**USGR Memo**

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| To: | USGR |  |
| From: |  Olivia Valone |  |
| Date: |  Thursday, March 22, 2018 |  |
| Subject: | Mike Pompeo Environmental Record |  |

Representing Kansas’ 4th district, Mike Pompeo held office in the U.S. House of Representatives from January 3, 2011 until January 23, 2017, when he assumed office as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. On March 13, 2018, President Donald Trump announced Pompeo as the intended nominee to replace former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. His dismal environmental voting record, ties to oil and natural gas producers, and expressed skepticism of the science of climate change has caused many environmental activists to expect less support than under former ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson. Climate change and environmental security, however, were discussed the Intelligence Community’s 2018 Worldwide Threat Assessment, which might indicate his changing perspective on key environmental issues.

**Highlights**

* The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) gives Mike Pompeo a LCV lifetime score of **4%** for his career as U.S. Representative from 2011 to 2017. He voted pro-environment only eight times in 269 instances. His voting history reflects a questioning of the science of climate change and a lack of support for environmental causes in general, including biodiversity and species endangerment. In the eight instances, his pro-environmental votes reflect his interest in defending agriculture and the tax-payer.
* The Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Committee, released under the direction of Pompeo in February of 2018, outlines environmental challenges as one of the key threats in the current and near future. Climate change is explicitly named as a challenge to human security, catalyzing migration, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity. Transnational criminal groups are also named as a threat to ecological integrity.

**Noteworthy Details**

1. Anti-Environmental History: Questioning the Science of Climate Change

* According to the data from the LCV, Pompeo voted anti-environment on all legislation concerning the issue of climate change. Pompeo is known as a long-time opponent of the EPA and its agenda to limit greenhouse gas emissions, having authored two House-passed amendments to drastically reduce funding for the greenhouse gas registry. He served on the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as the House Energy Subcommittee on Energy, where he tried to roll back on environmentally-friendly regulations in an expressed support for agriculture and national oil and natural-gas. He sponsored four bills hat fall under the subject of environmental protection on govtrack, each reflecting an attempt to relax or remove EPA regulations regarding air pollution. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Pompeo is a top recipient of campaign donations from Koch Industries, having accepted over $375,000 as part of their donation efforts to oppose climate change regulation between 2009 and 2017. He signed their “No Climate Tax Pledge” initiative, agreeing to resist legislation that would result in the taxation of energy-producers for their contributions to climate change. Overall, he has received almost $1.2 million from oil and gas companies. Their agenda would be to make fossil fuels the centerpiece of climate policy.

2. Climate Change considered a National Security Risk?

* In his nomination hearing for the position of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) cited the former CIA Director Brennan’s statement in which he acknowledged the destabilizing impact of climate change, as well as NASA scientific studies about climate change. She asked Pompeo about his history of questioning climate change. He responded that he had not read the climate assessment nor NASA findings, and that his political life was directed to ensuring that no catastrophic harm resulted from change in climate. He assured Senator Harris that he would review the findings. In the 2018 Threat Assessment released by Central Intelligence under his direction, climate change is mentioned multiple times as a threat to national security. Based on his past focus on issues of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and cyber security threats, many climate activist remain skeptical that climate will be an issue of top priority.

**Misc.**

Senator Rand Paul (R-AL), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has come out in opposition of Pompeo’s nomination to be Secretary of State because of his hawkish views of conflict. However, he was confirmed as CIA Director with two-thirds of Senate support and is expected to be confirmed in April. Senator Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) finds that he aligns for closely with Trump’s foreign policy objectives.