

Simmons, currently an assistant to Energy Secretary Rick Perry, is still listed as an author on Heartland's website. Myron Ebell, a noted climate denier, led Trump's EPA transition team and has written several pieces opposing climate policy for Heartland.

Heartland has received funding from several fossil fuel companies, though it no longer publicly discloses its funders. In 2012, leaked documents from the group showed the group received contributions from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, among others. It has also received funding from ExxonMobil to support work to refute the human causes of climate change.

Last month, Heartland announced former Kansas congressman Tim Huelskamp will become president of the organization. During his political career, Huelskamp's top donor was Koch Industries, and he received more than \$250,000 in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. Koch Industries and the Koch family foundations have been one of the biggest funders of organizations that deny humans' role in causing climate change and oppose policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It remains to be seen who will staff the EPA's red team. NYU professor Steve Koonin, a scientist who formerly worked with both BP and the Obama administration, is reportedly the top contender. In 2014, Koonin wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed detailing the ways in which climate science is not settled, which included the extent to which humans are causing climate change, a now-frequent talking point among Trump administration officials.

In April, Koonin published another op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, suggesting that a Red Team/Blue Team would be "a step toward resolving . . . differing perceptions of climate science."

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 174, H.R. 2430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 174, H.R. 2430, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 174, H.R. 2430, an act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, James M. Inhofe, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Orrin G. Hatch, John Cornyn, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Tim Scott, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived with respect to the cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 61, 63, 162, 174, 194, 246, 248, and 249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Elaine McCusker, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense; Robert Daigle, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense; Robert R. Hood, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Richard V. Spencer, of Wyoming, to be Secretary of the Navy; Ryan McCarthy, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary of the Army; Lucian Niemeyer, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force; and Ellen M. Lord, of Rhode Island, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McCusker, Daigle, Hood, Spencer, McCarthy, Niemeyer, Donovan, and Lord nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, the Senate just confirmed eight nominees for the Defense Department.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLIMATE DISRUPTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, climate disruption is a seminal challenge of our generation. It affects everything from our farms to our forests to our fishing. We see the impact in disappearing glaciers, melting permafrost, shrinking ice sheets, raging forest fires, dying coral reefs, migrating animals and insects, and more powerful storms.

The world is changing right in front of us. It is appropriate to call this climate disruption because our climate is broken, and it is affecting so many things that we value. In response, communities across the globe are transforming their energy economies—from increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, vehicles, and appliances to replacing a carbon-polluting fossil-fuel-energy economy with a renewable and clean-energy economy.

How much do you know about the changes under way? Let's find out. Welcome to episode 4 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz.

Here we go. First question: Atmospheric carbon dioxide is at its highest level in at least how many years? Is it 88 years? Is it the highest level in the last 8,000 years? Is it the highest level in the last 800,000 years, or is it the highest level in the last 80 million years?

Think about your answer.

The correct answer is C, 800,000 years.

In September 2016, we reached a historic milestone. The carbon dioxide readings for the planet reached 400 parts per million. For perspective, before the industrial revolution, before we started burning fossil fuels in massive quantities, that number was about 280 parts per million.

Here is something that is even scarier. The rate is going up faster and faster. In 1965 and 1975, it was going up at about 1 part per million per year. Then, a couple of decades later, it was 2 parts per million per year, and the last 2 years, it has gone up at a rate of 3 parts per million per year.

As the human civilization, we have to turn this around. We have to not only slow it down, but we have to turn it around and lower those levels of carbon dioxide if we are going to save our blue-green planet.