

## **The Author Of Project 2025's Extreme Oil And Gas Provisions Took Thousands Of Dollars From A Big Oil CEO Who "Colluded With OPEC" To Drive Up Prices For American Consumers.**

**SUMMARY:** 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.

Sheffield and Pioneer don't just throw their influence around to improperly influence oil prices to harm American consumers. They also have considerable influence with contributors to [Project 2025](#), the dark money network to fill a conservative president's administration with election deniers and conspiracy theorists who want to fundamentally undermine the administrative state. The extreme plan's public lands oil and gas provisions were authored by Kathleen Sgamma of the Western Energy Alliance.

Sheffield and his company Pioneer Natural Resources contributed thousands of dollars to the Western Energy Alliance PAC and at one point held a seat on WEA's board of directors. ExxonMobil, the company that acquired Pioneer, retains a seat on WEA's board through its subsidiary XTO Energy.

**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 2 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.*

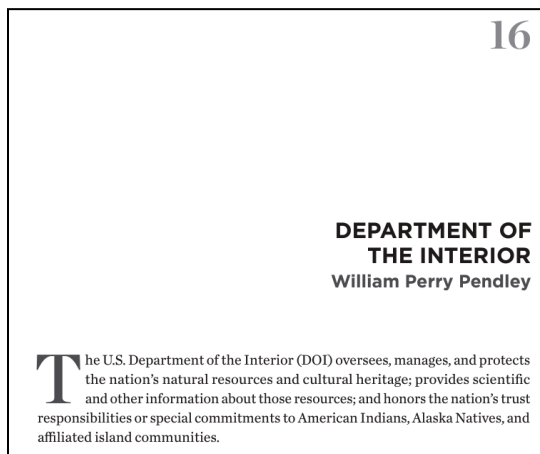
**Charlie Sizemore, An Executive At Pioneer Natural Resources, Was Previously A Board Member At Western Energy Alliance.** [Western Energy Alliance via Archive.org, archived [02/13/17](#)]

**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](#)]

*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](#)]

*Project 2025 Is An Extreme Right-Wing Initiative With A Goal To Populate The Federal Bureaucracy Under A Republican President—And Destroy It From Within.*

**The Project 2025 Advisory Board, Which Launched In June 2022, Is A “Major Initiative” Of The Heritage Foundation’s 2025 Presidential Transition Project.** “The Heritage Foundation today announced the formation of the Project 2025 Advisory Board, the first major initiative of the 2025 Presidential Transition Project since its launch in April.” [Heritage Foundation, [6/24/22](#)]

**Outside Groups Advising Project 2025 Are Currently Identifying Several Thousand Potential Recruits Who Could Populate The Federal Bureaucracy Under A Republican President.**

“They have already identified several thousand potential recruits and have set a goal of having up to 20,000 potential administration officials in their database by the end of 2024, according to Kevin Roberts, the president of Heritage.” [The New York Times, [4/20/23](#)]

**Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts Said Project 2025 Recruits Would “Begin Dismantling The Administrative State From Day 1.”** “In 2016, the conservative movement was not prepared to flood the zone with conservative personnel,” Dr. Roberts said. “On Jan. 20, 2025, things will be very different. This database will prepare an army of vetted, trained staff to begin dismantling the administrative state from Day 1.” [The New York Times, [4/20/23](#)]

**Table 1: Pioneer Natural Resources Contributions To WEA PAC**

Category	<a href="#">Contributor</a>	Employer	Occupation	<a href="#">Date</a>	<a href="#">Amount</a>	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	03-13-2014	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D LAKEWOOD , 80228	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	08-17-2015	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SIZEMORE, CHARLIE IRVING, 75039	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VP, WESTERN ASSET TEAM	10-10-2017	\$250	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D EVERGREEN , 80439	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	03-09-2012	\$2,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SHEFFIELD, THOMAS D EVERGREEN , 80439	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VICE PRESIDENT ROCKIES ASSET TEAM	05-31-2011	\$1,000	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Money to PACs	SIZEMORE, CHARLIE IRVING, 75039	PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES	VP, WESTERN ASSET TEAM	07-20-2016	\$500	Western Energy Alliance	Federal
Total:					\$7,750		

**Table 1**