEDOMINIC, JOSEPH	WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE PAC	CO	ANSCHULTZ EXPLORATION CORP	09/14/2021	\$1,000.00
DEDOMINIC, JOSEPH	WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE PAC	CO	ANSCHULTZ EXPLORATION CORP	06/17/2021	\$3,000.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [9/20/23](#)]

- **Joe DeDominic Has Been The President Of The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Since 2014.** "Anschutz Exploration Corporation today announced that petroleum-industry senior executive Joseph DeDominic will join the firm as President and Chief Operating Officer." [MarketScreener, [1/6/14](#)]

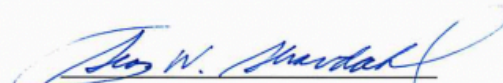
In 2016, A Federal District Judge In Wyoming Threw Out The Rule And Specifically Rejected The Obama Administration's Argument That The Regulation Was Lawful Under *Chevron*

June 2016: U.S. District Judge Scott W. Skavdahl Sides With Western Energy Alliance And The Other Plaintiffs In The Case, Deeming The Bureau Of Land Management's Rule On Hydraulic Fracturing As Unlawful.

setting aside the Fracking Rule. THEREFORE, the Court holds the Fracking Rule is unlawful, and it is

ORDERED that the BLM's final rule related to hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands, 80 Fed. Reg. 16,128 (Mar. 26, 2015), is hereby **SET ASIDE**.

DATED this 21st day of June, 2016.


Scott W. Skavdahl
United States District Judge

[State of Wyoming, et al. v. United States Department of the Interior Secretary et al., [6/21/16](#)]

- **The District Judge Specifically Rejected The Obama Administration's Argument That The Rule Was Lawful Under *Chevron*.** "In recent years, as does the BLM here, federal agencies have increasingly relied on Chevron deference to stretch the outer limits of its "delegated" statutory authority by revising and reshaping legislation. See *Caring Hearts Personal Home Servs., Inc. v. Burwell*, —F.3d —, No. 14-3243, 2016 WL 3064870, at *1 (10th Cir. May 31, 2016). However, Chevron involved a challenge to an agency construction of a specific statutory provision where the agency had clearly been granted regulatory authority over the activity in question. Chevron, 467 U.S. at 839-40, 866. This case stands in contrast — Congress has not directed the BLM to enact regulations governing hydraulic fracturing. Indeed, Congress has expressly removed federal agency authority to regulate the activity, making its intent clear. If this Court were to accept Respondents' and Intervenor Respondents' argument, there would be no limit to the scope or extent of Congressionally delegated authority BLM has, regardless of topic or subject matter." [State of Wyoming, et al. v. United States Department of the Interior Secretary et al., [6/21/16](#)]

The Obama Administration Appealed The Lower Court's Ruling, But Ultimately, The Trump Administration Rescinded It

June 2016: The Obama Administration Appealed The Preliminary Injunction That Was Initially Put In Place As The Lower Court Was Hearing The Case. "Skavdahl used similar reasoning in putting a temporary hold on the measure last year. Tuesday's decision came just a day after the U.S. filed a brief arguing for reversal of the preliminary injunction. That matter is still pending before a Denver-based U.S. appeals court." [Bloomberg, [6/22/19](#)]

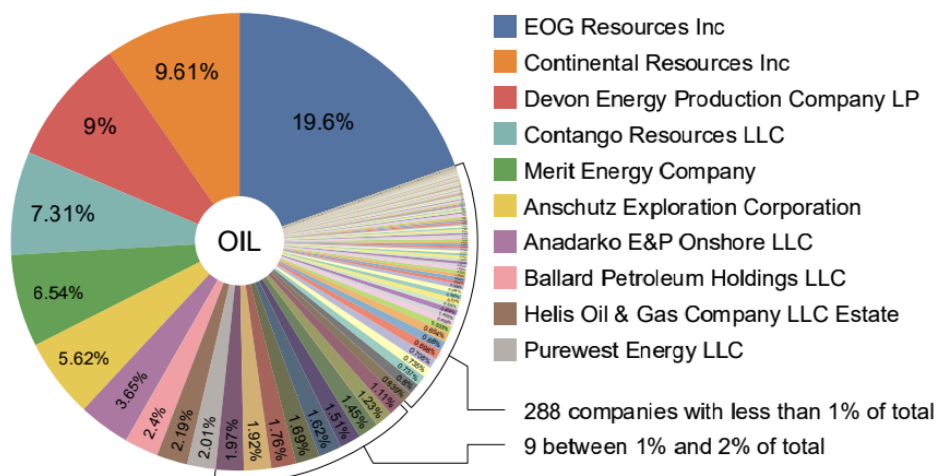
October 2016: The Court Of Appeals For The 10th Circuit Agreed To Hear The Case. "A federal appeals court has scheduled a January session to consider the Obama administration's request to reinstate its regulation on hydraulic fracturing on public lands. The Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, based in Denver, filed a notice Tuesday that oral arguments with lawyers for and against the rule will be Jan. 17, three days before President Obama leaves office." [The Hill, [11/8/16](#)]

December 2017: The Trump Administration Rescinded The 2015 Final Rule On Hydraulic Fracturing, Which Never Went Into Effect Due To The Pending Litigation. “As part of President Trump’s goal to reduce the burden of federal regulations that hinder economic growth and energy development, the Bureau of Land Management today announced in the Federal Register a final rule to rescind the 2015 final rule on hydraulic fracturing, a rule that was never in effect due to pending litigation. The BLM published a proposed rule to rescind the 2015 final rule in the Federal Register on July 25, 2017. (82 FR 34464).” [Bureau of Land Management, [12/28/17](#)]

In Wyoming, The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Financially Supports And Controls A Board Seat On The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming, A Trade Group That Acts As The “Voice” Of The Oil And Gas Industry In The State And Has Long Challenged Environmental Regulations Promulgated On The Basis Of *Chevron*.

The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Is A Leading Producer Of Crude Oil In Wyoming

In 2021 And The First Part Of 2022, The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Accounted For 5.62% Of Crude Oil Production In Wyoming, Making It The Sixth Largest Producer Of Crude Oil In The State.



Crude oil production by company, 2021 and first part of 2022.

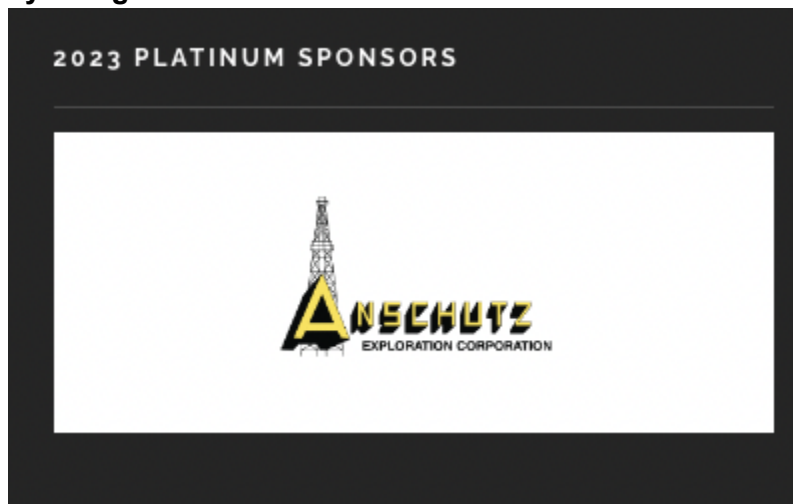
[Wyoming State Geological Survey, p. 2, [January 2023](#)]

The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Is A “Platinum” Sponsor Of The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming, The “Voice” Of The Oil And Gas Industry In The State

The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Is A Trade Association Representing The Interests Of The Oil And Gas Industry In Wyoming. “The Petroleum Association of Wyoming represents the diverse people, companies and interests of Wyoming’s oil and gas industry with passion, integrity and professionalism. We provide a forum for education, interaction, and unified action for members, policymakers, and the public.” [Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

- **The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Refers To Itself As “The Voice Of The Oil And Gas Industry.”** “The Petroleum Association of Wyoming is the voice of the oil and gas industry: Wyoming’s primary economic engine.” [Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Is A “Platinum” Sponsor Of The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming.



[Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

- **How Much The Company Pays For Membership In The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Is Not Publicly Known As The Membership Fee Is Calculated Based On The Company’s Membership Type, The Number Of Barrels Of Crude Oil Produced Annually, And The Total Gross MCF Of Natural Gas Produced Annually.**

MEMBERSHIP TYPE *	
OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCERS	
TOTAL WYOMING CRUDE OIL BBLS	
Total gross bbls reported to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission during the period of July 1 - June 30.	
TOTAL WYOMING NATURAL GAS MCF	
Total gross mcf reported to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission during the period of July 1 - June 30.	
BOE Total	300.00
0.00	

[Petroleum Association Of Wyoming, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

- **But All Platinum Members Agree To Pay An Additional \$5,000 To Cover Any Events Or Meetings Throughout The Year.** “PAW Platinum members agree to add on a \$5,000 sponsorship covering any meeting or conference event throughout the entire year. This includes the annual meeting, the reclamation conference, the legislative reception, and any additional meetings as necessary.” [Petroleum Association Of Wyoming, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

A Regulatory Manager With The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Also Sits On The Board Of The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming


Frances MacDonald, An Anschutz Exploration Corporation Employee, Currently Sits On The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Board Of Directors.

Frances MacDonald
Anschutz Exploration Corporation

[Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

- **According To Her Public LinkedIn Page, Frances MacDonald Has Been With The Anschutz Exploration Corporation Since December 2017 And Currently Works As A Regulatory Manager.**

Experience



ANSCHUTZ EXPLORATION CORPORATION
5 yrs 9 mos

- Regulatory Manager**
Full-time
Mar 2021 - Present · 2 yrs 6 mos
Denver, Colorado, United States
- Regulatory Specialist**
Dec 2017 - Mar 2021 · 3 yrs 4 mos
Greater Denver Area

[LinkedIn, [accessed 8/8/23](#)]

In 2015, The State Of Wyoming Sued The Department Of The Interior Over New Rules Regulating Hydraulic Fracking

In 2015, The State Of Wyoming Asked A Federal District Court To Review A Newly Promulgated Federal Rule That Granted The Interior Department The Right To Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing For Oil And Natural Gas. “Wyoming’s attorney general is going to court to challenge the federal Interior Department’s right to regulate hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas. The lawsuit in federal court joins one filed by two drilling associations against the rule, which was unveiled March 20.” [The Hill, [3/27/15](#)]

- **Wyoming Argued In Its Lawsuit That The Rule “Exceeds The Agency’s [The Bureau Of Land Management’s] Statutory Jurisdiction” As Granted By Congress**

Under The Safe Drinking Water Act. “Wyoming’s lawsuit filed Thursday contends that the BLM rule “exceeds the agency’s statutory jurisdiction, conflicts with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and unlawfully interferes with the state of Wyoming’s hydraulic fracturing regulations.” Peter Michael, the state’s attorney general, argues in the complaint that the Safe Drinking Water Act gives authority over underground injection exclusively to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states, while the Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempts fracking’s underground injection from EPA’s regulations.” [The Hill, [3/27/15](#)]

In 2016, The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Filed A Motion In State Of Wyoming v. U.S. Department Of The Interior, Et Al. (2015) To Submit An Amicus Brief In Which The Organization Argued That The Court Must Reject The Agency’s *Chevron* Defense

March 2016: The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Filed A Motion To Submit An Amicus Brief In State Of Wyoming v. U.S. Department Of The Interior, Et Al. (2015).

Maegan L. Woita (Wyo. Bar No. 7-5518) MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION 2596 South Lewis Way Lakewood, Colorado 80227 Phone: (303) 292-2021 Fax: (303) 292-1980 mwoita@mountainstateslegal.com	
Attorney for Amicus Curiae Petroleum Association of Wyoming	
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING	
STATE OF WYOMING, <i>et al.</i> , Petitioners, v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, <i>et al.</i> , Respondents,	Case No. 15-cv-043-SWS Lead Case
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, <i>et al.</i> , Petitioners, v. SALLY JEWELL, <i>et al.</i> , Respondents.	Case No. 15-cv-041-SWS Consolidated Case
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PARTICIPATE AS AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS	

[State of Wyoming, et al., v. U.S. Department of the Interior, et al., filed [3/11/16](#)]

In Its Amicus Brief, The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Argued That The Court Must Consider Congress’s “Intent” When Writing A Law On Which An Agency Ultimately Bases Its Regulations. “When Congress speaks to a specific issue, both agencies and courts are bound to “give effect to the unambiguously expressed intent of Congress.” *Chevron, U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837, 842–43 (1984) (citations omitted); *Food & Drug Admin. v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.*, 529 U.S. 120, 125–26 (2000); see also *Gen. Dynamics Land Sys., Inc. v. Cline*, 540 U.S. 581, 600 (2004) (Deference to an agency’s

“statutory interpretation is called for only when the devices of judicial construction have been tried and found to yield no clear sense of congressional intent.”) (citation omitted))” [State of Wyoming, et al., v. U.S. Department of the Interior, et al., filed [3/11/16](#)]

- **In This Instance, The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Argued, Congress Did Not Grant The Bureau Of Land Management Authority To Write Rules Governing Hydraulic Fracking.** “Here, Congress has already answered the question before this Court and it is crystal clear that Congress has not delegated authority to the BLM to regulate hydraulic fracturing.

In 2022, The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Submitted A Public Comment To The Environmental Protection Agency Voicing Its Opposition To A Proposed Rule Which Interpreted The Clean Water Act Using The *Chevron* Standard

December 2021: The Environmental Protection Agency Published A Proposed Rule Expanding The Definition Of “Waters Of The United States” That Could Be Regulated Under The Clean Water Act. “The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (“the agencies”) are publishing for public comment a proposed rule defining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. This proposal is consistent with the Executive Order signed on January 20, 2021, on “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis,” which directed the agencies to review the agencies’ rule promulgated in 2020 defining “waters of the United States.” This proposed rule would meet the objective of the Clean Water Act and ensure critical protections for the nation’s vital water resources, which support public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth across the United States.” [Federal Register, [12/7/21](#)]

- **The Agency Argued That It Could Develop A New Definition Of “Waters Of The United States” Based On Existing Case Law And “The Familiar *Chevron* Standard.”** “First, in *Riverside Bayview*, the Supreme Court deferred to and upheld the agencies’ interpretation of the Act to protect wetlands adjacent to navigable-in-fact bodies of water, relying on the familiar *Chevron* standard that “[a]n agency’s construction of a statute it is charged with enforcing is entitled to deference if it is reasonable and not in conflict with the expressed intent of Congress.” 474 U.S. at 131 (citing *Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837, 842-45 (1984)).” [Federal Register, [12/7/21](#)]

February 2022: The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Submitted A Public Comment In Opposition To The Proposed Rule, Calling It “An Unwarranted Expansion Of Federal Authority.” “This proposal is being marketed as a reversion to the pre-2015 definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS), while incorporating some protocols which were previously delineated in agency guidance documents. Yet what the agencies have proposed is, in fact, a new and broadened definition of WOTUS...the lack of a definition in this instance provides the agencies the ability to define a region subjectively and in ways that will support consolidation of regulatory authority to the federal government.” [Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Public Comment in EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602, filed [2/7/22](#)]

The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Even Praised Justice Gorsuch In 2022 When He Implied In His Concurring Opinion In *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* (2022) That *Chevron* Is Unconstitutional.

West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency (2022) Was A Landmark Decision By The Conservative Majority On The Supreme Court To Limit The Environmental Protection Agency's Ability To Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency Was A Supreme Court Case In Which The Court Considered Whether The Environmental Protection Agency Possessed The Authority To Regulate Carbon Dioxide Emissions From The Electricity Sector To Combat Climate Change. “At issue is a federal regulation that broadly governs emissions from power plants. But in a curious twist, the regulation actually never took effect and does not currently exist. The legal wrangling began in 2015 when President Barack Obama announced the Clean Power Plan, his chief strategy to fight climate change. Citing its authority under the Clean Air Act, the Obama administration planned to require each state to lower carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity sector — primarily by replacing coal-fired power plants with wind, solar and other clean sources.” [The New York Times, [2/27/22](#)]

- **The Obama-Era Plan At The Center Of The Case Was Never Implemented, Meaning The Case Revolved Around A Hypothetical Future Regulation—A “Highly Unusual” Matter For The Court To Take Up.** “But the Clean Power Plan was never implemented. After a barrage of lawsuits from Republican states and the coal industry, the Supreme Court put the program on hold. Once President Donald J. Trump took office, he instituted a new plan that was effectively the same as no regulation. But on the last full day of Mr. Trump’s presidency, a federal appeals court found that the Trump administration had “misconceived the law” and vacated the Trump plan. That cleared the way for the Biden administration to issue its own regulation, which it has yet to do. It is highly unusual for the Supreme Court to take up a case that revolves around a hypothetical future regulation, legal experts said.” [The New York Times, [2/27/22](#)]

In A 6-3 Ruling, The Court’s Conservatives, Including Neil Gorsuch, Ruled That The Environmental Protection Agency Lacked The Authority Under The Clean Air Act To Implement Its Clean Power Plan. “Congress did not grant the Environmental Protection Agency in Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act the authority to devise emissions caps based on the generation shifting approach the Agency took in the Clean Power Plan....Justice Neil Gorsuch filed a concurring opinion, in which Justice Samuel Alito joined. Justice Elena Kagan filed a dissenting opinion, in which Justices Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor joined.” [Oyez, [accessed 8/10/23](#)]

In His Concurring Majority Opinion In *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*, Justice Gorsuch Effectively Endorsed Overruling *Chevron* By Writing That Congress Must First Authorize The Executive Branch To Pen Regulations

Justice Gorsuch Wrote In His Concurring Opinion In West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency That “...The Constitution Does Not Authorize Agencies To Use Pen-And-Phone Regulations As Substitutes For Laws” Even If Congress Is “Slow To Solve Problems.” “When Congress seems slow to solve problems, it may be only natural that those in the Executive Branch might seek to take matters into their own hands. But the Constitution does not authorize agencies to use pen-and-phone regulations as substitutes for laws passed by the people’s representatives.” [West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency, Concurring opinion of Justice Gorsuch, p. 19, [6/30/22](#)]

Justice Gorsuch Also Suggested That Congress Must “Clearly Authorize” The Environmental Protection Agency To Pen Regulations. “On the merits of the case before us, I join the Court’s opinion, which comprehensively sets forth why Congress did not clearly authorize the EPA to engage in a “generation shifting approach” to the production of energy in this country.” [West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency, Concurring opinion of Justice Gorsuch, p. 19, [6/30/22](#)]

The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Praised Justice Gorsuch In A Press Statement Following The Supreme Court’s Ruling In West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency

In A Press Release, The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Praised Gorsuch’s Concurring Opinion In West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency, Specifically Citing Where The Justice Wrote That Federal Agencies’ Ability To Regulate Must Be “Clearly Granted” By Congress. “Justice Gorsuch said it best in his concurring opinion, “The Court acknowledges only that, under our Constitution, the people’s elected representatives in Congress are the decision makers here—and they have not clearly granted the agency the authority it claims for itself.” In other words, the EPA – an agency bent on growing its authority beyond what it was given – was finally and forcefully told no.” [Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [6/30/22](#)]

In The Same Press Release, The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Gave A Full-Throated Rebuke Of Chevron Deference

The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Wrote That The Body Believed A Federal Regulations “Must Be Based In Legal Authority Granted By An Act Of Congress.” “While the oil and natural gas industry is continually improving operations and reducing emissions, we believe any federal regulatory framework must be based in legal authority granted by an Act of Congress.” [Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [6/30/22](#)]

The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Criticized Other Federal Agencies Regulating The Oil And Gas Industry, Such As The Bureau Of Land Management, For Penning Regulations Without The Express Authorization Of Congress. “While the Court’s decision focused on the EPA – it is far from only agency that has seen increased authority absent Congress action. The Department of Interior, at the direction of an anti-domestic production President, has worked day and night to shut down federal oil and natural gas activity. Despite their efforts, the Courts forced DOI to meet its Congressionally mandated obligations and host the first BLM quarterly lease sale in Wyoming in more than 18 months.” [Petroleum Association of Wyoming, [6/30/22](#)]

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