

Bloomberg's Center Accomplishments

The State Energy and Environmental Impact Center was quite aggressive in its efforts to claim credit for all of the actions taken by its “pro bono fellows” placed in state Attorneys General offices. The impression is that the Center directed or had an active role in every one of these legal challenges and policy disputes.

Extensive Donor Reports

February 2018 Report Titled “State Attorneys General: 13 Months of Critical Actions”

“Attorneys general have challenged Interior Department efforts to nullify coal, oil, and gas royalty reforms and to reduce payments owed to federal and state taxpayers; opposed Interior’s removal of the moratorium on leasing new federal lands coal development; challenged the Administration’s attempt to repeal fracking rules for oil and gas drilling on public lands; objected to large fee hikes proposed by the National Park Service for the most popular National Parks; and vowed to protect National Monuments from illegal rollbacks not permitted under the Antiquities Act.”

December 2019 Report Titled “300 and Counting: State AGs Lead the Fight for Health and the Environment”

“The Trump administration has mounted a multi-pronged assault on our nation’s public lands and wildlife. In the name of promoting “energy dominance,” the administration has aggressively sought to expand oil and gas drilling activity on public lands, including in frontier areas such as offshore waters in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans and onshore, in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. To encourage more oil and gas drilling on public lands, the Interior Department has overturned major royalty reforms, reopening loopholes that enable companies to avoid paying their fair share of royalties. The Interior Department has also repealed common sense environmental rules governing fracking activities on public lands. And to ensure that wildlife interests do not get in the way of industrializing our public lands, the administration has rolled back vital Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections and reversed long-standing protections for migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).”

June 2020 Report Titled “A Pass to Pollute: Environmental (Non)Enforcement Under the Trump Administration”

Under the Section dedicated to the Interior Department:

“Policies implemented at the Interior Department during the Trump Administration have set in motion a dramatic decline in oversight and enforcement activities across the lands, waters and natural resources under the department’s purview. In many cases, these declines have been revealed only through dogged reporting based on Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests, because most Interior Department agencies – including the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and

Enforcement (OSMRE) – do not maintain readily accessible databases of their compliance monitoring and enforcement activities.”

January 2021 Report Titled “Full Court Press: How State AGs Guarded Against the Trump Admin.’s Anti-Regulatory Agenda”

“State attorneys general – together with environmental groups, public health advocates, scientists, state regulators, activists and an engaged public – stepped in to fill the vacuum and prevent the Trump administration from freely imposing its so-called ‘energy dominance’ agenda. The result was a string of court decisions in 2017 and 2018 that invalidated many of the administration’s initial slapdash efforts to undermine and reverse regulatory protections for our air, water, public lands and wildlife – exposing, along the way, the administration’s disregard for the rule of law...”

This report highlights a selection of the literally hundreds of actions taken by state attorneys general to defend against the Trump administration’s anti-regulatory assault and build a cleaner, healthier, more just world for future generations. We use case examples to illustrate the tenacious defensive and break-away offensive strategies employed by state attorneys general over the past four years. When pending challenges move through the courts and the dust settles, many of the Trump administration’s other indefensible rollbacks of air quality protections, free passes to exploit America’s special lands and waters, illegitimate regulatory processes grounded in anti-science and pro-industry biases, and other environmental abominations will also be thwarted. These wins will further confirm the success of the “Full Court Press” strategy executed by state attorneys general.”

Frequent Press Releases

December 21, 2020

Twelve AGs Filed Amicus Brief Urging Halt of Arctic Refuge Lease Sale

November 30, 2020

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Comments Opposing Proposed Rollback of Interior Department Valuation Rule

November 06, 2020

Fourteen AGs Filed Comments Opposing Seismic Surveying in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

October 08, 2020

Seventeen AGs Filed Comments Opposing Inappropriate and Unlawful Changes to Endangered Species Act Critical Habitat Designation Process

September 09, 2020

Fifteen AGs Filed Lawsuit to Protect Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from Oil and Gas Drilling

September 04, 2020

Seventeen AGs Filed Comments Criticizing 'Unduly Restrictive' Proposed Definition of 'Habitat' Under Endangered Species Act

July 27, 2020

Massachusetts AG Filed Comments on Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Vineyard Wind Project

July 20, 2020

Four AGs Filed Lawsuit Challenging Restart of Federal Coal Leasing Program Based on Flawed NEPA Review

July 20, 2020

Ten AGs Filed Comments on NEPA Review of Proposed Narrowing of Migratory Bird Treaty Act Protections

March 19, 2020

Eleven AGs Filed Comments Criticizing Proposal to Weaken Protections for Migratory Birds

January 21, 2020

Twelve AGs Filed Comments Objecting to Proposed Expansion of Leasing in National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

October 22, 2019

Minnesota AG and Wisconsin AG Joined Coalition Challenging Endangered Species Act Rollbacks

September 24, 2019

Eighteen AGs Sued to Defend Endangered Species Act Against Major Rollbacks

July 31, 2019

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Motion to Intervene to Defend Interior Department Valuation Rule

June 10, 2019

Four AGs Filed Comments Criticizing BLM's Failure to Complete Full NEPA Review of Federal Coal Leasing Program

March 13, 2019

Sixteen AGs Filed Comments Criticizing Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Arctic Refuge Leasing Program

January 22, 2019

Minnesota AG Filed Comments on Hardrock Mining Leases

September 24, 2018

Ten AGs Submitted Comments Opposing Interior and Commerce Departments' Proposed Changes to Endangered Species Act Regulations

September 18, 2018

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Lawsuit Challenging BLM's Repeal of Methane Waste Prevention Rule

September 05, 2018

Eight AGs Filed Lawsuit Challenging Interior Department Solicitor's Opinion Weakening MBTA Enforcement

August 06, 2018

Ten AGs Submitted Comments to BSEE Objecting to Proposed Rollback of Offshore Drilling Safety Requirements

March 09, 2018

Massachusetts AG Filed Comments Detailing Potential Harms of Offshore Drilling

March 09, 2018

New York AG Filed Comments Detailing Potential Harms of Offshore Drilling

March 09, 2018

Twelve AGs Filed Comments Opposing Interior Department's Offshore Drilling Plans

February 01, 2018

Twelve AGs Urged Interior Department to Terminate Offshore Drilling Plans

January 30, 2018

Six AGs Opposed Rollback of Drilling Safety Protections Established After Deepwater Horizon Disaster

January 16, 2018

Maryland AG Opposed Offshore Drilling Plan at Interior Meeting

December 19, 2017

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Lawsuit Against BLM Over Suspension of Methane Waste Prevention Rule

November 22, 2017

Eleven AGs Filed Comments Opposing National Parks Fee Increases

November 06, 2017

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Comments Objecting to BLM's Proposed Delay of Methane Waste Prevention Rule

October 17, 2017

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Lawsuit Challenging Interior Department's Unlawful Repeal of Valuation Rule

August 18, 2017

Massachusetts AG Submitted Comments to BOEM Opposing New Federal Offshore Lease Plan

July 10, 2017

Oregon AG Sent Letter to Interior Department Pledging to Defend Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

July 05, 2017

California AG and New Mexico AG Filed Lawsuit Against BLM Challenging Unlawful Delay of Methane Waste Prevention Rule

May 10, 2017

Four AGs Sued Interior Department Over Restart of Coal Leasing

May 08, 2017

New Mexico AG Sent Letter to Interior Department on Importance of Protecting National Monuments

April 27, 2017

California AG and New Mexico AG Sued Interior Department for Delaying Valuation Rule for Energy Resource Royalties

Detailed Newsletters

January 7, 2021

New report from the State Impact Center; AGs file amicus briefs on climate liability, CWA Nationwide Permit 12; Arctic Refuge lease sale; and more.

December 3, 2020

Arctic Refuge lease sale scheduled; pushing energy markets toward decarbonization; AGs add endangered species claim to NEPA challenge; and more.

October 15, 2020

Erosion of environmental enforcement; AGs defend habitat designations, state clean water authority; EPA rescinds long-standing air policy; and more.

October 1, 2020

ACE v. CPP: 3 things to watch for in next week's arguments; state AGs file amicus brief in Dakota Access litigation; Tongass protections in jeopardy; and more.

September 17, 2020

A flurry of major legal actions by state AGs on NEPA, Arctic Refuge, Endangered Species Act, methane regulations, Chesapeake Bay and more.

August 20, 2020

Lessons from Alaska; AGs notch win in defense of migratory birds; AGs challenge LNG-by-rail rule; Arctic Refuge drilling plan moves forward; and more.

August 6, 2020

The administration's NEPA hypocrisy; AGs blast plan to skew Clean Air Act cost-benefit; two FERC nominees, at last; EPA OIG investigation; and more.

June 25, 2020

Environmental racism and NEPA; A Pass to Pollute; AGs weigh in on net metering, rooftop solar; FERC plans carbon pricing conference; and more.

April 16, 2020

Lessons from the Deepwater Horizon disaster; Earth Day at 50; AGs push back on EPA non-enforcement policy; CWA Sec. 401 rule under review; and more.

March 19, 2020

Air pollution and our health; AGs denounce attacks on NEPA, regulatory enforcement; DOJ ends use of popular environmental settlement tool; and more.

March 5, 2020

The administration's latest culture war; AGs continue fight for lightbulb efficiency standards; EPA and Interior's new anti-science rules; and more.

February 6, 2020

WOTUS rule defies science; AGs sue EPA over chemical accident rule rollback; Interior Department moves to severely weaken bird protections; and more.

January 23, 2020

Hazards of LNG by rail; AGs oppose expanded leasing in Alaska reserve; new cross-state air pollution lawsuits; benefits of declining coal; and more.