

## House Oversight Committee Republicans Invite Key Figures From Extreme Project 2025 For Hearing Testimony

**SUMMARY:** Republicans on the House Oversight Committee selected four leaders with ties to Project 2025 to testify at [a hearing](#) on the so-called policy failures of the Biden Administration. The witnesses include:

- [Brendan Carr](#), a commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), authored Project 2025's manifesto for the FCC and his policy proposals align with conservative talking points about the [censoring](#) of conservatives by social media platforms. His involvement has been [criticized](#) by members of Congress as a potential violation of the Hatch Act and other ethics rules.
- Mark Krikorian is director of the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), a [Southern Poverty Law Center-designated hate group](#) and Project 2025 Advisory Board member. Six CIS staff members - at least two of whom have made extreme and even racist comments - were contributors to Project 2025.
- Mandy Gunasekera authored Project 2025's policy proposals for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in which she proposes cutting its "environmental justice and public engagement functions," shrinking the agency, and accuses EPA staff of "quietly" strangling domestic energy production. When [she served as an advisor in the Trump White House](#), Gunasekera pushed for the U.S. to leave the Paris Climate Accords and played a key role in rolling back federal pollution and emissions rules.
- [Meaghan Mobbs](#) is the director of the Center for American Safety and Security at the Independent Women's Forum (IWF), a group which is on Project 2025's advisory board. Additionally, three of Project 2025's contributors and two authors are affiliated with IWF.

House Republicans are tapping Project 2025 – the extreme policy project that is queuing Trump loyalists for political appointments – to staff their next oversight hearing. Meanwhile, Project 2025 is influencing Congress to bolster its proposals to centralize power in the presidency and undermine individuals' rights.

### The House Oversight Committee Is Holding A Hearing On Consequences Of The Biden Administration.

### The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Is Holding A Hearing On The Consequences Of The So-Called Policy Failures Of The Biden Administration.

On September 19, 2024, The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Is Holding A Hearing On "A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration's Policy Failures." [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

At The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Hearing On "A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration's Policy Failures," The Witnesses Include Brendan Carr, Mark Krikorian, Meaghan Mobbs, and Mandy Gunasekara. [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

- **Brendan Carr Is A Commissioner At The Federal Communications Commission.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]
- **Mark Krikorian Is The Executive Director Of The Center For Immigration Studies.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]
- **Meaghan Mobbs Is The Director At The Center For American Safety And Security At The Independent Women’s Forum.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]
- **Mandy Gunasekera Is The Former Chief Of Staff U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**Hearing Witness And FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Authored Project 2025’s Policy Recommendations For The FCC, Which Align With Right-Wing Talking Points That Social Media Companies Censor Conservatives.**

**FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Is Slated To Testify At The House Oversight Committee’s Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures.”**

**Brendan Carr Is A Commissioner At The Federal Communications Commission (FCC).** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**At The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures,” The Witnesses Include Brendan Carr, Mark Krikorian, Meaghan Mobbs, and Mandy Gunasekara.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Authored Project 2025’s Policy Recommendations For The FCC And His Involvement Has Been Criticized By Members Of Congress As A Potential Violation Of The Hatch Act And Other Ethics Rules.**

**Brendan Carr Authored Project 2025’s Policy Recommendations For The FCC.** [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**In July 2024, 16 Members Of Congress, Led By Rep. Huffman, Sent A Letter To Ethics Officials Calling For And Investigation Into “ FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr For Crafting Part Of Project 2025 In His Official Capacity As An Executive-Level Employee Of The Federal Government” Which Could Potentially Violate “ The Hatch Act And Other Federal Ethics Laws And Regulations.”** “Today, U.S. Representative Jared Huffman (CA-02), founder of the Stop Project 2025 Task Force, along with 15 of his colleagues, sent a letter to the Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Office of Special Counsel, and the Office of Government Ethics decrying FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr for crafting part of Project 2025 in his official capacity as an executive-level employee of the federal government. The lawmakers also called on the administration to urgently to investigate Commissioner Carr’s involvement and make a determination as to whether he complied with the Hatch Act and other federal ethics laws and regulations.” [Office of Congressman Huffman, [7/17/24](#)]

**FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr’s Policy Proposals In Project 2025 Align With Right-Wing Talking Points That Social Media Companies Censor Conservatives.**

**Fcc Commissioner Brendan Carr Proposes In Project 2025 That Congress Should Pass Legislation That Punishes “Social Media Companies For Suspending Or Banning Users Based On Their ‘viewpoints’—Part Of Broader Claims By Conservatives That Social Media Companies Are Biased Against Them.”** “Carr’s chapter on the FCC calls for the agency to ‘change course’ and focus on reining in big tech and promoting national security. The FCC commissioner proposes overhauling legal protections that shield tech companies from liability for content posted on its platforms, and supports Congress passing legislation similar to laws in Texas and Florida that punish social media companies for suspending or banning users based on their ‘viewpoints’—part of broader claims by conservatives that social media companies are biased against them.” [Forbes, [7/17/24](#)]

**FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Proposes In Project 2025 To Ban TikTok “As Part Of A Crackdown On Infrastructure From China.”** “Project 2025’s FCC agenda also calls for banning TikTok as part of a crackdown on infrastructure from China, and calls for tech companies to provide greater transparency. It also argues companies should help pay for the government’s fund that provides telecommunications services in low-income, high-cost and rural areas, along with schools and libraries.” [Forbes, [7/17/24](#)]

**Hearing Witness Mark Krikorian Is The Director Of The Center For Immigration Studies (CIS), An Organization On Project 2025’s Advisory Board And SPLC-Designated Hate Group – Two Members Of Krikorian’s Staff From CIS Are Project 2025 Contributors Who Espoused Bigoted Views Toward Immigrants And Particularly Latinos.**

**Center For Immigration Studies (CIS) Executive Director Mark Krikorian Is Slated To Testify At The House Oversight Committee’s Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures.”**

**Mark Krikorian Is The Executive Director Of The Center For Immigration Studies.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**At The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures,” The Witnesses Include Brendan Carr, Mark Krikorian, Meaghan Mobbs, and Mandy Gunasekara.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**Center For Immigration Studies (CIS) Is On The Project 2025 Advisory Board And Six Project 2025 Contributors Are Affiliated With CIS.**

**Center For Immigration Studies Is On The Project 2025 Advisory Board.** [Project 2025, accessed [4/11/24](#)]

**Six Contributors To Project 2025’s Policy Manifesto Are Listed As Staff From The Center For Immigration Studies (CIS), Including Andrew Arthur, Julie Axelrod, Jon Feere, George Fishman, Jason Richwine, And Jessica Vaughan.** [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Designated The Center For Immigration Studies As A Hate Group Due To Its “Decades-Long History Of Circulating Racist Writers, While Also Associating With White Nationalists.”**

**The Center For Immigration Studies Has Been Designated As A Hate Group By The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).**



## EXTREMIST GROUP INFO:

### SPLC Designated Hate Group

[SPLC, accessed [4/10/24](#)]

- **SPLC: “The Southern Poverty Law Center Defines A Hate Group As An Organization Or Collection Of Individuals That [...] Has Beliefs Or Practices That Attack Or Malign An Entire Class Of People, Typically For Their Immutable Characteristics.”** “The Southern Poverty Law Center defines a hate group as an organization or collection of individuals that – based on its official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – has beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics.” [SPLC, accessed [4/15/24](#)]

**The SPLC Said The Center For Immigration Studies (CIS) “Has Gone On To Become The Go-To Think Tank For The Anti-Immigrant Movement” And “Has A Decades-Long History Of Circulating Racist Writers, While Also Associating With White Nationalists.”** “Founded in 1985 by John Tanton, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) has gone on to become the go-to think tank for the anti-immigrant movement with its reports and staffers often cited by media and anti-immigrant politicians. CIS’s much-touted tagline is ‘low immigration, pro-immigrant,’ but the organization has a decades-long history of circulating racist writers, while also associating with white nationalists.” [SPLC, accessed [4/10/24](#)]

**The SPLC Said CIS Has Been On Its Radar For Years, But It Was Officially Designated A Hate Group For “Its Repeated Circulation Of White Nationalist And Antisemitic Writers In Its Weekly Newsletter And The Commissioning Of A Policy Analyst” Who Embraced “Racist Pseudoscience.”** “While CIS and its position within the Tanton network have been on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s (SPLC) radar for years, what precipitated listing CIS as an anti-immigrant hate group for 2016 was its repeated circulation of white nationalist and antisemitic writers in its weekly newsletter and the commissioning of a policy analyst who had previously been pushed out of the conservative Heritage Foundation for his embrace of racist pseudoscience. These developments, its historical associations and its record of publishing reports that hype the criminality of immigrants are why CIS is labeled an anti-immigrant hate group.” [SPLC, accessed [4/10/24](#)]

**Center For Immigration Studies Senior Legal Fellow And Project 2025 Contributor George Fishman Wrote An Article Equating The Twentieth Century’s Proliferation Of Great Replacement Theory And Its Impact On Black Workers To Modern Day Immigration, Particularly That Of Latinos, Allegedly Replacing Black Americans In The Workplace.**

*George Fishman Is A Senior Legal Fellow At The Center For Immigration Studies And Project 2025 Contributor.*

**George Fishman Is A Senior Legal Fellow At The Center For Immigration Studies.** [LinkedIn, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

**Fishman Is A Project 2025 Contributor.** [Project 2025, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

*In An Article Titled “Exploiting Mass Immigration To Displace Blacks: The Early Twentieth Century’s Great Replacement Theory,” Fishman Equated The Twentieth Century’s Proliferation Of Great Replacement Theory And Its Impact On Black Workers To Modern Day Immigration, Particularly That Of Latinos, Replacing Black Americans In The Workplace.*

**Fishman Wrote An Article For The Center For Immigration Studies Titled “Exploiting Mass Immigration To Displace Blacks: The Early Twentieth Century’s Great Replacement Theory.”** [Center for Immigration Studies, [5/22/24](#)]

**Fishman Equated The Twentieth Century’s Proliferation Of Great Replacement Theory And Its Impact On Black Workers To Modern Day Immigration, Particularly That Of Latinos, Replacing Black Americans In The Workplace.** “The preference of many employers for immigrants over Blacks is still with us. As my colleague Mark Krikorian has written, ‘Much field research has shown that employers prefer to hire immigrants over black Americans.’ And esteemed sociologist William Julius Wilson noted regarding inner-city Chicago that Hispanics ‘continue to funnel into manufacturing because employers prefer Hispanics over blacks’. And the tendency to only see racism in restrictionism, and never in mass immigrationism, is still with us.” [Center for Immigration Studies, [5/22/24](#)]

*In The Same Article, Fishman Also Used The Fact That Black Americans In The 1920s May Have Supported Legislation That Paused Mass Immigration And Implemented A National Origins Quota System To Justify Current-Day Immigration Restrictionism.*

**In His Article, Fishman Claimed That While Many People Now “Decry The Restriction Policies Of The 1920s” Put In Place By The Immigration Act Of 1924, Most People Supported It At The Time, Including “Native-Born Black Citizens.”** “We are approaching the 100th anniversary of the ‘Immigration Act of 1924’ (‘1924 Act’) enacted into law on May 26, 1924. This epochal legislation ushered in a four-decade-long pause in mass immigration that allowed the United States to assimilate the 20-plus million (including my forebears) who had arrived during the ‘Great Wave’ beginning in the 1880s, no mean feat. And the pause fostered a national economic climate conducive to the flowering of the ‘American Dream’. Now, of course, the 1924 Act is famous/infamous for its national origins quota system. But we would all do well to recall famed sociologist Nathan Glazer’s reflection that ‘Today, we decry the restriction policies of the 1920s, but we should recall that progressives and liberals as well as conservatives and racists generally supported them.’ And, as we shall see, so did native-born Black citizens.” [Center for Immigration Studies, [5/22/24](#)]

**Fishman Also Claimed That “The Preference Of Many Employers For Immigrants Over Blacks Is Still With Us,” And “The Tendency To Only See Racism In Restrictionism, And Never In Mass Immigrationism, Is Still With Us.”** “The preference of many employers for immigrants over Blacks is still with us. As my colleague Mark Krikorian has written, ‘Much field research has shown that employers prefer to hire immigrants over black Americans.’ And esteemed sociologist William Julius Wilson noted regarding inner-city Chicago that Hispanics ‘continue to funnel into manufacturing because employers prefer Hispanics over blacks’. And the tendency to only see racism in restrictionism, and never in mass immigrationism, is still with us.” [Center for Immigration Studies, [5/22/24](#)]

**Center For Immigration Studies Resident Scholar And Project 2025 Contributor Jason Richwine Alleged In His PhD Dissertation That Immigrants – And In Particular Latinos – Had Lower IQs Than “The White Native Population.”**

*Jason Richwine Is A Resident Scholar At The Center For Immigration Studies And Project 2025 Contributor.*

**Jason Richwine Is A Resident Scholar At The Center For Immigration Studies.** [Center for Immigration Studies, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

**Richwine Is A Project 2025 Contributor.** [Project 2025, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

*Richwine Wrote His 2009 Harvard PhD Dissertation On The Immigrants Supposedly Having Lower IQs Than “The White Native Population” Due To “Underclass Behavior,” Adding That “No One Knows Whether Hispanics Will Ever Reach IQ Parity With Whites, But The Prediction That New Hispanic Immigrants Will Have Low-IQ Children And Grandchildren Is Difficult To Argue Against.”*

**Richwine Received His PhD In Public Policy From Harvard; His Doctoral Dissertation Was Titled “IQ And Immigration Policy.”** “Jason Richwine is relatively new to the think tank world. He received his PhD in public policy from Harvard in 2009, and joined Heritage after a brief stay at the American Enterprise Institute. Richwine's doctoral dissertation is titled ‘IQ and Immigration Policy’” [Washington Post, [5/8/13](#)]

**In His Dissertation Abstract, Richwine Described Immigrants As Having Lower IQ Than White Native Citizens, In Part Due To “Underclass Behavior,” And He Called For Selecting “High-IQ Immigrants.”** “The statistical construct known as IQ can reliably estimate general mental ability, or intelligence. The average IQ of immigrants in the United States is substantially lower than that of the white native population, and the difference is likely to persist over several generations. The consequences are a lack of socioeconomic assimilation among low-IQ immigrant groups, more underclass behavior, less social trust, and an increase in the proportion of unskilled workers in the American labor market. Selecting high-IQ immigrants would ameliorate these problems in the U.S., while at the same time benefiting smart potential immigrants who lack educational access in their home countries.” [IQ and Immigration Policy, abstract, [05/09](#)]

- **In His Dissertation, He Wrote, “No One Knows Whether Hispanics Will Ever Reach IQ Parity With Whites, But The Prediction That New Hispanic Immigrants Will Have Low-IQ Children And Grandchildren Is Difficult To Argue Against.”** “No one knows whether Hispanics will ever reach IQ parity with whites, but the prediction that new Hispanic immigrants will have low-IQ children and grandchildren is difficult to argue against.” [IQ and Immigration Policy, [05/09](#)]

*Richwine Has Also Published A Slew Of Anti-Immigration Arguments That Claimed High Immigration Crime Rates And Emphasized That Immigrants Are A Net Cost Rather Than A Net Fiscal Contributor.*

**Richwine Raised The Issue Of The Criminality Of Illegal Immigrants In A 2022 Article For The National Review.** “The report concludes that illegal immigrants in Texas seem to have above-average rates of convictions for serious crimes such as homicide and sexual assault, but the failure to reliably identify illegals who commit lesser offenses precludes any strong claims about their overall criminality.” [National Review, [10/13/22](#)]

**Richwine Disputed A Report That Immigrants Were A Net Fiscal Contributor By Claiming That This Did Not Account For Congestible Public Goods.** “So where does the report go wrong? Its main problem is that it excludes costs associated with “congestible” public goods, such as police, highways, and parks. The report's authors argue that the marginal cost of congestion is negligible because refugees and asylees are such a small portion of the national population, but that's valid only if they are spread evenly throughout the country. Refugees and asylees can certainly be large portions of local populations, and congestion costs in those places add up. Based on prior research from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that the authors acknowledge on page 30, assigning refugees and asylees the average per-capita cost of congestible goods likely turns their fiscal impact negative.” [Center for Immigration Studies, [3/8/24](#)]

**Hearing Witness Mandy Gunasekara Authored Project 2025's Policy Recommendations For The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**

## **Former EPA Chief Of Staff Mandy Gunasekara Is Slated To Testify At The House Oversight Committee’s Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures.”**

Mandy Gunasekera Is The Former Chief Of Staff U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

At The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures,” The Witnesses Include Brendan Carr, Mark Krikorian, Meaghan Mobbs, and Mandy Gunasekara. [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

## **Former Trump Administration EPA Chief Of Staff Mandy Gunasekara Authored Project 2025’s Policy Recommendations For The EPA.**

Mandy Gunasekara, A Former Official At The Environmental Protection Agency During The Trump Administration, Authored Project 2025’s Chapter 13 On The EPA. “Mandy M. Gunasekara of Oxford, Mississippi, is a principal at Section VII Strategies, a Senior Policy Analyst at the Independent Women’s Forum, and Visiting Fellow in the Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment at The Heritage Foundation. During the Trump Administration, Mandy served as the Chief of Staff at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. She previously served in numerous roles at the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, including as Majority Counsel for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee under Chairman Jim Inhofe. She received her BA from Mississippi College and her JD from the University of Mississippi School of Law.” [Project 2025, p. Xviii, Accessed [09/17/24](#)]



[Project 2025, p. 417, Accessed [09/17/24](#)]

## **Project 2025’s Playbook For The Environmental Protection Agency Would Cut Its “Environmental Justice And Public Engagement Functions,” Shrink The Agency Overall By Terminating Some New Hires, And Accuses EPA Staff Of “Quietly” Strangling Domestic Energy Production.**

*Project 2025’s Playbook For The Environmental Protection Agency “Proposes Cutting The Agency’s Environmental Justice And Public Engagement Functions, While Shrinking It As A Whole By Terminating New Hires In ‘Low-Value Programs.’”*

**Project 2025’s Playbook For The Environmental Protection Agency “Proposes Cutting The Agency’s Environmental Justice And Public Engagement Functions, While Shrinking It As A Whole By Terminating New Hires In ‘Low-Value Programs.’”** “Another chapter focuses on gutting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and moving it away from its focus on the climate crisis. It proposes cutting the

agency's environmental justice and public engagement functions, while shrinking it as a whole by terminating new hires in 'low-value programs', E&E News reported. The proposal was written Mandy Gunasekara, who was the former chief of staff at the EPA under Trump." [The Guardian, [7/27/23](#)]

- **Project 2025 Is “An Alliance Of Rightwing Groups” That “Was Convened By The Notorious Rightwing, Climate-Denying Thinktank The Heritage Foundation” To Write A Proposal On Right-Wing Energy Policy.** “An alliance of rightwing groups has crafted an extensive presidential proposal to bolster the planet-heating oil and gas industry and hamstring the energy transition, it has emerged. Against a backdrop of record-breaking heat and floods this year, the \$22m endeavor, Project 2025, was convened by the notorious rightwing, climate-denying thinktank the Heritage Foundation, which has ties to fossil fuel billionaire Charles Koch.” [The Guardian, [7/27/23](#)]

*Project 2025 Alleges That “A Combination Of Elected And Unelected Bureaucrats At The Environmental Protection Agency Quietly Strangles Domestic Energy Production.”*

**Project 2025 Alleges That “A Combination Of Elected And Unelected Bureaucrats At The Environmental Protection Agency Quietly Strangles Domestic Energy Production Through Difficult-To-Understand Rulemaking Processes.”** “A combination of elected and unelected bureaucrats at the Environmental Protection Agency quietly strangles domestic energy production through difficult-to-understand rulemaking processes.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, accessed [3/6/24](#)]

## **Gunasekara Pushed For The United States’ Exit From The Paris Climate Agreement And Scaling Back Regulations To Limit Greenhouse Gas And Other Pollutant Emissions.**

**As A Policy Advisor In The Trump Administration, Gunasekara Pushed For The Exit From The Paris Climate Agreement.** “Mandy Gunasekara, who pressed for President Trump to exit the Paris climate agreement as the Environmental Protection Agency’s top air-policy adviser, is poised to return to the agency as its next chief of staff, according to two individuals briefed on the matter.” [The Washington Post, [2/14/20](#)]

**Gunasekara “Played A Key Role In Working To Scale Back Federal Rules Aimed At Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Other Forms Of Pollution.”** “After joining the EPA in March 2017, Gunasekara oversaw the agency’s Office of Air and Radiation on an acting basis for nearly eight months under then-Administrator Scott Pruitt. Trained as a lawyer, she played a key role in working to scale back federal rules aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of pollution, including replacing the Obama-era Clean Power Plan and federal gas-mileage standards.” [The Washington Post, [2/14/20](#)]

## **Gunasekara Left The Administration For A Short Time To Start A “Pro-Trump Nonprofit” In Mississippi And Work With Other Clients Before Returning As The EPA As The Chief Of Staff.**

**Gunasekara Left The EPA To Start The “Pro-Trump Nonprofit” Energy 45, In Her Home State Of Mississippi.** “Gunasekara left the EPA a year ago to start what she called a ‘pro-Trump nonprofit’ in her home state of Mississippi. As head of the advocacy group Energy 45, she has argued on behalf of the president’s support for fossil fuels and other energy policies, writing that his approach ‘has brought both economic prosperity and cleaner air and water.’” [The Washington Post, [2/14/20](#)]

**The Energy 45 Fund Was Founded To “To Promote The Trump Energy Agenda.”** “One new group that stands to play a key part in that conversation is Energy 45 Fund, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization founded by outgoing senior Trump administration adviser Mandy Gunasekara ‘to promote the Trump energy agenda’ following her resignation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).” [Open Secrets, [2/13/19](#)]

**While Away From The Epa For A Year, Epa Chief Of Staff Mandy Gunasekara “Signed More Than A Half-Dozen Clients, Including Some Who Have Pushed Back Against Environmental Rules And Questioned Climate Change Science.”** “EPA Chief of Staff Mandy Gunasekara signed more than a



half-dozen clients, including some who have pushed back against environmental rules and questioned climate change science, in her year away from the agency.” [E&E News, [9/2/20](#)]

**Gunasekara’s Clients Include Groups That “Supports Policies To ‘reduce Government Red Tape.’”**

“Gunasekara’s recusal statement, obtained by E&E News under the Freedom of Information Act, lists eight former clients, including the CO2 Coalition, which espouses rising carbon dioxide levels, and the Independent Women’s Forum, a conservative women’s nonprofit group that supports policies to ‘reduce government red tape,’ according to its website.” [E&E News, [9/2/20](#)]

**Gunasekara’s Resignation Letter Included Political Talking Points That Sparked Concerns About Hatch Act Violations.**

**Gunasekara Used Her Resignation Letter To Complain About The “Dangerous Rhetoric From The Far-Left Supportive Of Venezuelan-Style Socialism, Government Take-Overs, And Crony ‘Green New Deals.’”** “Mandy Gunasekara, who since November 2017 had been principal deputy administrator in the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, wrote in a Feb. 7 letter to Trump saying she was leaving to ‘spend my time educating the public.’ She bemoaned the ‘dangerous rhetoric from the far-left supportive of Venezuelan-style socialism, government take-overs, and crony “green new deals,”’ telling Trump that ‘ensuring eight years of your leadership is of utmost importance.’” [Government Executive, [2/11/19](#)]

**The Letter Sparked Concerns About Hatch Act Violations.** “The letter, according to news reports and confirmed by EPA to Government Executive, was provided to reporters by the press office. That prompted the nonprofit advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility on Monday to file a complaint with the Office of Special Counsel seeking a probe of an alleged Hatch Act violation.” [Government Executive, [2/11/19](#)]

**Hearing Witness Meaghan Mobbs Is A Director At The Independent Women’s Forum, Which Is Part Of Project 2025’s Advisory Board And Provided Several Contributors To Its Policy Manifesto.**

**Director Of The Independent Women’s Forum’s Center For American Safety And Security Meaghan Mobbs Is Slated To Testify At The House Oversight Committee’s Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures.”**

**At The House Committee On Oversight And Accountability Hearing On “A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Policy Failures,” The Witnesses Include Brendan Carr, Mark Krikorian, Meaghan Mobbs, and Mandy Gunasekara.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**Meaghan Mobbs Is The Director At The Center For American Safety And Security At The Independent Women’s Forum.** [Committee On Oversight And Accountability, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**IWF Describes Mobbs As “An Experienced Nongovernmental, Policy And Political Leader” Who Has “Testified Before Congress On Myriad Topics.”**

“Meaghan Mobbs, PhD, is an experienced nongovernmental, policy and political leader. She’s a graduate of West Point, holds a masters in forensic psychology from George Washington University and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Columbia University. A Tillman Scholar and George W. Bush Veteran Leadership Scholar, she was a Presidential appointee to the United States Military Academy- West Point Board of Visitors and is a current Gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors. As a former Army officer, small business owner, and the leader of a multimillion-dollar private operating foundation, she’s led significant security and humanitarian efforts around the world. In various capacities, she’s chartered relationships with the US

Government, multi-national governments, nongovernmental organizations, and donors and has advised numerous business leaders and government officials on defense, national security, and public safety. Having testified before Congress on myriad topics to include the military recruitment crisis and religious freedom, her insights on national security, foreign policy, and defense are informed by her eclectic background and expertise in psychology. Her published, peer-reviewed research into the unique psychosocial stressors experienced during wartime service pioneered the concept of ‘transition stress.’ As a former paratrooper and combat veteran, she continues to advocate for service members through her board memberships and volunteer activities.” [IWF.org, Accessed [09/17/24](#)]

**Independent Women’s Forum (IWF) Is On Project 2025’s Advisory Board; Additionally, Three Project 2025 Contributors And Two Authors Are Affiliated With IWF.**

**Independent Women’s Forum Is On The Project 2025 Advisory Board.** [Project 2025, accessed [4/11/24](#)]

**Three Contributors To Project 2025’s Policy Manifesto Are Listed As Staff From The Independent Women’s Forum, Including Ellie Cohanim, Laura Cunliffe, Gabriella Hoffman and Two Authors Lindsey Burke And Mandy Gunasekera, Are Also Affiliated With IWF.** [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, accessed [9/17/24](#)]

**February 2024: Meaghan Mobbs’ Organization, The Independent Women’s Forum, Was Named One Of 100 Coalition Partners Of The Project 2025 Presidential Transition Project.** “The Heritage Foundation announced today that its 2025 Presidential Transition Project has reached 100 coalition partners. Paul Dans, director of the 2025 Presidential Transition Project, commented on this milestone: “This is a historic moment for the conservative movement. From the time we launched this project, we knew it was critical for conservatives to put aside differences and come together if we are to succeed in restoring our federal government to one “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” And reaching 100 members on our advisory board is monumental. Americans are tired of their government being used against them. The administrative state is, at best, completely out of touch with the American people and, at worst, is weaponized against them. We will soon embark on a historic reform of the federal government to get it once again to work for the American people. With our 100-member strong coalition we have the momentum as we begin this critical year.” Project 2025 is unparalleled in the history of the conservative movement—both in its size and scope but also for organizing 100 different groups under a single banner. Spearheaded by Heritage, the coalition is systematically preparing for successful conservative governance in our nation’s capital. Project 2025’s four pillars will collectively pave the way for an effective and historic administration: A policy agenda, personnel recruitment, training, and a 180-day playbook to kick off the term on Jan. 20, 2025.” [Heritage.org, [02/20/24](#)]

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| The 100 groups that make up the advisory board include: |
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Independent Women’s Forum
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[Heritage.org, [02/20/24](#)]

