

# Mike Pence Is Terrible Environment Edition

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## QUICK FACTS

- **Pence is a climate denier.** Pence, who had a lifetime score of 4% on the [National Environmental Scorecard](#) has [called](#) climate change a “myth” and [said](#) the evidence was “simply not there.”
- **Pence is anti-science.** Pence's refusal to believe in science led to public health crises, [accelerating an HIV epidemic](#) in Indiana and [leading](#) the Trump administration's failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Pence killed 19,000 clean energy jobs.** Mike Pence effectively [killed the Energize Indiana program](#) that created [19,000 Hoosier jobs](#) while saving energy.
- **The Pence family forced taxpayers to clean up their pollution.** Pence's family gas station business left Indiana taxpayers with [\\$21 million in cleanup costs from contaminated sites](#).
- **Pence turned his back on Black communities.** Pence [ignored pleas for help](#) with lead crisis in mostly-Black East Chicago, IN, but immediately responded to lead contamination in a [97% white community](#) in the same year.

## **DIG DEEPER**

**Mike Pence is a climate denier who played a leading role in opposing climate solutions.**

- Mike Pence had a lifetime score of 4% from the [LCV National Environmental Scorecard](#) for his time in Congress.
- Pence [called](#) climate change a “myth” and [said](#) that the evidence was “simply not there.”
- As Republican Conference leader in the House, [Pence hosted](#) a mock climate change hearing where he brought climate deniers together to oppose action on climate change.
- Pence [voted](#) six times to overrule scientists.

**Mike Pence's anti-science beliefs has fueled public health crises both as Governor and as Vice President.**

- As Governor, Pence's opposition to a needle exchange program [was blamed](#) for accelerating an HIV epidemic in Indiana.
- Pence has [led](#) Trump's Coronavirus Task Force since February, and [praised](#) Trump's handling of the COVID-19 crisis. To date, the administration's handling of the crisis has cost more than [150,000 lives](#).
- Pence [claimed](#) Trump was “taking proper steps” by holding campaign events where supporters refused to wear masks in violation of local mandates.

**Mike Pence effectively killed a program that created thousands of Hoosier jobs while saving energy.**

- In 2014, Mike Pence [allowed SB 340 to become law](#) without his signature, effectively terminating the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's “Energize Indiana” program.
- Over two years, Energize Indiana created [19,000 jobs](#) and improved the energy efficiency of homes, schools, and businesses.
- Any interest that Pence feigns in keeping electricity bills low rings hollow because the Energizing Indiana program was estimated to [save Hoosiers 11 million megawatt hours](#) in electricity costs.

**Mike Pence's cozy relationship with Big Oil polluters may have started with his family's gas station business.**

- Kiel Bros Oil Co, the Pence family gas station chain led by Mike Pence's brother, Greg, racked up debt and environmental fines in the early 2000s, eventually filing for bankruptcy and leaving behind contaminated sites that left Indiana taxpayers with [\\$21 million in cleanup costs](#).
- In his last gubernatorial campaign, Pence raised more than [\\$850,000](#) from the energy sector.
- Pence has been described as a "[loyal political ally](#)" of the Koch brothers.
- No wonder Pence [stood in front of an oil rig](#) to brag about rolling back pollution rules to benefit the oil industry.
- The Trump-Pence administration has been rolling back at least [100 environmental rules](#) and regulations.

**Mike Pence's indifference towards the poisoning of people of color shows his environmental racism.**

- As Governor, Pence's administration [denied an application](#) for disaster relief for an East Chicago, IN community affected by a lead contamination crisis that resulted in [1,000 residents being displaced](#).
- Meanwhile, when lead contamination was discovered that [same year in a community that is 97% white](#), Pence responded immediately.

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# RESEARCH

## SCIENCE DENIAL

### **PENCE CALLED GLOBAL WARMING A MYTH AND DISPUTED THE SCIENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Pence Called Global Warming A “Myth.”** An archived version of Pence's 2000 campaign website reads: “Global warming is a myth. The global warming treaty is a disaster. There, I said it. Just like the ‘new ice age’ scare of the 1970's, the environmental movement has found a new chant for their latest ‘chicken little’ attempt to raise taxes and grow centralized governmental power. The chant is ‘the sky is warming! the sky is warming!’. The only problem is that many Americans, including Vice President Al Gore, didn't learn of their deceit the last time around and are buying this new bit hook, line and sinker.” [[MikePence.Com via WayBack Archive, 4/15/2001](#)]

**Pence’s Campaign Website Also Claimed The Global Temperatures Were Cooler Than They Were 50 Years Ago.** An archived version of Pence's 2001 campaign website reads: “Several problems arise when one considers the issue of global warming. First, the earth is actually cooler today than it was about 50 years ago. In fact, most climatologists agree that, at best, global warming is a theory about future climactic conditions and cannot be proven based upon the historic record. “ [[MikePence.Com via WayBack Archive, 4/15/2001](#)]

**In 2002, Pence Referred To Himself As A “Profound Skeptic” On Global Warming.** According to an article by The Star Press, archived via WayBack: “Over a 15-year-period when he was governor and a U.S. representative, The Star Press asked Pence the same question that was put to him by CNN last week. His responses: July 2002: ‘Put me down as a profound skeptic in this debate. I've been on the record on that and haven't changed.” [[Star Press via WayBack Archive, 10/4/2016](#)]

**Pence: “The Theory Of Global Warming Is Just That – A Theory.”** According to an article by The Star Press, archived via WayBack: “Over a 15-year-period when he was governor and a U.S. representative, The Star Press asked Pence the same question that was put to him by CNN last week.

His responses: July 2002: ‘Put me down as a profound skeptic in this debate. I’ve been on the record on that and haven’t changed. The theory of global warming is just that — a theory. I look no further than the broad majority of climatologists and climate experts in the world who recognize it as a theory. It is a minority that recognizes it — as much as the national media does — as fact. ‘Certainly we ought to study it. We only have one planet, and we ought to be investing the dollars to finding out what’s going on with our planet. (But) the evidence is simply not there to establish global warming as a scientific fact. It’s a political fact, but until it becomes a scientific fact, I think we need to proceed very slowly and cautiously about the development of policy to confront it.’” [[Star Press via WayBack Archive, 10/4/2016](#)]

**Pence Argued The Evidence Was “Simply Not There To Establish Global Warming As A Scientific Fact.”** According to an article by The Star Press, archived via WayBack: “Over a 15-year-period when he was governor and a U.S. representative, The Star Press asked Pence the same question that was put to him by CNN last week. His responses: July 2002: ‘Put me down as a profound skeptic in this debate. I’ve been on the record on that and haven’t changed. The theory of global warming is just that — a theory. I look no further than the broad majority of climatologists and climate experts in the world who recognize it as a theory. It is a minority that recognizes it — as much as the national media does — as fact. ‘Certainly we ought to study it. We only have one planet, and we ought to be investing the dollars to finding out what’s going on with our planet. (But) the evidence is simply not there to establish global warming as a scientific fact. It’s a political fact, but until it becomes a scientific fact, I think we need to proceed very slowly and cautiously about the development of policy to confront it.’” [[Star Press via WayBack Archive, 10/4/2016](#)]

**In 2015, Pence’s Spokesperson Said The Then-Governor Continued Did Not Believe The Science Behind The Cause Of Climate Change Had Been Resolved.** According to an article by The Star Press, archived via WayBack: “Today, Pence, the governor of Indiana, indicates he is more broad-minded about climate change, but he remains skeptical. ‘The governor continues to keep an open mind about the science behind the cause of climate change but does not believe that it has been fully resolved yet,’ his press secretary, Kara Brooks, told The Star Press.” [[Star Press via WayBack Archive, 4/27/2015](#)]

## **AS REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, PENCE HELD A MOCK CLIMATE CHANGE HEARING**

Republican Conference Chairman Pence Held A Mock Climate Change Hearing In The Capitol Visitor Center To Amplify The Perspectives Of GOP Pundits And The Oil & Gas Industry. According Politico: “While Democrats bicker over a sweeping climate change bill, Republicans are going rogue, crafting an alternative hearing stacked with people they agree with. Republican Conference Chairman Mike Pence of Indiana has invited John Engler, the president of the National Association of Manufacturers and a former GOP governor of Michigan, and a handful of other experts to make the case that a carbon cap will dramatically increase energy costs for consumers ... The panelists include scholars from the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute, the president of Laredo Petroleum and a former official at the Environmental Protection Agency. Thirteen other Republicans, including a number of members of the Energy Committee, will join Pence in the new Capitol Visitor Center for the mock hearing.” [Politico, [4/30/09](#)]

## **ANTI-ENVIRONMENT VOTING RECORD**

Mike Pence had a lifetime score of 4% from the [LCV National Environmental Scorecard](#) for his time in Congress.

Year	Annual Score	Pro-environment Votes	Anti-environment Votes
2012	6%	2	33
2011	6%	2	33
2010	0%	0	10
2009	0%	0	14
2008	0%	0	13
2007	5%	1	19
2006	0%	0	12
2005	6%	1	17
2004	0%	0	11
2003	10%	2	18
2002	13%	1	7
2001	0%	0	14

## **PENCE VOTED SIX TIMES TO OVERRULE SCIENTISTS**

**In 2004, Pence Voted Against Investigating The Bush Administration's Assault On Science.** Critics have charged the Administration with distorting or censoring scientific findings that contradict its policies, manipulating science to align results with predetermined political decisions, and undermining the independence of science advisory panels." They went on to write, "During consideration of H.R. 2432, the Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act, Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and John Tierney (D-MA) offered an amendment to create a bipartisan, independent commission of scientists and governmental and public Administration officials that would study the politicization of science and recommend ways to protect scientific analysis from political manipulation and interference. On May 18, 2004, the House defeated House Amendment 531 by a 201-226 vote (House roll call vote 187). YES is the pro-environment vote." According to the Congressional Record, Pence voted 'nay' on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 [[2004 LCV Scorecard; House Vote #187, 5/18/2004](#)]

**In 2011, Pence Voted To Repeal The EPA's Scientific Finding That Greenhouse Gases Endanger Human Health And The Environment.** According to the League of Conservation Voters' 2011 scorecard, "House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) crafted H.R. 910, the so-called Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011, to legislatively repeal a scientific finding by the EPA that greenhouse gases endanger human health and the environment, to permanently block the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, and to undermine fuel economy standards." According to the Congressional Record, Pence voted 'nay' on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. [[2011 LCV Scorecard; House Vote #249, 4/7/2011](#)]

**In 2011, Pence Voted To Gut The Scientific Basis Of The Clean Air Act.** According to the League of Conservation Voters' 2011 scorecard, "Representative Bob Latta (R-OH) offered this amendment to H.R. 2401, the deceptively titled Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act of 2011 (TRAIN Act), to eliminate a central underpinning of the Clean Air Act--affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2001--that clean air standards must be based on what public health science tells us is safe to breathe. This amendment would require the EPA to define healthy air based on the "feasibility and cost" to polluting industries, and would compel the EPA to accept standards that fail to protect public health. On September 23, the House adopted the Latta amendment by a vote of 227-192 (House roll call vote 738). NO IS THE PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE." According to the

Congressional Record, Pence voted 'yay' on October 23, 2011. [[2011 LCV Scorecard](#); [House Vote #738, 10/23/2011](#)]

**In 2011, Pence Voted To Gut The Scientific Basis Of The Clean Air Act.**

According to the League of Conservation Voters' 2011 scorecard, Representative John Sullivan (R-OK) introduced H.R. 2401, the deceptively titled Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act of 2011 (TRAIN Act), requiring duplicative, biased, and unnecessary analyses of the costs--but not the benefits--of several EPA public health safeguards. Moreover, through last minute amendments adopted in committee and on the House floor, H.R. 2401 grew into the single biggest assault on the Clean Air Act in its more than 40-year history." They wrote that the bill would "incorporate the Latta amendment (House roll call vote 738) that eliminates the health-based underpinning of the Clean Air Act." According to the Congressional Record, Pence voted 'yay' on October 23, 2011. [[2011 LCV Scorecard](#); [House Vote #741, 10/23/2011](#)]

**In 2012, Pence Voted To Repeal The Scientific Finding By The Environmental Protection Agency That Greenhouse Gases Endanger Human Health And The Environment.**

According to the League of Conservation Voters' 2012 scorecard, "House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Henry Waxman (D-CA) offered an amendment to H.R. 3409, the so-called Stop the War on Coal Act of 2012, which would remove language from the bill repealing the scientific finding by the Environmental Protection Agency that greenhouse gases endanger human health and the environment. EPA scientists have extensively documented that carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases threaten public health by causing more heat waves and intense smog, spreading infectious diseases, and bringing about stronger storms, floods, and hurricanes. Without the Waxman amendment, H.R. 3409 would permanently block the EPA from reducing these dangerous greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. On September 21, the House rejected the Waxman amendment by a vote of 178-229 (House roll call vote 593). YES IS THE PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE. H.R. 3409 subsequently passed the House, but the Senate took no action on this legislation." According to the Congressional Record, Pence voted 'nay' on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. [[LCV Scorecard](#); [House Vote #593, 10/21/2012](#)]

**In 2012, Pence Voted To Block The Use Of Science In Setting Standards**

**Under The Clean Air Act.** According to the League of Conservation Voters' 2012 scorecard, "Representative Gene Green (D-TX) offered an amendment to H.R. 4480, the so-called Domestic Energy and Jobs Act, which would protect the Clean Air Act's health-based focus when determining whether our air is safe to breathe. As written, H.R. 4480 would direct the

Environmental Protection Agency to define healthy air based on the "feasibility and cost" to polluting industries, which would compel the EPA to accept air quality standards that do not protect public health. The Clean Air Act already thoroughly allows for consideration of feasibility and cost in implementing pollution control strategies, but including cost in the standard-setting process would fundamentally undermine these health-based protections, which could lead to more asthma attacks, heart attacks, and premature deaths. The Green amendment would remove this provision from the bill and restore the Clean Air Act's longstanding requirement that national air quality standards be based solely on the best available health science. On June 21, the House rejected the Green amendment by a vote of 174-244 (House roll call vote 395). YES IS THE PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE. H.R. 4480 subsequently passed the House, but the Senate took no action on this legislation." According to the Congressional Record, Pence voted 'nay' on June 21, 2012. [[LCV Scorecard](#); [House Vote #395, 6/21/2012](#)]

# **PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES**

## **NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**Politico HEADLINE: How Pence's Slow Walk On Needle Exchange Helped Propel Indiana's Health Crisis** [[Politico, 8/7/2016](#)]

**Pence's Opposition To A Needle Exchange Program As Governor Of Indiana Was Blamed For Accelerating A HIV Epidemic In The State.** According to Politico: "Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed a pledge last month, along with most of the nation's governors, to combat the opioid crisis, calling it 'one of the deadliest drug epidemics in our nation's history.' But when confronted with a spiraling HIV outbreak in his home state as a result of opioid addicts sharing contaminated needles, Pence dragged his feet before agreeing to lift a ban on programs that distribute sterile needles. Indiana became a national flash point for the opioid epidemic last year when nearly 200 people in rural Scott County became infected with HIV primarily as a result of injecting Opana, a powerful prescription opioid, using dirty needles. Those needles spawned one of the biggest outbreaks of HIV in decades, with more than 20 new cases being diagnosed every week at the height of the outbreak last year." [Politico, 8/7/2016]

## **COVID-19**

**Pence Led Trump's Coronavirus Task Force.** According to a February 2020 article in the Washington Post, Pence "led a meeting of the task force one day after President Trump tapped him to lead the administration's response to the growing health threat. [Washington Post, [2/27/2020](#)]

**Pence Praised The Administration's Response To COVID-19.** In March 2020, Yahoo News reported: "The tone was set at the briefing on Feb. 26 at which Pence was introduced as the head of the coronavirus task force, and took pains to praise Trump for recognizing that the situation was, in fact, an emergency: "This team has been, at your direction, Mr. President, meeting every day since it was established." At every public appearance since then, Pence has been scrupulous to attribute every action taken by the task force to Trump's "direction" or "leadership," including such minutiae as revising federal inspection protocols for nursing homes." [Yahoo News, [3/6/20](#)]

**Pence Claimed Trump Was "Taking Proper Steps" By Holding Campaign Events Where Supporters Broke Mandates On Wearing Masks.** In June 2020, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported: "Mr. Pence deftly sidestepped

pointed questions about the apparent dissonance between the administration's admonitions that Americans heed the guidance of local officials and President Donald Trump's decision to hold a political rally last week in Tulsa, Okla., over the objection of health officials. And during a Trump event in Arizona on Tuesday, thousands of young attendees violated Phoenix's mandate to wear face masks. Insisting that Mr. Trump was 'taking proper steps,' Mr. Pence invoked the constitutional protection of free speech, saying, 'we still want to give people the freedom to participate in the political process.'" [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, [6/26/20](#)]

**Pence Continued Campaigning While Leading The Coronavirus Task Force.**

In February 2020, the Washington Post reported: "Pence addressed the Conservative Political Action Conference, where he called for bipartisanship in battling the coronavirus — shortly before calling for the crowd to turn out to reelect Trump in November. 'It's important to remember we're all in this together,' Pence told the overwhelmingly Republican crowd. 'This is not the time for partisanship.' Moments later, he added: 'I know you're going to say yes to four more years of Donald Trump in 2020.'" Pence plans to continue his heavy campaign schedule — which has often included trips to two battleground states each week, according to a senior administration official." [Washington Post, [2/27/2020](#)]

**The Administration's Failure To Respond To The Crisis Early Led To Over 150,000 Deaths.** On July 30, 2020, the U.S. death toll from COVID-19 passed 150,000. According to the New York Times, on July 30, 2020, the U.S. death toll from COVID-19 passed 150,000. [New York Times, accessed [7/30/20](#)]

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY JOBS**

### **MIKE PENCE EFFECTIVELY KILLED A PROGRAM THAT CREATED THOUSANDS OF HOOSIER JOBS WHILE SAVING ENERGY**

**Governor Pence Declined To Veto SB 340, Which Ultimately Allowed The State Legislature To Kill Indiana's Energy Efficiency Mandates Without Debate Or Public Input.** According to Indy Star: "Pence said he had mixed feelings on the bill but would allow it to become law without his signature. That means he neither signed or vetoed the measure, but will let it take effect anyway. Senate Bill 340 will shut down the Energizing Indiana program, under which energy auditors- visit homes and businesses and recommend ways to reduce energy consumption. Typical recommendations include switching to energy-efficient light bulbs, wrapping pipes in insulation, turning down the temperature on water heaters and getting rid of old, energy-gobbling refrigerators ...The decision will remove Indiana from the ranks of 26 states that require utilities to offer programs that reduce energy use, part of a growing national effort to reduce electricity demand, lower prices and cut carbon emissions." [Indy Star, [3/27/14](#)]

**HEADLINE: "Gov. Mike Pence Allows Energy Efficiency Program To Die."** [[Courier-Journal, 3/28/14](#)]

**Governor Pence Said He Supported the IN Utility Regulatory Commission Energy Efficiency Goals But Allowed Their Demise With SB 340 Because They "Make Indiana Less Competitive."** According to Indy Star: "Pence said he supported the goals of energy efficiency, and he called on the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to immediately begin developing recommendations for a new program that would provide an opt-out for large electricity consumers, such as steel mills, which have paid millions of dollars a year into the program. But Pence said he could not veto the bill, 'because doing so would increase the cost of utilities for Hoosier ratepayers and make Indiana less competitive by denying relief to large electricity consumers, including our state's manufacturing base.'" [Indy Star, [3/27/14](#)]

**The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's Pioneering Energizing Indiana Program Saved 11 Million Megawatt Hours And Created Approximately 19,000 Jobs.** According Energy News Network: "That's because the report, done by the independent company GoodCents, showed that Energizing

Indiana resulted in energy savings of about 11 million megawatt hours, significant cost savings and created almost 19,000 jobs ... The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission created Energizing Indiana through a 2009 order after an extensive process involving state legislators and with the support of then-Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican. It was the first program of its type to be shuttled by a state legislature." [Energy News Network, [6/26/15](#)]

## **PENCE'S CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY**

### **PENCE'S FAMILY GAS STATION LEFT RESOUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS & LEFT TAXPAYERS TO FOOT \$20+ MILLION IN CLEANUP**

**HEADLINE: "Pence Family's Failed Gas Stations Cost Taxpayers \$20M+"**  
[Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

**The Pence Family's Former Gas Station Company, Kiel Bros., Was Responsible For \$21 Million Of Environmental Damage In Indiana, Including A Toxic Chemical Threat To Pence's Hometown's Drinking Water Supply.** According to Associated Press: "Vice President Mike Pence turns nostalgic when he talks about growing up in small-town Columbus, Indiana, where his father helped build a Midwestern empire of more than 200 gas stations that provided an upbringing on the 'front row of the American dream.' The collapse of Kiel Bros. Oil Co. in 2004 was widely publicized. Less known is that the state of Indiana — and, to a smaller extent, Kentucky and Illinois — are still on the hook for millions of dollars to clean up more than 85 contaminated sites across the three states, including underground tanks that leaked toxic chemicals into soil, streams and wells. Indiana alone has spent at least \$21 million on the cleanup thus far, or an average of about \$500,000 per site, according an analysis of records by The Associated Press. And the work is nowhere near complete. The federal government,

meanwhile, plans to clean up a plume of cancer-causing solvent discovered beneath a former Kiel Bros. station that threatens drinking water near the Pence family's hometown." [Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

**Associated Press: "The Public Cleanup Of More Than 25 Former Kiel Bros. Sites In Kentucky And Illinois — Where Officials Have Done A Better Job Keeping Costs Down — Has Been Much Less Expensive, Totaling About \$1.7 Million, According To An Analysis Of Records Obtained Under Each State's Public Records Law."** [Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

**Kiel Bros. Had Only Paid \$8.8 Million Toward The Clean Up Of Its Toxic Former Properties, But \$5 Million Of That Money Came From Public Funding From The Affected States.** According to Associated Press: "Kiel Bros. has paid for only a fraction of the overall effort. In court documents , the company cited payment of \$8.8 million in 'indemnity and defense costs,' but also noted that \$5 million of that amount came from the states. Indiana's Department of Environmental Management, which regulates gas stations, did not respond to a detailed list of questions from the AP. Spokesman Ryan Clem said the agency is working to provide records requested under Indiana's public records law that could shed some light on how much former Kiel Bros. sites have cost the state." [Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

**Associated Press: "Pence Spokeswoman Alyssa Farah Called The Findings 'A Years Old Issue' That The Vice President Has Addressed Before. She Did Not Elaborate."** [Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

**Associated Press: "The Fact That The Company Stuck Taxpayers With The Lion's Share Of The Cleanup Bill Rankles Some Observers, Especially In Light Of The Family's Reputation As Budget Hawks Critical Of Government Spending."** According to Associated Press: "The fact that the company stuck taxpayers with the lion's share of the cleanup bill rankles some observers, especially in light of the family's reputation as budget hawks critical of government spending. The Pence family, especially Greg Pence, has "some answering in public" to do, said A. James Barnes, an environmental law professor who served in high-ranking posts at the Environmental Protection Agency under President Ronald Reagan." [Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

**The Clean Up Of A Kiel Bros. Tank In Indianapolis Was Estimated To Cost The City Of Indianapolis \$260,000, While Another Kiel Bros Site In Indianapolis Was Costing The State Of Indiana \$1.7 Million.** According to Associated Press: "Many of the gas stations were sold off and are still operating. But some sites were abandoned, including a graffiti-covered storage tank facility that once towered over an Indianapolis neighborhood. Nearby residents

cheered last December as a crew tore down the tank, which was sold by the company for \$10 in 2005 and has been an eyesore ever since. The cleanup will cost an estimated \$260,000, according to the city. Elsewhere in the city, business continues as usual at a gas station that has been in continuous state of cleanup since 1990. Pictures taken in 1992 show standing pools of black sludge where two underground storage tanks were removed. At the time, Greg Pence and state environmental regulators pledged to work together on the cleanup. Since then, it has become one of the most expensive Kiel Bros. sites, costing the state \$1.7 million." [Associated Press, [7/13/18](#)]

## **PENCE RAISED MONEY FROM FOSSIL FUELS, ESPECIALLY THE KOCH BROTHERS' NETWORK**

**In His Last Gubernatorial Campaign In 2012, Pence Raised More Than \$850,000 From The Energy Sector, Including Over \$300,000 From The Koch Brothers.** 'Pence ran for governor in 2012 after serving in the U.S. Congress. His campaign for governor received more than \$850,000 from the energy sector, about 3 percent of the total, according to campaign finance disclosures. More than \$300,000 of that came from the billionaire Koch brothers, strong advocates of small government and fiscal conservatism who took a liking to Pence.' [Reuters, [7/14/16](#)]

**Pence Began Raising Large Amounts Of Money From The Koch Brothers' Network After Signing The 'No Climate Tax' Pledge.** 'Peterson said that the Checks & Balances Project hadn't detected 'much money going from the Kochs to Pence before he promoted the 'No Climate Tax' pledge.' Afterward, 'he was the Kochs' guy, and they've been showering him with money ever since.' Peterson went on, 'He could see a pathway to the Presidency with them behind him.'" [New Yorker, [10/23/17](#)]

**The Nation: Pence Was 'A Loyal Political Ally' Of The Koch Brothers And Saw 'A Steady Flow Of Koch Money' Into His Campaigns.** 'For years, Pence has been a loyal political ally of the biggest GOP donors out there: the Koch Brothers. Pence has employed many top Koch staffers in his political offices, and vice-versa, while a steady flow of Koch money has filled Pence's campaign accounts. Indiana, which Pence has governed since 2013, has become a testing ground for many of the network's conservative policy ideas. 'Indiana is one big free market, [and] much like Koch Industries, Mike Pence ... picks the right fights,' said pollster Kellyanne Conway in 2014.' [The Nation, [7/14/16](#)]

## **PENCE BRAGGED ABOUT ROLLING BACK PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTIONS UNDER THE TRUMP PENCE ADMINISTRATION**

**2019: VIDEO: Pence Touted Roll Backs Of The Fracking Rule, The Clean Power Plan, And The Methane Rule As Administration Achievements That Benefitted The Oil And Gas Industry.** “His remarks at the rig praised the Permian Basin’s enormous energy output and highlighted the Trump administration’s legislative support for the industry. ‘We approved the Keystone and Dakota pipeline. We rolled back the hydraulic fracking rule, the methane rule, stream buffer rule, the clean power plant and we got America out of the disastrous job-killing Paris Climate Accord. We’re putting American energy first.’ As the crowd cheered, Pence went on to celebrate how the Permian Basin is one of the world’s top oil exporters and is on track to produce about five and a half billion barrels of oil a day within the next four years. That is exactly why the vice president assured listening energy workers that the Trump administration would continue pushing for trade deals to benefit the oil and gas industry. ‘With your continued efforts here in West Texas, developing the vast natural God-given resources that we have in this land I know we will make America more prosperous than ever before,’ he said. ‘We will make America safer than ever before and we will make America great again.’” [KOSA, [4/17/19](#)]

**New York Times: By July, 2020, Trump Had Begun Or Completed Rollbacks Of 100 Environmental Rules And Regulations.** A New York Times analysis found that as of July 15, 2020, President Trump had completed 68, and begun progress on 32 rollbacks of environmental protections. According to the Times: After three years in office, the Trump administration has dismantled most of the major climate and environmental policies the president promised to undo. Calling the rules unnecessary and burdensome to the fossil fuel industry and other businesses, his administration has weakened Obama-era limits on planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and from cars and trucks, and rolled back many more rules governing clean air, water and toxic chemicals. Several major reversals have been finalized in recent months as the country has struggled to contain the spread of the new coronavirus. In all, a New York Times analysis, based on research from Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School and other sources, counts nearly 70 environmental rules and regulations officially reversed, revoked or otherwise rolled back under Mr. Trump. More than 30 additional rollbacks are still in progress.” [New York Times, [7/15/2020](#)]

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM**

**Pence's Administration Denied A Disaster Declaration Application For East Chicago, Indiana's Lead Crisis That Would Have Provided Relief To The City's Schools And Residents In Need.** According to The Chicago Tribune: "While former Gov. Mike Pence halted East Chicago's request for disaster relief, local legislators continue to push to get assistance for the city. Members of the Lake County delegation rallied around a series of proposals to provide financial assistance to the city and school district; push for cleanup and testing efforts; and better assist residents being forced to relocate because of contamination at the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site. The legislators' push began as the start of the new session began, weeks after Pence, now the vice-president elect, denied Mayor Anthony Copeland's request for assistance. 'It's disappointing to have our previous governor deny the request,' said Rep. Earl Harris Jr., D-East Chicago, because it's not something the mayor would have asked for without needing it." [Chicago Tribune, [1/19/17](#)]

**Pence Sent Staffers And Empty Promises To The Residents Of East Chicago In The Wake Of Lead Contamination.** According to Chicago Crusader: "In response to the discovery, Indiana Governor Mike Pence dispatched some staffers to East Chicago to investigate the situation. Through a spokesman, Pence has promised financial and medical assistance to the hundreds of displaced families, but so far residents haven't seen any help." [Chicago Crusader, [10/3/16](#)]

**Under Pence, The Indiana Department Of Environmental Management Delayed East Chicago Clean Up Of Superfund Site Due To Faith In "Embarrassingly Bad" Report.** According to Rewire News' Amy Littlefield: "Part of the reason may rest with a 2011 federal report that found there was no health threat from the air, water, or soil around the Superfund site. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) cited the findings of this report when Rewire.News asked about the agency's apparent failure to respond with urgency to the contamination. But in September 2016, Reuters found the report was based on flawed or incomplete data and was, in the words of one expert, 'embarrassingly bad;' the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry released a new report this August." [Amy Littlefield, Rewire News, [8/31/18](#)]

**Journal Review's Brian Howey: "The Pence Administration Has Been A No-Show" In East Chicago Lead Poisoning Crisis.** According to Journal Review's Brian Howey: "East Chicago lead poisoning crisis: There are some 1,000 East

Chicago residents who have been forced out of their homes at the West Calumet Housing Complex, the site of a former Anaconda Lead Products smelting plant. This was the scene where children were experiencing head and stomach aches and vomiting. The EPA originally said the site would be cleaned up at no cost to them, but residents later saw it bulldozed after Mayor Anthony Coleman came to the conclusion the place couldn't be cleaned up without further exposure to nearby residents. 'This is a potential catastrophe that could be approaching the same level as Flint, Michigan,' observed State Sen. Lonnie Randolph. The Pence administration has been a no-show." [Brian Howey, Journal Review, [9/9/16](#)]

**HEADLINE: "For Decades, A Predominantly Black And Latinx Indiana Town Suffered From Toxic Contamination. Mike Pence Looked The Other Way"** [The Root, [9/6/18](#)]

**New York Times: "People In This Heavily Industrialized City Just South Of Chicago Are Also Asking Why Their Governor, Mike Pence, The Republican Vice-Presidential Nominee, Visited Flood Victims In Baton Rouge, La., This Month While Campaigning With Donald J. Trump, But Has Not Found Time To Come To East Chicago."** [New York Times, [8/30/16](#)]

## **EARLIER IN THE SAME YEAR, THERE WAS A LEAD CRISIS IN WATER OF A 97% WHITE COMMUNITY – PENCE RESPONDED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY**

**2016: Pence Responded To Almost Immediately To Neighborhood And High School Lead Contamination In 97 Percent White Greentown, IN With Urgency.** According to In These Times: "Compare this negligence to Greentown, Ind., a 97-percent white neighborhood that received immediate attention in 2016 from then-Gov. Pence to fix up the lead in the water of their neighborhood and high school. While the situation has been resolved in Greentown, the hits just keep coming for East Chicago: A new 'confined disposal facility' (neutral language for toxic waste dump) is being pushed by the U.S. Army Corps dredging project to go less than a mile away from the East Chicago Central High School, despite past community protest for this location." [In These Times, [7/11/17](#)]

**The Huffington Post's John Halstead: Mike Pence Treated The Similar Crises In Greentown And East Chicago Differently Because Greentown Is Overwhelmingly White While East Chicago Is Mostly Black And Hispanic, A**

**Phenomenon Called “Environmental Racism.”** According to The Huffington Post’s John Halstead: “In spite of the scale and urgency of the situation, Governor/soon-to-be-Vice-President Pence has not acted to help the citizens of East Chicago like he did the citizens of Greentown. Governor Pence did not come to East Chicago, Indiana, like he did to Greentown ... The answer is to be found in the demographics of the two communities. Greentown’s population of 2,400 is 97% white. In contrast, the over 28,000 residents of East Chicago, Indiana are 43% African American and 51% Hispanic or Latino. This is what is called environmental racism. Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color.” [John Halstead, The Huffington Post, [1/14/17](#)]

