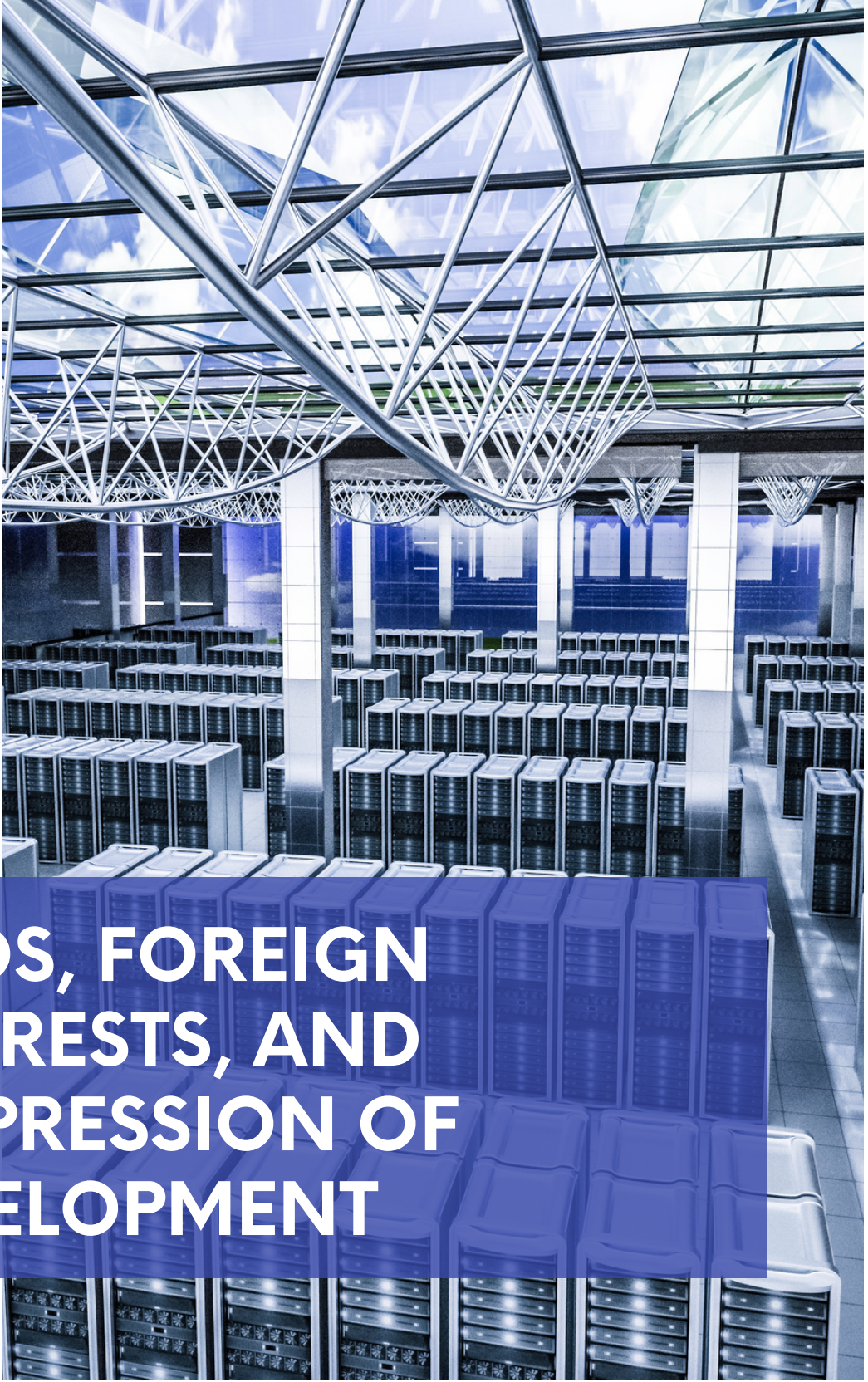


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NGOS, FOREIGN INTERESTS, AND SUPPRESSION OF DEVELOPMENT

NGOs, Foreign Interests, and Suppression of Development

Introduction

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are vessels for influence in governments and agencies, and the National Park Service (NPS) is no exception. The NPS maintains over 80 million acres of the land in the United States.¹ For reference, all urbanized areas make up over 40 million acres in the U.S.² Perhaps because there are other agencies in the Department of the Interior that manage more land, such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), sometimes the NPS is overlooked.³ But the American people have a right to ensure that every part of the NPS is being maintained for the purpose of America's betterment. Any NGO coming to the NPS with an interest in progressive activism or benefitting our foreign adversaries should be under intense scrutiny. This paper discusses NGOs that oppose economic development on an ideological, rather than pragmatic, basis or are influenced by foreign adversaries with a stake in stifling American development.

How NGOs Affect Energy Policy in and Around National Parks

It has been well documented, and even lauded by those who do it, that thousands of civil lawsuits have been filed to shut down development based on broad interpretations of environmental law.⁴ The Chamber of Commerce estimates these lawsuits can collectively cost over a billion dollars annually—and projections indicate that it will only get worse.⁵ Much of this is brought about because of the “sue and settle” practice, in which NGOs sue the government to make an end run around the normal policy-making process. The intent is to “settle” the case with a friendly administration—bypassing the legislative or rulemaking process—regardless of the merit of the claim. NGOs often collect fees from the government for these lawsuits, which fund further operations and help them to file more lawsuits.

¹ “Land Resources Division,” National Park Service, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1860/index.htm>.

² Iman Ghosh, “From concrete jungles to crop fields: this is how America uses its land,” *World Economic Forum*, February 11, 2020, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/02/land-use-america-agriculture-nature-urban/>.

³ “The Federal Land Management Agencies,” *Congressional Research Service*, October 7, 2024, https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IF/PDF/IF10585/IF10585.15.pdf.

⁴ C.M. Rea, N.E. Merten and C.J. Rife, “Outcomes and policy focus of environmental litigation in the United States,” *Nature Sustainability* 7 (2024): 1469–80, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-024-01456-x>.

⁵ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “*Sue and Settle Updated: Damage Done 2013-2016*,” May 2017, https://www.uschamber.com/assets/documents/u.s._chamber_sue_and_settle_2017_updated_report.pdf.

Several laws passed by Congress, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Clean Air Act (CAA) are leveraged by NGOs as the basis for lawsuits. Although these laws may not have been intended for these purposes when they were originally passed, over the years, NGOs have recognized them as a means to exploit, often to the detriment of the average American.

Rather than showing evidence to Congress of a need for better environmental protection than under existing statutes, NGOs realize it is easier to bypass the will of the people and create their own desired policy outcomes through this practice. It is important to note that the ideological agendas of these NGOs are not mysterious.⁶ After gaining millions of dollars using their “lawfare” strategy, many NGOs in turn donate to politicians who campaign on behalf of the NGOs’ goals, a cycle that renders new development in America even more legally challenging.⁷

Another issue with this environmental lawfare is that it is not an effective tool for solving environmental problems. According to a summary of an online symposium from George Mason University’s Law & Economics Center from the Heartland Institute:

The general consensus of the panelists... [was that] “climate change requires a political, not judicial, solution”; second, “global climate change [is] beyond the scope of state courts”; and third, circling back to the first point, “climate change does not belong in the judiciary.”⁸

The relationship between humanity’s needs and the environment is incredibly complex, and it is not getting simpler. Forcing judges, especially on the state and local level, to constantly make decisions on ever-evolving policy improperly places the judge in a legislative role. And, it is a daunting task for a judge trained in law, rather than science. But many of these NGOs pushing for constant judicial review are not interested in what is best for the environment, however. Their motivations are a payday and advancing nefarious interests.

To that end, any suppression of American energy development serves the interests of our rivals—especially China. Fewer energy exports create openings for other energy-producing nations, such as Russia and Iran, to exert more power and fill in the market. For example, even Hillary Clinton privately admitted that some environmental groups pushing against fracking were backed by Russia.⁹

⁶ Curtis M. Schube, J.D., “Progressive NGOs and the NPS,” *The Council to Modernize Governance*, June 19, 2026, <https://www.modernizegovernance.org/progressive-ngos-and-the-nps/>.

⁷ Gabe Kaminsky, “Biden EPA taxpayer settlement payouts quietly soar to left-wing climate activists,” *Washington Examiner*, August 13, 2023, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/1613741/biden-epa-taxpayer-settlement-payouts-quietly-soar-to-left-wing-climate-activists/>.

⁸ Heartland Institute, “Climate Change Weekly # 583—Climate Lawfare Is Flawed, Legal Panel Finds,” June 26, 2026, <https://heartland.org/opinion/climate-change-weekly-583-climate-lawfare-is-flawed-legal-panel-finds/>.

⁹ Valerie Richardson, “Leaked emails show Hillary Clinton blaming Russians for funding ‘phony’ anti-fracking groups,” *The Washington Times*, October 10, 2016, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/oct/10/clinton-blames-russians-anti-fracking-groups/>.

In June of 2025, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee held a meeting on the issue of Chinese influence in climate litigation efforts. One of the witnesses presented a table based on the tax filings of several NGOs that fund various environmental lawsuits that impede

development.¹⁰ The table lists the annual revenues of some of the largest NGOs, with a few reaching over \$100 million per year.

Annual Revenues
of
Leading Climate Lawfare Groups

Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)	\$ 34,484,948
Center for International Environmental Law	\$ 10,266,541
ClientEarth	\$ 8,439,891
Conservation Law Foundation	\$ 16,528,889
Earthjustice	\$ 125,960,142
EarthRights International	\$ 6,108,820
Environmental Integrity Project	\$ 6,400,051
Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest	\$ 10,923,738
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)	\$ 193,144,386
Figure 1: Table on Environmental NGO Revenue	\$ 4,964,407
Public Justice Foundation	\$ 9,705,815
Southern Environmental Law Center	\$ 62,847,748
Western Environmental Law Center	\$ 3,869,418
WildEarth Guardians	\$ 3,989,393
TOTAL	\$ 497,634,187

Source: IRS Form 990s filed for FY ending in 2023.

Many of these organizations receive donations from foreign individuals or entities—including China. It may be difficult to legally prove that China is donating specifically to sue various projects to prevent their development, but money is fungible and that is the downstream effect of their support and the Chinese know it.¹¹ China does not care about preserving the natural beauty of our American landscape, nor do many of these NGOs. The real purpose—perhaps for various reasons—is to stifle American prosperity. A weak America is an easily controlled America.

This is true whether the goal is to serve progressivism or China—or both.

How NGOs Affect Local Data Center Policy in and Around National Parks

Although energy development and climate policy have been hotly debated topics in the U.S. for decades, they are not the only issues that unelected and foreign-influenced NGOs are getting involved in. As AI grows in potential and cost, American investment in infrastructure is becoming more necessary for data centers. Since many of our adversaries are also competing with us in the technological sphere, this is an important angle to consider.

For progressives to meet their goals, they need to dismantle the systems of Western Civilization—including the United States—so they can build their Marxist utopia from the ground up. To progressives, actual progress for Western Civilization is a barrier to their goals. Data centers, like any other development, have costs associated with them. Rather than allowing

¹⁰ Scott Walter, “Scott Walter’s Written Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee,” *Capital Research Center*, June 25, 2025, <https://capitalresearch.org/article/scott-walters-written-testimony-to-the-senate-judiciary-subcommittee/>.

¹¹ Filip Jirouš, “Make the Green Serve China: PRC Influence Operations Target International Environmentalism,” *Jamestown* 22, no. 16 (2022), <https://jamestown.org/make-the-green-serve-china-prc-influence-operations-target-international-environmentalism/>.

communities to weigh the costs and benefits of data centers on both a national and local level, many NGOs are pushing to block their development outright.

Data centers, while they may have drawbacks like any development, are essential if the United States wants to remain at the forefront of technology. The development of increased online presence and artificial intelligence requires them. All of our online activity is routed through data centers. This also includes critical functions such as banking, healthcare, emergency services, government, and more.¹² Thus, understandably, it would be a core national security risk if American laws drove these data centers overseas where we cannot protect or control them.¹³

Food and Water Watch, a progressive nonprofit, claims that it was the first to come out against building data centers.¹⁴ The NGO submitted a letter to Congress with over 230 other organizations demanding support for “a national moratorium on the approval and construction of new data centers.”¹⁵ It also claimed credit for pushing New York into being the first state to put a moratorium on any new data center construction.¹⁶ But that was only the start. As of today, there are data center moratoriums or restrictions in over 100 local municipalities.¹⁷

Obviously, a data center may not be right for every community, and there can be reasons a community may want to see them built elsewhere. But it will be hard to separate the legitimate grievances that organically originate from voters versus the foreign manipulations performed through various NGOs, sometimes with the backing of China. Americans are under a constant barrage of messaging sourced straight from places like China, Iran, and Russia.¹⁸ OpenAI issued a report warning that it has discovered several attempts by the Chinese to covertly insert themselves in the public discussion on data centers.¹⁹ But the bankrolling of this opposition is not exclusive to the Chinese. Bitcoin Policy Institute also put out a report discussing how opposition

¹² “6 Ways Data Centers Impact our Lives and Communities,” *CoreSite*, accessed August 11, 2026, <https://www.coresite.com/blog/6-ways-data-centers-impact-our-lives-and-communities>.

¹³ Derek Belle et al., “The National Security Implications of Building Frontier AI Data Centers Overseas,” *Brookings*, August 3, 2026, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-national-security-implications-of-building-frontier-ai-data-centers-overseas/>.

¹⁴ Mark Schlosberg and Mitch Jones, “No More New Data Centers!” *Food and Water Watch*, November 6, 2025, <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2025/11/06/no-more-new-data-centers/>.

¹⁵ “National Data Center Moratorium Now!” *Food and Water Watch*, December 8, 2025, <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Org-Letter-National-Data-Center-Moratorium.pdf>.

¹⁶ Laura Shindell, “How We Pressed Pause on Data Centers in New York and What’s Next,” *Food and Water Watch*, July 15, 2026, <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/07/15/new-york-data-center-moratorium-victory/>.

¹⁷ “US Data Center Moratorium Tracker,” *Interconnected Capital*, accessed July 17, 2026, <https://www.interconnectedcapital.com/research/data-center-moratoriums>.

¹⁸ Collin Anderson, “Chinese Propaganda Outlets Jump into Crusade Against Data Centers as Beijing Races to Achieve AI Supremacy,” *The Washington Free Beacon*, April 28, 2026, <https://freebeacon.com/china/chinese-propaganda-outlets-jump-into-crusade-against-data-centers-as-beijing-races-to-achieve-ai-supremacy/>.

¹⁹ “PRC-linked influence operations are targeting AI debates in the US,” *OpenAI*, June 2026, <https://cdn.openai.com/pdf/96b559fa-c165-4575-805d-e636909e2f78/June-2026-Threat-Report.pdf>.

to data centers in the U.S. is also backed by foreign billionaires from places such as Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and other countries.²⁰

When people think of public lands, they usually imagine our iconic National Parks (such as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, or Yellowstone). This association is exactly what these various NGOs that oppose data centers are hoping for, as it would be hard to find someone who supports a data center being built in the middle of a pristine view of a National Park. The fact is that data centers need to be built in places with developed supporting infrastructure, such as roads, power grids, water systems, and other basic functions, like people to staff them, which makes urban or semi-urban settings much more ideal.²¹ The reality is that it is infeasible to build data centers in the middle of a national park.

Indeed, being close to consumers is becoming an even more important factor industries consider because the closer they are to consumers, the better their results.²² Nevertheless, the love Americans have for their heritage is something NGOs exploit.

One example is the litigation against building a collection of data centers near an NPS site. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), an aggressively progressive NGO, joined a coalition of other NGOs that prevented—through litigation—the Prince William Digital Gateway because it would have been built *near* the Manassas National Battlefield Park.²³ Although there is no indication the courts took a legal argument about proximity to a National Monument into account, this precedent could be easily exploited in the public debate. A senior official with NPCA said as much in his statement following the ruling:

Constructing and operating this massive data center complex would have devastating consequences for this iconic piece of American history and set terrible precedent for heavy industrial development near our National Parks.

It is our sincere hope that developers take this ruling as a sign to reconsider their plans...²⁴

Data centers being built on NPS land is one thing, but being built *near* NPS land is also unacceptable? It also begs the question, how near is “near?” In the case of the Prince William Digital Gateway, it would have been adjacent to the National Park. But unless a distinction is legally defined, it effectively could mean any distance. Does “near” mean right up to the park boundary? Within the same county? Where does a national park’s boundary actually end? Is

²⁰ Sam Lyman, “Foreign Influence in the Campaign against American AI,” *Bitcoin Policy Institute*, May 18, 2026, <https://www.btcpolicy.org/articles/foreign-influence-in-the-campaign-against-american-ai>.

²¹ “The Importance of Location in Data Center Selection,” *Databank*, February 6, 2024, <https://www.databank.com/resources/blogs/the-importance-of-location-in-data-center-selection/>

²² Ibid.

²³ “VICTORY: Court Ruling Halts Destructive Data Centers Adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park,” *National Parks Conservation Association*, March 31, 2026, <https://www.npca.org/articles/11368-victory-court-ruling-halts-destructive-data-centers-adjacent-to-manassas>.

²⁴ Ibid.

there a special “no new development zone” that goes beyond a park’s boundary in between the lines of the legal text?

It should be noted that the environmental realities for many parks are usually subordinate to the real objective of these NGOs, which is to uphold progressive orthodoxy. The same NPCA official also stated that data centers should “be required to be 100% renewable before they turn the lights on if they are serious about their publicly stated comments,” which indicates the goalpost was always going to shift so that no construction would be permitted unless it financially benefits their green energy comrades.²⁵

Although organizations like Food and Water Watch may claim to oppose data centers because of their electricity usage,²⁶ they have celebrated more electric vehicle charging stations at the Grand Canyon and other national parks on their social media.²⁷ Remember, the true goal for many of these NGOs is the strangulation of energy resources—not protecting the environment.



Prominent NGOs

Along with well-known NGOs, there are many prominent players long active in this space that have only recently gained attention. Below is a non-exhaustive list of NGOs that influence federal agencies like the NPS – and who in turn influences those agencies. The selected groups were chosen to give a reader an overview of how they operate and interact with each other to fund their collective agenda and influence the NPS. Not all of them directly associate with the NPS nor do all of them receive foreign influence. However, they collectively form a snapshot of a small part of this web of NGOs that interacts with each other to guide American environmental policy (including within the NPS).

²⁵ Charlie Paullin, “Virginia Explained: Data center expansion, with all its challenges and benefits,” *Virginia Mercury*, May 28, 2024, <https://virginiamercury.com/2024/05/28/virginia-explained-data-center-expansion-with-all-its-challenges-and-benefits/>.

²⁶ Food & Water Watch, “The Top 10 Reasons Data Centers Must be Stopped,” *Food & Water Watch*, March 4, 2026, <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/03/04/the-top-10-reasons-data-centers-must-be-stopped/>.

²⁷ Food & Water Watch (@foodandwater). “ICYMI: Earlier this month, Grand Canyon National Park announced that it will increase its number of charging stations for electric vehicles,” X (formerly Twitter), December 26, 2023, <https://x.com/foodandwater/status/1739707730779050255?s=20>. A report to Congress by the Department of Energy explains that charging station usage can be an inconsistent strain on the electrical grid, as peak times can vary. At least a data center only requires consistent usage and can be a predictable increase in usage on the grid. U.S. Department of Energy, *Impact of Electric Vehicles on the Grid Report to Congress*, June 2024, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/Congressional%20Report%20EV%20Grid%20Impacts.pdf>.

Even if there are laws restricting foreign involvement in our elections, there is no real mechanism to stop an American-based organization from exerting influence on behalf of foreign interests. There are some disclosure laws, such as the Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA), for when an NGO engages in lobbying and takes foreign donations. But money can be filtered through several layers of NGOs. An NGO that receives grant money from abroad could spend that money on a smaller NGO that does not disclose the source of its foreign funding.

Energy Foundation China (EFC)

This is a major subsidiary of the Energy Foundation which has offices in both the United States and China, but claims to operate independently as of 2019.²⁸ The CEO, Zou Ji, not only worked in the Chinese government, but also was part of the Chinese delegation that negotiated the Paris Climate agreement,²⁹ which would have been punishing to the United States had President Trump not pulled out of it.³⁰ Moreover, Ji's loyalty is presumably to the CCP over the United States and he has spent tens of millions of dollars on behalf of The Energy Foundation³¹ on other left-wing NGOs based in the U.S. He is also responsible for lawsuits against American corporations and government agencies. In addition, he organized several U.S.-China events such as California Governor Newsom's visit to China in 2023.³²

According to a Louisiana-based think tank called the Pelican Institute, one of the many organizations EFC gave millions of dollars to is Earthjustice,³³ which is an NGO that uses lawfare to obstruct many projects in resource-rich Louisiana.³⁴ It sues the NPS frequently, stopping development projects for critical minerals³⁵ and other development projects needed to compete with China.

The EFC has given over a billion dollars in grants to over a thousand recipients.³⁶ Many will sue the NPS and shape national environmental and energy policy. One example is the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which receives hundreds of thousands of dollars

²⁸ "Introduction," *The Energy Foundation*, accessed July 20, 2026, <https://www.efchina.org/About-Us-en/Introduction-en>.

²⁹ "Zou Ji," *World Economic Forum*, accessed on July 20, 2026, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/authors/zou-ji/>.

³⁰ Kevin Dayaratna, Nicolas Loris, and David Kreutzer, "Consequences of Paris Protocol: Devastating Economic Costs, Essentially Zero Environmental Benefits," *Heritage Foundation*, April 13, 2016, <https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2017-09/BG3080.pdf>.

³¹ "The Energy Foundation" *ProPublica*, June 22, 2026, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943126848/202403199349306005/full>.

³² "State Armor Report - Who is Energy Foundation China?" *State Armor*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://statearmor.org/who-is-energy-foundation-china/>.

³³ "Barriers to Louisiana Energy Dominance" *Pelican Institute*, March 13, 2026, <https://pelicanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Barriers-to-Louisiana-Energy-Dominance-Paper.pdf>.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 16.

³⁵ "Environmental group sues US Interior for approving rare earth mining in Mojave Desert," *Mining*, April 18, 2026, <https://www.mining.com/environmental-group-sues-us-interior-for-approving-rare-earth-mining-in-mojave-desert/>.

³⁶ "Energy Foundation China (EFC)," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 22, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/energy-foundation-china/#grant-activity>.

from EFC.³⁷ Moreover, NRDC’s Executive Director Christy Goldfuss is the former deputy director of the NPS during the Obama administration, which indicates a strong connection to the agency during times when government is left-wing.³⁸

But EFC is not just funding activist groups that seek to shape NPS and environmental policy through lawfare. It also funds groups which work directly with the NPS and influence their projects.³⁹ In certain years, the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) received hundreds of thousands of dollars from EFC. RMI has historically collaborated with the NPS⁴⁰ and other agencies.⁴¹ This legacy relationship is apparently being leveraged by EFC, and by extension the CCP, to enact its China-first policy goals.

Shortly after its donation from EFC, RMI put out a report giving “China’s Perspective and Global Insights” on how to run data centers on green energy⁴² arguing we should “maximize [our] green power consumption.”⁴³ Bear in mind, China is the leading supplier of green technologies,⁴⁴ meaning an adoption of green energy by their biggest competitor—the United States—is in their interest since we would depend more on Chinese manufacturing and would be giving them increased business. RMI also produced a study cited by the Biden administration as a justification to ban gas stoves.⁴⁵ Yet as congressional officials noted a few months before that study was released, RMI received an \$820,000 donation from EFC to “support education and analysis to phase out coal.”⁴⁶

But EFC did not just come out of nowhere. Many foundations which were backed by billionaires both in and outside of the United States not only provided the financial capital to

³⁷ Thomas Catenacci and Joe Schoffstall, “CCP-tied group is quietly fueling US-based climate initiatives: tax filings,” *Fox News*, December 18, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ccp-tied-group-quietly-fueling-us-based-climate-initiatives-tax-filings>.

³⁸ “Christy Goldfuss,” *Natural Resources Defense Council*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/christy-goldfuss>.

³⁹ Thomas Catenacci, “Ex-CCP Officials Funneled Millions to US Universities, Nonprofits to Promote Green Energy, Tax Forms Show,” *Washington Free Beacon*, December 10, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/energy/ex-ccp-officials-steered-millions-to-us-based-green-groups-universities-for-climate-initiatives/>.

⁴⁰ Jennifer Walton, “A Green Room with a View,” *RMI Solutions Journal*, 2, no. 2 (2008), accessed on August 6, 2026, 35-37, https://rmi.org/app/uploads/2017/05/RMI_Solutions_Journal-Fall_2008.pdf.

⁴¹ “A Legacy of Partnering with the US Government” *Rocky Mountain Institute*, March 5, 2025, <https://rmi.org/resources/a-legacy-of-partnering-with-the-us-government/>.

⁴² Ting Li, Wei Li, Dengfeng Liao, Yujing Liu, Ziyi Liu, Guangxu Wang, Meng Wang, and Hongyou Xu, “Powering the Data-Center Boom with Low-Carbon Solutions,” *Rocky Mountain Institute*, November 2024, https://rmi.org/app/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/11/Powering_the_Data_Center_Boom_with_Low_Carbon_Solutions_report.pdf.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 36.

⁴⁴ “The State of Clean Technology Manufacturing,” *International Energy Agency*, May 19, 2023, <https://www.iea.org/reports/the-state-of-clean-technology-manufacturing>.

⁴⁵ “Chairs of Energy and Commerce, Science, and Natural Resources Committees Open Investigation into Chinese Influence in American Energy and Environmental Policy,” *House Energy & Commerce Committee*, January 29, 2024, <https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chairs-of-energy-and-commerce-science-and-natural-resources-committees-open-investigation-into-chinese-influence-in-american-energy-and-environmental-policy-1>.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

give groups like EFC a strong foothold in America, but they also fund other environmental groups which advocate for Green New Deal style policies in the United States.

Environmental Law Institute (ELI)

This is a progressive legal think tank with a program specifically designed to train judges in environmental law, so they can maximize the obstruction of development. This program is known as the Climate Judiciary Project, and it is funded by many of the same foundations that are funding all the other organizations, such as the Hewlett Foundation.⁴⁷ Rather than apply the law as it was originally intended, the goal is to produce judicial activists. This rose to the attention of the Congress, which opened an investigation into this project.⁴⁸

Congress's interest isn't just limited to ELI's influence on the American judicial system, but also the Chinese influence potentially running through ELI's curriculum and speakers. According to a report by State Armor, ELI has "engaged in a sustained effort to influence U.S. courts toward imposing drastic reductions in American emissions through climate litigation, while simultaneously helping Chinese institutions develop legal frameworks that shield Beijing from analogous pressure."⁴⁹ This report influenced and inspired another Congressional hearing to which the chair of the committee stated, "The [Chinese Communist Party] is actively taking advantage of our open society and attempting to advance its malign influence across all levels of government."⁵⁰ This is thanks in no small part to organizations like ELI.

Public Citizen and Public Citizen Foundation

These sister organizations have been radical Green New Deal advocates, with one a 501(c)(3) and the other a 501(c)(4). Although a huge part of their focus is on obstructing President Trump's mandate to "Make America Great Again," they were pushing the same progressive policies even when President Biden was in power. They have received millions of dollars in grants from many left-wing groups mentioned in this report with some ties to China, such as the ClimateWorks Foundation, the Energy Foundation, New Venture Fund, and the Partnership Project.⁵¹

⁴⁷ "Grants," *Hewlett*, accessed July 27, 2026,

https://hewlett.org/grants/?grant_search=Environmental%20Law%20Institute.

⁴⁸ Katelynn Richardson, "EXCLUSIVE: Top House Committee Opens Probe into Climate Activist Group Attempting To 'Influence' Judges," *Daily Caller*, September 1, 2025, <https://dailycaller.com/2025/09/01/exclusive-house-judiciary-committee-probe-climate-activist-group/>.

⁴⁹ "Eli and Communist China," *State Armor*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://statearmor.org/eli-and-communist-china/>.

⁵⁰ Fred Lucas, "'Malign Influence Across All Levels of Government': House Chairman Eyes Potential China Influence in US Judiciary in Climate Cases," *Daily Signal*, July 7, 2026, <https://www.dailysignal.com/2026/07/07/house-china-influence-us-judiciary/>.

⁵¹ "Public Citizen," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/public-citizen/#grant-activity>; "Public Citizen Foundation," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/public-citizen-foundation/#grant-activity>.

One policy these NGOs pressed during the Biden administration—which affects agencies even now—was prioritizing the appointment of climate alarmists to regulatory bodies. According to their report: “The President should use [climate champions] for all political appointments, but the top priorities are principals and deputies for the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, the OFR, OCC, FDIC, NCUA, SEC and the CFTC.”⁵² Using climate activists to sway markets based on ideology, rather than natural market factors, is a recipe for energy shortages and strangling the American economy. It is worth noting that the report was funded by the Energy Foundation and ClimateWorks Foundation⁵³ which both have donors tied to China.

Currently, Public Citizen enjoys falsely weaponizing people’s love of their national parks against President Trump. In another report, they claimed the Trump administration wanted to push private groups to make “resort developments for the extremely wealthy, turning cherished public spaces into Disney-esque commercial entertainment venues.”⁵⁴ The only evidence they cited for this was an opinion piece from the Guardian. A few paragraphs later they gave the disclaimer that “[t]he Trump administration has yet to eliminate national monument protections, or designations that restrict extraction in specific protected areas[.]”⁵⁵

It also strongly opposes data centers. Although Public Citizen tries to frame its opposition to data centers as reasonable, the policies it advocates for make it one of the most radical opponents of data centers. For example, after Governor Hochul signed a moratorium on data centers in New York state—the most aggressive anti-data center legislation passed state-wide yet—Public Citizen was upset it did not go far enough. Clara Vondrich, the senior policy counsel for Public Citizen’s Climate Program, said in a statement:

Hochul should not have bypassed the one-year moratorium bill passed by the New York Assembly in June. The Responsible Data Center Development Act was more stringent, including a mandate that all data centers be powered by 90% renewable energy by 2040. The Act would further encompass a larger universe of data centers impacting communities, blocking for one year any data center with peak demand of 20MW, whereas the Governor’s plan only limits data centers 50MW and above.⁵⁶

⁵² David Arkush, Ty Gellasch, Erik Gerding, Alexis Goldstein, and Heather Slavkin Corzo, “Climate Roadmap for U.S. Financial Regulation,” *Public Citizen*, accessed July 28, 2026, v, <https://www.citizen.org/article/climate-roadmap-for-u-s-financial-regulation/>.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 36.

⁵⁴ Toni Aguilar Rosenthal and Alan Zibel, “Trump’s Polluter Playground,” *Public Citizen*, October 6, 2025, 32, <https://www.citizen.org/article/trumps-polluter-playground/>.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ “New York Governor Hochul’s Data Center Moratorium Omits Stronger Climate Provisions of Legislature’s Version,” *Public Citizen*, July 16, 2026, <https://www.citizen.org/news/new-york-governor-hochuls-data-center-moratorium-omits-stronger-climate-provisions-of-legislatures-version/>.

Public Citizen also advocates for a ban on tax breaks for data centers⁵⁷ and punishing any employee (with “an inclusive definition of who is considered a public employee”⁵⁸) who signs an NDA with a company pursuing a data center.⁵⁹ These aggressive stances are not the position of a group concerned about local zoning ordinances. If these positions were adopted, data center development would grind to a halt across the nation. This is one of many examples of Public Citizen’s radical agenda being pushed through subtle methods that only weaken America, to China’s benefit.

CodePink

This activist group is highly connected with China and the radically progressive far-left, especially through a multi-millionaire U.S.-citizen based in Shanghai known as Neville Roy Singham. Singham is married to CodePink co-founder Jodie Evans.⁶⁰ The Bitcoin Policy Institute has copiously documented the many organizations he has financially backed, as well as his many ties to the CCP.⁶¹ It demonstrates how the “Singham network” is interconnected with many NGOs across the world. Many of these NGOs support CCP talking points and especially oppose American development like data centers.

CodePink’s “China Campaign Coordinator”⁶² strenuously objects to accusations of CodePink being financed by the CCP and even claims to not know or care what the CCP is interested in.⁶³ However, the U.S. State Department contradicts the China Campaign Coordinator and labels CodePink as an organization that holds water for the CCP.⁶⁴

One example of CodePink helping China at America’s expense is the co-signing of a letter (along with other groups mentioned in this report) that argued the U.S. should cooperate with China by “making urgent domestic emissions reductions and scaling up international

⁵⁷ Adrian Shelley, “Data Center Investment and State Fiscal Effects - testimony by Public Citizen,” *Public Citizen*, July 27, 2026, <https://www.citizen.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-07-27-Senate-Finance-data-center-tax-breaks.pdf>.

⁵⁸ Deanna Noël, “The Secret Data Center Buildout,” *Public Citizen*, July 8, 2026, <https://www.citizen.org/news/the-secret-data-center-buildout-how-states-can-stop-big-techs-abuse-of-ndas/>.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Mara Hvistendahl, David A. Fahrenthold, Lynsey Chutel, and Ishaan Jhaveri, “How a U.S. Tech Mogul Used Nonprofits to Sow Chinese Propaganda,” *New York Times*, August 5, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html>.

⁶¹ Sam Lyman, “Foreign Influence in the Campaign against American AI”; Sam Lyman, “Foreign Influence in the Campaign against American AI, Part II: The Singham Ground Game,” *Bitcoin Policy Institute*, June 29, 2026, <https://www.btcpolicy.org/articles/foreign-influence-campaign-against-american-ai-part-ii-singham-ground-game>.

⁶² “Megan Russell,” *CodePink*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.codepink.org/meganrussell>.

⁶³ Megan Russell, “CODEPINK: Funded by the CCP?” *CodePink*, April 4, 2025, <https://www.codepink.org/fundedbyccp>.

⁶⁴ Victor Nava, “State Department identifies Code Pink and other far-left groups as vectors of Chinese influence operations,” *New York Post*, February 10, 2026, <https://nypost.com/2026/02/10/us-news/state-department-identifies-code-pink-and-other-far-left-groups-as-vectors-of-chinese-influence-operations/>.

climate finance for developing countries” and “the open sharing of green technologies[.]”⁶⁵ As China is the biggest manufacturer of green technologies,⁶⁶ America funding developing countries by purchasing Chinese-made technologies developed by American industry would be an incredibly lopsided deal for our biggest adversary. Even if there is not any publicly available evidence that the Chinese paid for that letter to go out, why should CodePink expect us to not question that its actions may be influenced, or at least amplified, by the CCP?

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Although this organization has been strongly criticized by those on the political left for maintaining some ties with businesses, their business connections also include foreign interests. TNC is a multi-billion-dollar organization which has a very close relationship with the NPS. The relationship is so strong, it actually manages or outright owns several National Parks or portions of them, such as the Great Sand Dunes National Park,⁶⁷ Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve,⁶⁸ and the Channel Islands National Park.⁶⁹

One of the most concerning aspects of TNC is the personnel and board members. Current CEO and board member Jennifer Morris was president of Conservation International.⁷⁰ Conservation International helps governments identify which lands or bodies of water should be protected “to prevent climate catastrophe.”⁷¹ It works with the NPS and other agencies in the Department of the Interior to influence what land cannot be used for any development, directly and indirectly through partners.⁷² Morris’s chief of staff, Becky Marshall, previously served as senior director and chief of staff for environment initiatives at the Pew Charitable Trusts, which is identified later in this report as a major funder of several progressive organizations and Greenpeace International.⁷³

Even if TNC boasts strong business ties, it is not necessarily pro-growth. Matthew Arnold, the global head of impact finance and markets at TNC, made his name by advising JPMorgan on how to better embrace ESG (environment, social, and governance) which is a

⁶⁵ Chuck Ross, “Soros-Funded Groups Call on Biden to Ignore China’s Abuses in Order to Fight Climate Change,” *The Washington Free Beacon*, July 8, 2021, <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/soros-funded-groups-call-on-biden-to-ignore-chinas-abuses-in-order-to-fight-climate-change/>.

⁶⁶ “The State of Clean Technology Manufacturing.”

⁶⁷ Lindsay Schlageter, “Great Sand Dunes National Park Is Growing,” *The Nature Conservancy*, October 5, 2022, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/colorado-great-sand-dunes-final-land-transfer/>.

⁶⁸ “Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve,” *The Nature Conservancy*, accessed July 24, 2026, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/tallgrass-prairie-national-preserve/>.

⁶⁹ “Santa Cruz Island,” *National Park Service*, accessed July 24, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/santa-cruz-island.htm>.

⁷⁰ Jennifer Morris, “Experience,” *LinkedIn*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenmorrisnature/>.

⁷¹ “Climate,” *Conservation International*, accessed July 23, 2026, <https://www.conservation.org/climate>.

⁷² Beatrice Kilat, “TECHNOLOGY BOOSTS WILDLIFE RESEARCH IN MARIN,” *One Tam*, January 10, 2024, <https://www.onetam.org/technology-boosts-wildlife-research-in-marin>.

⁷³ “Becky Marshall,” *The Nature Conservancy*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/our-people/becky-marshall/>.

philosophy that teaches the social engineering of progressive ends through the private sector.⁷⁴ Board member Michelle DePass, who lists her area of expertise in “environmental justice,” according to her biography “is committed to overcoming structural and historical barriers to social and political equality and economic justice for women, people of color, Indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ people and people with disabilities.”⁷⁵ She also was an official in the Obama administration and, while in academia, pushed the programs “toward environmental stewardship and a greater focus on social justice.”⁷⁶ It seems understandable that she would also push TNC and federal agencies like NPS towards those same progressive goals.

Another Obama White House alumna on the TNC board is former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. Prior to that, she worked in the NPCA, which is notorious for suing the DOI and its agencies to get settlements.⁷⁷ Jewell claimed to have protected millions of acres for renewable energy. But renewable energy developers pointed out that her “plan hamstring[s] state and federal clean-energy goals. The plan removed about 3 million acres of public land that was previously available for alternative energy development”⁷⁸ in a statement. Her activities are anti-energy, even if it is renewable energy.

TNC’s Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Meg Goldthwaite, used to work for the very liberal NPR. She also used to work for the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund⁷⁹ during an ethics scandal in 2010.⁸⁰ Even worse, Edwin Macharia, a current board member of TNC and former director of the Clinton Foundation,⁸¹ presided over the Clinton Foundation when Jeffrey Epstein made a donation “the year after he was arrested following a complaint he sexually abused a 14-year-old teenager in Florida.”⁸²

The Chief Scientist of TNC, Katharine Hayhoe, uses her academic credentials for public advocacy quite often. In 2015 she co-signed a letter with the left-wing Union of Concerned

⁷⁴ “Matthew Arnold,” *The Nature Conservancy*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/our-people/matthew-arnold/>.

⁷⁵ “Michelle J. DePass,” *The Nature Conservancy*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/our-people/michelle-depass/>.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ CJ Ciaramella, “Jewell in the Rough,” *The Washington Free Beacon*, February 8, 2013, <https://freebeacon.com/politics/jewell-in-the-rough/>.

⁷⁸ David Danelski, “Here’s how Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made desert environmentalists happy and upset energy developers,” *The Press-Enterprise*, September 14, 2016, <https://www.pressenterprise.com/2016/09/14/heres-how-interior-secretary-sally-jewell-made-desert-environmentalists-happy-and-upset-energy-developers/>.

⁷⁹ Meg Goldthwaite, “Biography,” *The Nature Conservancy*, accessed September 2, 2026, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/our-people/meg-goldthwaite/>.

⁸⁰ Dan Merica, “Clinton Foundation: 2010 donation broke Obama administration agreement,” *CNN*, February 26, 2015, <https://www.cnn.com/2015/02/26/politics/clinton-foundation-donation-algeria-haiti/>.

⁸¹ Edwin Macharia, “Experience,” LinkedIn, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/edwin-macharia-0aa5a63/details/experience/>.

⁸² Paul Lewis and James Ball, “Clinton foundation received up to \$81m from clients of controversial HSBC bank,” *The Guardian*, February 10, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/feb/10/hillary-clinton-foundation-donors-hsbc-swiss-bank>.

Scientists calling on all then-presidential candidates to embrace the Paris Climate agreement.⁸³ In 2016, she directly appealed to President-elect Trump in a letter begging for recognition, arguing, “I’m a climate scientist.”⁸⁴ Yet, she ditched that tone a few years later when she co-wrote an open letter in *Scientific American* arguing for a student walk-out by going back to fearmongering:

Without aggressive action to reduce humanity’s carbon emissions, these students can expect to bear witness to a world we can’t fully imagine yet: one where irreversible changes to our water and food systems, our infrastructure and our economy, shape a planet and a society very different from what we see today, a world characterized by greater insecurity, uncertainty, and inequity that directly threatens their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property.⁸⁵

Another concerning board member of TNC is Fred Hu. Dr. Hu has led investment transactions with known CCP-collaborating companies such as Alibaba Group, ByteDance, and Mead Johnson Greater China.⁸⁶ As for funding, tens of millions were donated to TNC by the Wyss Foundation, a project by Hansjorg Wyss, a Swiss billionaire and liberal environmental activist.⁸⁷ It should be noted he also has donated to New Venture Fund and other radical progressive groups.

So, while TNC maintains a professional relationship with the NPS, it is staffed, guided, and funded by long-time liberal institutionalists and foreign businessmen. If these are the people behind TNC and its funding, its influence on the NPS and other agencies should be understood to carry other agendas that are not America First.

Foundations

After many established billionaires made the bulk of their fortune, many of the efforts in their later years have been dedicated to philanthropy. Often, they take the form of a foundation, which is a type of NGO that originated with a substantial endowment and might focus on distributing money to separate NGOs to operate legal, educational, and other purposes.

⁸³ “Top U.S. Experts to Presidential Candidates: Make Clean Energy Pledge,” *Union of Concerned Scientists*, December 6, 2015, <https://www.ucs.org/about/news/top-us-experts-presidential-candidates-make-clean-energy-pledge-title>.

⁸⁴ Katharine Hayhoe, “Dear president-elect: Climate change is not a hoax, and we’re all in this together,” *CBC Radio*, November 12, 2016, <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/sunday/president-elect-trump-the-truth-class-letters-media-and-foreign-policy-1.3847616/dear-president-elect-climate-change-is-not-a-hoax-and-we-re-all-in-this-together-1.3848332?x-eu-country=true>.

⁸⁵ Michael D. Lemonick, “An Open Letter Endorsing the Global School Strike for Climate,” *Scientific American*, March 14, 2019, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/observations/an-open-letter-endorsing-the-global-school-strike-for-climate/>.

⁸⁶ “Fred Hu,” *The Nature Conservancy*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/our-people/fred-hu/>.

⁸⁷ “Wyss Foundation,” *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/wyss-foundation/>.

Many of them are deeply interconnected. Their names do not always communicate their true nature either. Some of their founders may have even started their foundations as conservatives, but over time their family or boards pushed their charitable foundations further and further to the left. Regardless, because of their deep pockets, they are highly influential.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (the MacArthur Foundation)

With assets of over \$8 billion, this is one of the 20 largest foundations in the world. Since it was founded in the 1970s, it has been involved in many initiatives. Along with the Pew Charitable Trusts and Rockefeller Foundation, they formed the Energy Foundation,⁸⁸ where the Energy Foundation China comes from.

The MacArthur Foundation is one of the main groups that helped orchestrate a meeting of other anti-Trump organizations on how to oppose President Trump in his second term when he started considering policy goals of holding NGOs accountable.⁸⁹ It has given millions to progressive groups such as the Sierra Club Foundation, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, the Energy Foundation, Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund, and organizations tied to Sunflower Services (such as Windward Fund and New Venture Fund).⁹⁰

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Although the Pew family was originally a conservative family of oil producers, the Pew Trust has transitioned over the last few decades to be much more progressive and obstructionist against energy development.

They have a very close relationship with the NPS. According to its Senior Director, Jennifer Browning, “The Pew Charitable Trusts played an integral role in the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020, which provided billions of dollars to address long-standing infrastructure maintenance backlogs across public lands.”⁹¹ Pew supports continuing and expanding that funding after it expires.⁹²

⁸⁸ “Working to Build a Clean Energy Economy,” *MacArthur Foundation*, April 24, 2018, <https://www.macfound.org/press/40-years-40-stories/working-build-clean-energy-economy>.

⁸⁹ Juliet Chung and Emily Glazer, “America’s Richest Foundations Team Up Against Feared Trump Assault,” *Wall Street Journal*, May 9, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/nonprofit-foundations-prepare-trump-fight-884f6016>.

⁹⁰ “John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation,” *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/john-d-and-catherine-t-macarthur-foundation/#grant-activity>.

⁹¹ Jennifer Browning, “National Parks Tell the American Story,” *Pew*, June 24, 2026, <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2026/06/24/national-parks-tell-the-american-story>.

⁹² Marcia Argust, “As the U.S. Celebrates its 250th Year, the National Parks Face Unfinished Business,” *Pew*, July 23, 2026, <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2026/07/23/as-the-us-celebrates-its-250th-year-the-national-parks-face-unfinished-business>.

In addition to directly being involved with policy that guides the NPS, Pew has given millions of dollars in grant money to NGOs which guide the NPS, such as Conservation International.⁹³

The Bezos Earth Fund

In 2020, under pressure from activists, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos pledged to donate \$10 billion to environmental causes within ten years, though he has given less than \$3 billion as of now with four years to go.⁹⁴ Meaning, if he is to keep his promise, the environmental movement may increase in intensity and influence over the next few years. Bezos is very committed to a massive restructuring of the global economy. According to his fund's website, "Broader transitions must also occur in how we measure progress, deliver basic services, and equitably distribute the costs and benefits of change."⁹⁵

According to reporting, the Bezos Earth Fund has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to well-known activist groups such as RMI, NRDC, the Energy Foundation, the ClimateWorks Foundation and the Nature Conservancy – to name a few.⁹⁶ The ClimateWorks Foundation was created by the Packard Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, and others, to facilitate climate philanthropy towards various groups, including more radical environmentalists, which has been long documented.⁹⁷ We also know the Bezos Earth Fund opposes Secretary Kennedy's vision for Health and Human Services by opposing his "Make America Healthy Again" reforms limiting or banning man-made chemicals in food as well as other points.⁹⁸

By funding these groups that have fostered a strong relationship with the NPS and other generous philanthropists, the Bezos Earth Fund is guiding how the new dollars get spent. If Bezos's mindset is that anyone skeptical about climate alarmism is "not being reasonable"⁹⁹ and

⁹³ "Pew Charitable Trusts," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/pew-charitable-trusts/#grant-activity>.

⁹⁴ Sydney Lake, "Jeff Bezos pledged \$10 billion for climate change. With the 2030 clock ticking, his wife, Lauren Sánchez Bezos, is leading the charge to spend it," *Fortune*, June 19, 2026, <https://fortune.com/article/how-much-has-jeff-bezos-donated-lauren-sanchez-bezos-earth-fund/>.

⁹⁵ "Our View of the World," *Bezos Earth Fund*, accessed July 24, 2026, <https://www.bezosearthfund.org/our-view-of-the-world>.

⁹⁶ Lisa Stiffler, "Bezos Earth Fund announces first grants totaling \$791M of his \$10B pledge to help planet," *GeekWire*, November 16, 2020, <https://www.geekwire.com/2020/bezos-earth-fund-announces-first-grants-totaling-791m-10b-pledge-help-planet/>.

⁹⁷ Steven Malanga, "The Green Behind California's Greens," *City Journal* (2015), <https://www.city-journal.org/article/the-green-behind-californias-greens>.

⁹⁸ Tiffany Gabbay, "Kennedy vs. Big Food: Who Is funding the fight against MAHA?" *Capital Research Center*, September 5, 2025, <https://capitalresearch.org/article/kennedy-vs-big-food-who-is-funding-the-fight-against-maha/>.

⁹⁹ Chloe Taylor, "Jeff Bezos: Anyone who denies reality of climate change is 'not being reasonable,'" *CNBC*, January 15, 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/15/jeff-bezos-anyone-who-denies-climate-change-is-not-being-reasonable.html>.

that “Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet,” then his Fund is hardly being neutral.¹⁰⁰ We can be sure that his massive influence will shift the discussion to the left.

The Ford Foundation

In the nine decades of operation, this organization has become increasingly more progressive on virtually every issue. For much of its existence it was one of the largest foundations in the United States. Though it may not be the biggest now, the Ford Foundation certainly spreads its wealth around to many of the most radical leftists groups such as the Sunrise Movement, which staged protests and blockades across the U.S., and the Sierra Club Foundation, which funds obstructionist litigation against development.¹⁰¹

According to its approach to climate change, it says: “Climate change and social injustice are deeply intertwined. Historically, the Global North has extracted wealth from the Global South through the exploitation of natural resources—such as oil, gas, minerals and forests—and dispossessed and marginalized land-connected communities in the process...they bear the brunt of environmental degradation and displacement without reaping any significant economic benefits from resource extraction.”¹⁰² Although it provides no evidence of this claim, it justifies the practices. By giving funding to create more environmental activists, it synthetically creates a demand for an environmental agenda, which in turn supports Sierra Club and its efforts to sue various agencies or private businesses operating within the law to steward our natural resources.

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Although from the same family, this is not to be confused with the Rockefeller Foundation. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has a budget of over a billion dollars. It was responsible for a two-day meeting of lawmakers from several states with NGO senior officials from the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Energy Foundation. Shortly after that meeting, New York lawmakers started to pass regulations against gas stoves.¹⁰³

It also influences through grant-making. One of the many organizations to receive a grant from it is the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF).¹⁰⁴ It is such a radical organization that it is critical

¹⁰⁰ Rebecca Harrington, “Jeff Bezos pledges \$10 billion to fight climate change,” *World Economic Forum*, February 18, 2020, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/nature-and-biodiversity/jeff-bezos-earth-fund-climate-change/>.

¹⁰¹ “Ford Foundation,” *Influence Watch*, accessed July 24, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/ford-foundation/#activities-since-2020>.

¹⁰² “International Strategy,” *Ford Foundation*, accessed July 24, 2026, <https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/challenging-inequality/natural-resources-and-climate-justice/international-strategy/>.

¹⁰³ Susan Ferrechio, “They’s cooking with...anything but gas: Green groups align to push all-electric stoves,” *The Washington Times*, January 29, 2023, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jan/29/theys-cooking-anything-gas-green-groups-align-push/>.

¹⁰⁴ “Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc,” *ProPublica*, December 31, 2023, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202413189349103611/full>.

of California for not being green enough.¹⁰⁵ Some of the groups that received hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of dollars in grant money from RLF include Environmental Integrity Project, the Center for International Environmental Law, Earthjustice, Earthworks, the Clean Air Council, the Nature Conservancy, the Earth Island Institute, and NRDC—and that is only for a few select years.¹⁰⁶

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has also donated millions of dollars to the “Green New Deal Network,” which was an initiative by the Tides Foundation.¹⁰⁷ Its goal was to “oversee grantmaking administration and due diligence as they push for policy solutions to address the climate crisis” and “[s]ecure the passage of policies that achieve a just transition to a post-fossil fuel economy[.]”¹⁰⁸ It should be noted that after President Trump’s election, the Green New Deal Network folded at the end of 2025.¹⁰⁹

This Fund claimed it had already secured massive amounts of funding through Biden’s large spending packages, like Build Back Better, and wanted to focus on efforts other than climate change.¹¹⁰ So, the Rockefellers (and other organizations) donated to Tides, which in turn started a temporary astroturf initiative and lobbied for legislation during the presidential term that added the most to the national debt in total dollar terms.¹¹¹ An enormous amount of those funds would then end up with countless other NGOs with a similar political outlook to the Green New Deal Network to be spent on progressive agenda items, including obstruction of America’s development.¹¹²

David and Lucile Packard Foundation (Packard Foundation)

Although the Packard family was Republican and mostly supported conservative causes, it now donates overwhelmingly to radical left-wing causes.¹¹³ Their foundation has given tens of millions to the ClimateWorks Foundation in only the last few years after it contributed to its

¹⁰⁵ Kate Gordon, Nuin-Tara Key, Alvaro Sanchez, Craig Segall, and Matt Armsby, “California must shift from regulation-based climate policy to an integrated economic strategy,” *Resources Legacy Fund*, September 22, 2025, <https://resourceslegacyfund.org/news/california-must-pivot-from-regulation-based-climate-policy-to-an-integrated-economic-strategy/>.

¹⁰⁶ “Grants,” *Grants Office Communities*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://communities.grantsoffice.com/s/grant/a0BQk0000052xryMAA/resources-legacy-fund>.

¹⁰⁷ “Tides Foundation,” *Rockefeller Brothers Fund*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.rbf.org/grantees/tides-foundation>.

¹⁰⁸ “How Green New Deal Network Drives Policy Solutions for Climate Justice,” *Tides*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.tides.org/case-study/how-green-new-deal-network-drives-policy-solutions-for-climate-justice/>.

¹⁰⁹ “A Farewell from the Green New Deal Network,” *Green New Deal Network*, February 4, 2026, <https://greennewdealnetwork.org/a-farewell-from-the-green-new-deal-network/>.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ Hiranmayi Srinivasan, “U.S. Debt by President: Dollar and Percentage,” *Investopedia*, June 2, 2026, <https://www.investopedia.com/us-debt-by-president-dollar-and-percentage-7371225#toc-what-is-the-national-debt-today>.

¹¹² Madeleine Rowley, “A \$20 Billion Slush Fund—Paid by You to Progressive Nonprofits,” *The Free Press*, March 4, 2025, <https://www.thefp.com/p/a-20-billion-slush-fund-nonprofits>.

¹¹³ Robert Stilson, “Socialism and the soul of the Packard Foundation,” *Capital Research Center*, November 26, 2025, <https://capitalresearch.org/article/socialism-and-the-soul-of-the-packard-foundation/>.

creation in the 2000s.¹¹⁴ ClimateWorks has given hundreds of millions of dollars to the Energy Foundation (before it separated into Energy Foundation China), as well as millions of dollars to the Nature Conservancy, NRDC, the Environmental Defense Fund—all of which shape American environmental policy and the NPS either through lawfare or internal influence in their management.¹¹⁵

It also was a major backer of Climate Breakthrough, which is designed to give smaller grants to various smaller projects across the globe. One of its grant recipients is Oil Change International,¹¹⁶ which advocates for the U.S. grid running on 100% renewable energy in less than 10 years, but without nuclear energy.¹¹⁷ Oil Change International also is a co-signer on Food and Water Watch's data center moratorium.¹¹⁸

Even if a federal agency like the NPS receives support or influence from NGOs that appear to be nonideological and nonradical, many of those organizations are also funded by the same sources as the radical ones. The Packard Foundation is no exception. Its agenda will be aligned with the most radical group it currently funds. The less radical groups trade explicit radicalism for more direct influence on agencies like the NPS and are all working in concert with the same funders who all partner together and have the same end goal.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (Hewlett Foundation)

Like the Packard Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation also has contributed tens of millions of dollars to the ClimateWorks Foundation, the U.S. Energy Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Institute, and several affiliates of Sunflower Services (like Windward Fund and New Venture Fund).¹¹⁹ Like the other foundations, Hewlett Foundation donated heavily to Climate Lead, which guides the dollars of philanthropists towards Green causes seeking to eliminate coal¹²⁰ and stop any removal of trees.¹²¹ But unlike other organizations, Climate Lead does not offer grants. It simply advises donors how (or who) to donate toward. In essence, a multi-billion-dollar foundation is funding another operation that claims to manage over \$6 billion in funding

¹¹⁴ "ClimateWorks Foundation," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/climateworks-foundation/>.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ "Climate Breakthrough," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/climate-breakthrough/>.

¹¹⁷ "Congress Should Enact a Federal Renewable Electricity Standard and Reject Gas and False Solutions," *Center for Biological Diversity*, May 12, 2021, https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/2021-5-12_600-Group-Letter-for-RES.pdf.

¹¹⁸ "National Data Center Moratorium Now!"

¹¹⁹ "William and Flora Hewlett Foundation," *Influence Watch*, accessed July 25, 2026, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/climate-breakthrough>.

¹²⁰ "From Coal to Clean Energy," *Climate Lead*, accessed July 25, 2026, <https://climatelead.org/story/from-coal-to-clean-energy/>.

¹²¹ "Halting Deforestation," *Climate Lead*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://climatelead.org/story/halting-deforestation/>.

from other billionaires¹²² towards other radical causes. Since it operates in an advisory capacity, there is no need for it to disclose what sort of organizations it encourages philanthropists to donate toward since they are not the ones giving out the money.

Sunflower Services

Although some people may have heard of Arabella Advisors, a firm that funnels donations to various leftist causes, it was recently bought by Sunflower Services and dissolved.¹²³ Because Sunflower Services is owned by several firms that used to be under Arabella Advisors (New Venture Fund, Windward Fund, and Hopewell Fund), it is likely this is only an administrative change and it still has the same ideological agenda.

By design, the distribution of funds go into a tangled network of NGOs which all have a relationship with each other. This should be especially alarming as some groups may directly work with the NPS, or other federal agencies, and other groups influence them from outside with more partisan vigor. For example, one of the many climate-related grant recipients from the New Venture Fund is the Partnership Project.¹²⁴ One of the Partnership Project's programs is data analysis on voters regarding climate issues. In addition to tracking MAHA or MAGA voters and partnering with aggressive alarmist groups – such as NRDC, League of Conservation Voters, Environmental Defense Fund, Earthjustice and others¹²⁵ – it also has several board members who work in highly influential places that maintain a different relationship with the NPS.

Board member Kristen Brengel, who also works as the Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at the NPCA, was heavily involved in legislation directly dealing with the NPS, including the Great American Outdoors Act, the National Park Service Centennial Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act as well as helping establish several National Monuments.¹²⁶ Another board member, Natalie Mebane, also serves on the Student Conservation Association,¹²⁷ which is a trusted partner of the NPS.¹²⁸ Yet another board member, Caroline Itoh, is the Senior VP of the National Wildlife Federation, an organization that prevents development on public lands and

¹²² “Five Lessons to Accelerate Giving in Climate and Beyond,” *Climate Lead*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://climatelead.org/lessons-in-philanthropy/>.

¹²³ “New Entity Sunflower Services Purchasing Fiscal Sponsorship Services Business from Arabella Advisors.” *Arabella Advisors*, November 17, 2025, <https://www.arabellaadvisors.com/>.

¹²⁴ Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990), *New Venture Fund*, 2023, Part II (Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments), 150, <https://newventurefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2023-New-Venture-Fund-Form-990-Public-Disclosure-Copy.pdf>.

¹²⁵ Peter Fontana, “Issue Targeting Scores,” *The Partnership Project*, June 23, 2026, <https://partnershipproject.org/environmental-issue-targeting-scores/>.

¹²⁶ “Kristen Brengel,” *The Partnership Project*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://partnershipproject.org/team/kristen-brengel/>.

¹²⁷ “Natalie Mebane,” *Partnership Project*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://partnershipproject.org/team/natalie-mebane/>.

¹²⁸ “Government Agencies,” *Student Conservation Association*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://thesca.org/become-a-partner/government-agency-partners>.

prevents federal control being given to the states.¹²⁹ While receiving funding from Arabella Advisors, the current chief legal counsel for Partnership Project was the managing director of Arabella Advisors.¹³⁰

This one example paints a picture of the many ways Arabella, and now Sunflower Services, coordinates with NGOs to court influence and funding around the NPS. By funding this one non-profit organization, grant money can find its way into influencing how NPS directly manages public land and how legislation in Congress funds the NPS.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Despite all of these organizations, billionaires, and strong access to influence, the climate alarmist movement is not gaining steam in the hearts and minds of Americans. In a poll from 2021, Americans made clear that suing companies over climate change is very unpopular:

[W]hen voters are asked independently how important it is to sue manufacturers over accusations of climate change, just 13% say it is “very important” and a majority say it’s “not important” (54%).¹³¹

Americans do not prioritize social justice and are not giving heed to climate alarmism. Despite all of this influence in the U.S., “less than half of Americans support paying any amount of money to combat climate change.”¹³² Despite that, real decisions are being made by courts and agencies on a local, state, and federal level that are often paid for by Americans, but are influenced by unelected NGOs that are bankrolled by foreign entities.

The organizations listed in this paper are not comprehensive. There are countless NGOs that operate on a local, state, and national level that push various environmental policies and receive funding from plenty of different sources. Some of them were established recently, some come from old money, and some have been operating for decades. Tracking where each dollar came from can be tedious, but the fact that so many of them come from major legacy funds managed by liberal or progressive activists should be a huge point of concern for those affected by America’s environmental policy.

For our own national security, economic development, and sovereignty, Americans need to regain control of their environmental policy and assert themselves over foreign actors and agenda-driven activists. To do this, Congress needs to limit NGO influence if they receive funds from foreign entities or choose to accept grants from NGOs that do. Agencies should distance

¹²⁹ “Conserving Public Lands,” *National Wildlife Federation*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Our-Lands/Public-Lands>.

¹³⁰ “Isaiah Castilla,” *Partnership Project*, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://partnershipproject.org/team/isaiah-castilla/>.

¹³¹ Brenda Gianiny, “Recent Nationwide Public Opinion Poll on Climate Change Litigation,” *Axis*, January 13, 2021, <https://mfgaccountabilityproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NAM-MAP-Nationwide-Poll-Summary-MAP.pdf>.

¹³² “2025 Poll: Americans’ Views on Climate and Energy Policy,” *Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago*, October 23, 2025, <https://epic.uchicago.edu/insights/2025-poll-americans-views-on-climate-and-energy-policy/>.

themselves from these NGOs as well. The Department of Justice should also be tracking these donations to see how foreign donations can be laundered through this web of NGOs.

Moreover, Congress should reduce the power of these NGOs in the courts by enacting legislation to correctly limit NEPA, ESA, and CAA. Each of these laws should precisely define the regulations that will govern projects and limit the discretion of courts tasked with interpreting them. At the very least, they should be restored to their original limitations by doing away with the judicial interpretations that have grown these laws.

The American people—and their government—need to push NGOs to the side and remind them that we put America first—not foreign billionaires. The credentialed beltway NGO professionals may have impressive resumes, but if their advocacy is not putting America first, then they need to have their influence removed from the government.