

House Republicans Set To Attack Biden Conservation Policies On Behalf Of Their Big Oil Donors And An Extreme Project 2025 Agenda

SUMMARY: At House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee Hearing on the National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) budget, House Republicans are poised to attack the Biden Administration's public lands conservation progress, including the [BLM Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Rule](#), the [BLM Public Lands Rule](#), and other policies.

They will be going to bat on behalf of their big oil donors– the same companies that have been embroiled in serious anti-consumer and unethical scandals in just the past week.

ExxonMobil Caught Trying To Add An Oil CEO Who Colluded With OPEC To Drive Up Prices

- As a part of a deal to acquire the oil company Pioneer Natural Resources, ExxonMobil agreed to put that company's founder and long-time CEO Scott Sheffield on the ExxonMobil board of directors.
- While the acquisition is complete, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has [stopped](#) one condition of deal; adding Pioneer's founder and long-time CEO Scott Sheffield to Exxon's board. In a complaint, the FTC said that text messages show Sheffield had "colluded with OPEC" in a plan to drive up oil prices and hurt US consumers. Sheffield's appointment would also be "anticompetitive" because he sits on boards of other companies that compete with ExxonMobil.

Entertaining A Quid-Pro-Quo To Provide A Politician With \$1 Billion In Contributions

- At a meeting at Mar-A-Lago last month, the Washington Post reports that a handful of big oil executives were given a brazen, transactional promise. If they give \$1 billion in campaign contributions, Donald Trump said he would enact many of the extreme, pro-oil-and-gas policies included in the extreme Project 2025 agenda.
- The oil executives in attendance have ties to Project 2025. Of the four companies named in The Post's reporting, three– ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Occidental– have held seats on the board of Western Energy Alliance, the oil and gas lobbying group that authored Project 2025's oil and gas provisions.

The Big Oil CEOs involved in both of these controversies are tied via board memberships and PAC contributions to Project 2025, a set of extreme policy proposals whose oil and gas provisions were written by a Big Oil lobby group.

Launched by the Heritage Foundation in April 2022, Project 2025 is a two-pronged initiative to develop a [compendium of conservative policy recommendations](#) and a roster of right-wing personnel to populate the next Republican administration. According to Heritage Foundation

president Kevin Rogers, a [key objective](#) of Project 2025 is to “begin dismantling the administrative state from Day 1” of a new Republican presidency.

The Big Oil CEO Who Was Just Barred From Joining ExxonMobil’s Board After Getting Caught Colluding To Drive Up Energy Prices Has Contributed Thousands Of Dollars To The Author Of Project 2025’s Oil And Gas Section.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Has Barred Oil CEO Scott Sheffield From Joining ExxonMobil’s Board After He “Colluded With OPEC” To Drive Up Prices For US Consumers.

FTC Allowed Oil Giant ExxonMobil To Acquire Pioneer Natural Resources But Stopped Pioneer’s CEO From Joining Exxon’s Board Because Of His Record Trying To Manipulate Markets.

The FTC Found That Scott Sheffield, Pioneer’s Founder, Past CEO, And Board Member “Colluded With OPEC” To Raise Crude Oil Prices. “The FTC said Thursday that Scott Sheffield, who founded Pioneer in 1997, colluded with OPEC and OPEC+ to potentially raise crude oil prices. Sheffield retired from the company in 2016, but he returned as president and CEO in 2019, served as CEO from 2021 to 2023, and continues to serve on the board. Since Jan. 1, he has served as special adviser to the company’s chief executive.” [Associated Press, [05/02/240](#)]

- **FTC Called Sheffield’s Appointment To Exxon’s Board “Anticompetitive” Because Sheffield Also Had A Board Seat On Another Company Whose Projects “Directly Overlap With Exxon’s Operations.”** “Sheffield’s appointment to Exxon’s board also would be anticompetitive as he currently serves on the board of The Williams Companies, Inc., which operates a host of natural gas pipelines; natural gas gathering, processing, and treating assets; and other businesses that directly overlap with Exxon’s operations. Sheffield’s appointment would facilitate a board interlock among competitors, in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act.” [Federal Trade Commission, [05/02/24](#)]

Scott Sheffield Had A “Plan” To “Get OPEC To Cut Production,” Passing Higher Prices On To American Consumers.

FTC Found In Scott Sheffield’s Text Messages That He Had A “Plan” To “Get OPEC To Cut Production.” “Sheffield, for example, exchanged hundreds of text messages with OPEC representatives and officials discussing crude oil market dynamics, pricing and output. In discussing his efforts to coordinate with Texas producers under a production cut mandated by the Railroad Commission of Texas, Sheffield said, ‘If Texas leads the way, maybe we can get OPEC to cut production. Maybe Saudi and Russia will follow. That was our plan,’ he said,

adding: 'I was using the tactics of OPEC+ to get a bigger OPEC+ done.'" [Federal Trade Commission, [05/02/24](#)]

- **FTC Found That Sheffield Joining Exxon's Board Would "Harm Competition" And That Increased Prices Would Be "Passed On To Americans."** "As part of its proposed acquisition of Pioneer, Exxon agreed to 'take all necessary actions to cause Scott D. Sheffield ... to be appointed to the board of directors' of Exxon ('Appointment Clause') after the Proposed Acquisition closes. By giving Mr. Sheffield a larger platform from which to pursue his anticompetitive schemes – as well as decision-making input and access to competitively sensitive information of Exxon – the Proposed Acquisition violates Section 7 of the Clayton Act because it would meaningfully increase the likelihood of coordination, and thereby harm competition, in the market for development, production, and sale of crude oil. Increases in crude oil prices are passed on to Americans through higher gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and jet fuel prices." [FTC Complaint, accessed [05/06/24](#)]

Price Fixer Scott Sheffield And Others At Pioneer Gave Nearly \$8,000 To The Authors Of Project 2025's Extreme Oil And Gas Provisions.

Project 2025, A Right-Wing Effort To Dismantle The Administrative State Should A Conservative Politician Take The White House, Has Extreme Provisions On Oil, Gas, And Public Lands That Were Written By Big Oil Lobby Group Head Kathleen Sgamma.

Thomas Sheffield And His Oil Company Pioneer Natural Resources Have Given Nearly \$8,000 To Western Energy Alliance's Political Action Committee. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 05/07/24] (See Table 1)

Pioneer Also Held A Seat On The Big Oil Lobby Group's Board Of Directors, And So Does ExxonMobil, The Company That Just Acquired It.

Charlie Sizemore, An Executive At Pioneer Natural Resources, Was Previously A Board Member At Western Energy Alliance. [Western Energy Alliance via Archive.org, archived [02/13/17](#)]

Greg Pulliam Has A Seat On Western Energy Alliance's Board of Directors. [Western Energy Alliance 990, [2022](#)]

- **Greg Pulliam Is A Public And Government Affairs Manager At XTO Energy, A Subsidiary of ExxonMobil.** [Greg Pulliam on LinkedIn, accessed [05/07/24](#)]

Big Oil Executives Last Month Were Told That For \$1 Billion In Campaign Contributions, They Can Have All The Pro-Oil Policies Described In The Extreme Project 2025 Plan

At Mar-a-Lago Last Month, Oil Industry Executives Were Told They Could Have A Host Of Policy Giveaways In Exchange For \$1 Billion In Campaign Contributions.

Several Of The Companies Represented At The Meeting Are Also On The Board Of The Big Oil Lobby Group That Wrote Project 2025's Oil And Gas Giveaways.

At A Meeting With Oil Executives, Donald Trump Promised To Reverse President Biden's Oil And Gas Policies In Exchange For \$1 Billion In Campaign Contributions. "As Donald Trump sat with some of the country's top oil executives at his Mar-a-Lago Club last month, one executive complained about how they continued to face burdensome environmental regulations despite spending \$400 million to lobby the Biden administration in the last year. Trump's response stunned several of the executives in the room overlooking the ocean: You all are wealthy enough, he said, that you should raise \$1 billion to return me to the White House. At the dinner, he vowed to immediately reverse dozens of President Biden's environmental rules and policies and stop new ones from being enacted, according to people with knowledge of the meeting, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a private conversation." [Washington Post, [05/09/24](#)]

Three Of The Big Oil Companies Reportedly In Attendance Have Board Seats With The Group That Authored The Oil And Gas Provisions Of Project 2025.

Executives In Attendance Include Representatives From Exxon, Chevron, Occidental, And Continental Resources. "The roughly two dozen executives invited included Mike Sabel, the CEO and founder of Venture Global, and Jack Fusco, the CEO of Cheniere Energy, whose proposed projects would directly benefit from lifting the pause on new LNG exports. Other attendees came from companies including Chevron, Continental Resources, Exxon and Occidental Petroleum, according to an attendance list obtained by The Post." [Washington Post, [05/09/24](#)]

- **Greg Pulliam Is The Public And Government Affairs Manager, Western Division At XTO Energy Inc./ Exxon Mobil Corporation.** [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]
 - **Greg Pulliam Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors.** [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]
- **Greg Hardin Is The VP Of Regulator Affairs At Occidental Petroleum.** [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

- **Greg Hardin Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors.**
[ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]
- **2020 - Present: Chad Calvert Is The Manager Of Rockies Government Affairs At Chevron USA.** [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]
- **Chad Calvert Served On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors in 2021.**
[ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

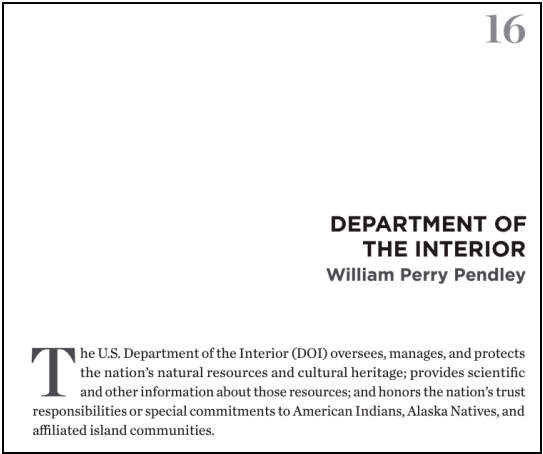
The Policy Promises Offered In Exchange For \$1 Billion At The Mar A Lago Event Are Reflected In The Project 2025 Mandate For Leadership Policy Book.

The Candidate Made A Half Dozen Specific Policy Promises That Would Benefit The Oil Industry. At the event, Donald Trump promised "New offshore drilling... speedier permits... relaxed regulations... and end the Biden administration's freeze on permits for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports... auctioning off more leases for oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico... (to) reverse the restrictions on drilling in the Alaskan Arctic... (and to) scrap Biden's 'mandate' on electric vehicles – mischaracterizing ambitious rules that the Environmental Protection Agency recently finalized." [Washington Post, [05/09/24](#)]

The Interior Section Of Project 2025's Policy Book Includes Recommendations To Eliminate Biden Executive Orders And Reinstall Trump-Era Policies That Would Lead To New Offshore Drilling, Reinstalling LNG Exports, And Other Policies. [Project 2025 Mandate for Leadership, accessed [05/08/24](#)]

Though Never-Confirmed Trump-Era BLM Director William Perry Pendley Authored The Project 2025's Playbook Chapter On The Department Of The Interior, He Ceded The Oil And Gas Sections To Kathleen Sgamma.

William Perry Pendley Authored Chapter 16 Of The Project 2025 Mandate For Leadership Playbook, Which Focuses On The Department Of The Interior.



[Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [05/07/24](#)]

In The Authors Note, The Section On Energy Is Attributed To Kathleen Sgamma And Others.
“AUTHOR’S NOTE: The preparation of this chapter was a collective enterprise of individuals involved in the 2025 Presidential Transition Project. All contributors to this chapter are listed at the front of this volume, but some deserve special mention. Kathleen Sgamma, Dan Kish, and Katie Tubb wrote the section on energy in its entirety. I received thoughtful, knowledgeable, and swift assistance from Aubrey Bettencourt, Mark Cruz, Lanny Erdos, Aurelia S. Giacometto, Casey Hammond, Jim Magagna, Chad Padgett, Jim Pond, Rob Roy Ramey II, Kyle E. Scherer, Tara Sweeney, John Tahsuda, Rob Wallace, and Gregory Zerzan. The author alone assumes responsibility for the content of this chapter; no views expressed herein should be attributed to any other individual.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Table 1: Pioneer Natural Resources Contributions To WEA PAC

Category	Contributor	Employer	Occupation	Date	Amount	Recipient	Recipient Jurisdiction
Money to PACs	SIZEMORE, CHARLIE IRVING, 75039	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VP, WESTERN ASSET TEAM	08-24-2015	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D EVERGREEN , 80439	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	04-26-2013	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal

Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D LAKEWOOD , 80228	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	03-13-20 14	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D LAKEWOOD , 80228	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	08-17-20 15	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SIZEMORE, CHARLIE IRVING, 75039	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VP, WESTERN ASSET TEAM	10-10-20 17	\$250	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D EVERGREEN , 80439	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	03-09-20 12	\$2,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D EVERGREEN , 80439	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	05-31-20 11	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SIZEMORE, CHARLIE IRVING, 75039	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VP, WESTERN ASSET TEAM	07-20-20 16	\$500	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Total:					\$7,750		

Table 1