

RNC Research BRIEFING

Just The Two Of Us

As Grimes Tries To Distance Herself From New Obama Regulations, She Cozies Up With Coal's Biggest Opponent In The Senate

Tomorrow Morning, Grimes Will Attend A Washington, D.C. Fundraiser With Special Guest - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. "Grimes — the Democratic nominee to take on Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell — is slated to attend a fundraiser in Washington, D.C., on Thursday with Reid at a Capitol Hill hotel, according to an invitation that first appeared on the website ActBlue last month." (Burgess Everett, "Grimes To Hold D.C. Fundraiser With Reid," [Politico](#), 6/2/14)

- **Grimes Was Recruited By Reid To Run For Senate.** "Still, if Democrats recruit a top-tier candidate, McConnell could be the party's No. 1 target in 2014 — with big liberal donors prepared to dump huge bucks to take out the GOP leader. Alison Lundergan Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of state, remains perhaps the last major Democratic threat to McConnell, but she's been mum so far on her intentions, despite quietly coming to Washington last month and even privately meeting with Reid, sources say." (Jonathan Martin and Manu Raju, "Mitch McConnell, Harry Reid: 2 Sides Of Same Coin," [Politico](#), 6/10/13)

Tomorrow's Fundraiser Will Mark The Second Time That Reid Has Helped Grimes Raise Money For Her Campaign. "Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will help raise funds for the 2014 opponent of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, according to a report. Reid will hold a luncheon for Alison Lundergan Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of state and McConnell's opponent in the 2014 elections, Kentucky News Channel 2 reported. The luncheon will take place in Las Vegas on Friday, Oct. 11 and tickets range from \$1,000 to \$5,000." (James Arkin, "Report: Harry Reid To Fundraise Vs. Mitch McConnell," [Politico](#), 9/13/13)

REID FULLY SUPPORTS OBAMA'S WAR ON COAL

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Has "Embraced" Obama's New Proposal On Power Plants. "Meanwhile, most Senate Democrats embraced the EPA's proposal, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who has long been critical of emissions from coal-fired power plants." (Humberto Sanchez, "Senate Democrats Give EPA Rule Mixed Reviews," [Roll Call](#), 6/2/14)

- **Reid Called The New Job-Killing Regulations "Crucial."** "'The EPA's proposed plan is a crucial step towards improving the efficiency of our nation's power grid, investing in clean energy and reducing pollution,' Reid said. 'The proposal grants states flexibility while making important progress on avoiding the terrible costs of carbon pollution on our nation's economy, the health of

our citizens, and the sustainability of our planet.” (Humberto Sanchez, “Senate Democrats Give EPA Rule Mixed Reviews,” [Roll Call](#), 6/2/14)

Reid Once Stated That “Coal Makes Us Sick. ... It’s Ruining Our Country.” REID: “We talk about cost competitiveness, but the one thing we fail to talk about is those costs that you don’t see on the bottom line. That is coal makes us sick. Oil makes us sick. It’s global warming. It’s ruining our country. It’s ruining our world.” (Harry Reid, [Fox Business Network Interview](#), 6/30/08)

Harry Reid’s Super PAC – Senate Majority PAC – Is Bankrolled By A Billionaire Environmentalist That Is Committed To Killing Coal

“Majority PAC, A Super PAC Closely Linked To Reid That Benefits Senate Democratic Candidates...” “Majority PAC, a super PAC closely linked to Reid that benefits Senate Democratic candidates, reported reimbursing Melgen’s ophthalmology company \$4,160 for ‘travel’ last summer.” (Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti, “Robert Menendez Donor Courted President Obama, Harry Reid,” [Politico](#), 3/19/13)

- **Former Aides Of Reid Launched The Senate Majority PAC.** “Senate Majority PAC — launched in 2010 by former aides to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and previously known as Commonsense Ten and Majority PAC — has poured nearly \$1.7 million into Senate races so far this year.” (Adam Wollner, “Big Democratic Super PAC Helps Bankroll Another,” [The Center For Public Integrity](#), 7/25/13)

In May 2014, Tom Steyer, Of NextGen, Contributed \$5 Million To Senate Majority PAC. “Tom Steyer, the billionaire climate activist, recently contributed \$5 million to a ‘super PAC’ dedicated to keeping Democrats in control of the United States Senate, cementing his alliance with the party as the 2014 campaign swings into high gear.” (Nicholas Confessore, “Billionaire Democrat Sets Eyes On Senate Races,” [The New York Times](#), 5/17/14)

- **Steyer’s Goal Is To Kill Coal As Soon As Possible.** “Steyer has contributed \$21.9 million to the measure, which for the first five years would funnel about half of the \$1 billion raised annually to projects that create energy efficiency and clean energy jobs. The importance of moving beyond fossil fuels is ‘absolutely not recognized broadly,’ he said. ‘You cannot watch the presidential debates and believe that there is an urgency about the need to move to advanced energy.’ His plan: ‘We immediately get off coal. We move to something that we actually can live with, and proves we can do it in a way that provides a ton of jobs, you know, improves our health, and sets us on a profitable path for the long-term, where we are not causing massive destruction.’” (Peter Henderson, “Billionaire Steyer Sees Clean Energy In His Future,” [Reuters](#), 10/24/12)

In April, Grimes Attended The “Behind Closed Doors” Annual Meeting Of The Democracy Alliance, That Counts Steyer As A Member Of The “Secretive Club Of Wealthy Liberals.” “Some of the country’s biggest Democratic donors — including Tom Steyer and Jonathan Soros — are huddling behind closed doors next week in Chicago with union bigwigs and progressive superstars like Bill de Blasio to plan how to pull their party — and the country — to the left. The setting is the annual spring meeting of the Democracy Alliance, a secretive club of wealthy liberals that’s the closest thing the left has to the vaunted Koch brothers’ political network. ... The Spring Investment Conference will feature a number of Clinton allies and others associated with the centrist wing — including Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Kentucky Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes and Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

To Top It Off, Reid Blocked Consideration Of Legislation That Would Save Kentucky’s Coal

Today, Reid Blocked Senate Consideration Of The Coal Country Protection Act – Which Would Halt Obama’s War On Coal. “Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) blocked Senate Minority Leader

Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) from passing his Coal Country Protection Act. McConnell asked unanimous consent to pass his bill, S. 2414, which would require the administration to meet benchmarks before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements a carbon reduction plan for power plants, but Reid objected.” (Ramsey Cox, “Reid Blocks McConnell’s Bill On EPA Rule,” [The Hill](#), 6/4/14)

- **With Reid And Democrats In Control Of The Senate, It’s Unlikely That There Will Be A Vote On The Bill.** “McConnell’s bill would stop the administration from implementing the new rule until it can prove no jobs will be lost and that energy prices won’t increase. While Democrats control the Senate, it’s unlikely that his bill will receive a vote.” (Ramsey Cox, “Reid Blocks McConnell’s Bill On EPA Rule,” [The Hill](#), 6/4/14)

AND GRIMES’ OWN CAMPAIGN PROMISED A “GREEN AGENDA” IN WASHINGTON AND RECEIVED A BOOST FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Grimes’ Campaign Has Said She’ll Fight For A Green Agenda After The Election. “A majority of Democrats are planning to takeover the Senate floor to bring attention to climate change in a so-called ‘talk-a-thon’ Monday. It’s unclear if Kentucky candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes either supports or would participate in the event. But a prominent environmentalist says the campaign is promising Grimes will be more aggressive in fighting for a green agenda after the election.” (“Alison Lundergan Grimes Unclear on Supporting Senate Democrats Climate Change ‘Talk-a-Thon,’” [WFPL](#), 03/10/14)

During A Fundraiser, Michelle Obama Called Grimes “Critical” For Obama In The Senate

Michelle Obama Said Electing Grimes To The U.S. Senate Would Make It Easier For Obama To Enact His Agenda. “The first lady, talking about how narrowly ‘ObamaCare’ had passed and the slim margin by which gun control legislation was defeated, said that ‘it is critical that we elect Michelle Nunn, Alison Grimes, Natalie Tennant.’” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Gives McConnell Ammunition With Michelle Obama Fundraiser,” [The Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 11/18/13)

- **Obama: “It Is Critical That We Get Them To The Senate.”** “‘It is critical that we get them to the Senate,’ she said.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Gives McConnell Ammunition With Michelle Obama Fundraiser,” [The Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 11/18/13)

KENTUCKY IS LEFT TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES DEALT BY OBAMA AND REID

“For Every Direct Mining Job Lost, At Least Three Other Kentuckians Lose Their Paychecks Indirectly, ...” “For every direct mining job lost, at least three other Kentuckians lose their paychecks indirectly, the state’s coal association says.” (John McCormick, “Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)

Kentucky Has Lost 7,772 Coal Mining Jobs Under Obama. (Kentucky Quarterly Coal Report, [KY Energy And Environment Cabinet](#), Accessed 6/4/14)

- **2009 First Quarter – 19,422 Coal Mining Jobs, 2014 First Quarter – 11, 650 Coal Mining Jobs.** (Kentucky Quarterly Coal Report, [KY Energy And Environment Cabinet](#), Accessed 6/4/14)

Since Obama Took Office, Coal Mined In Kentucky Has Been Slashed By Nearly A Third. (Kentucky Quarterly Coal Report, [KY Energy And Environment Cabinet](#), Accessed 6/4/14)

- **Under Obama, “Coal Production In Kentucky Falls To 91.4 Million Tons, The Lowest Level Since 1965.”** (“Kentucky Coal Facts, 13th Edition,” [Kentucky Energy And Environment Cabinet](#), Accessed 6/3/14)

According To A University Of Kentucky Professor, Companies Will Be Forced To Ship Coal Out Of The Country, Producing “Fewer Jobs For Kentuckians.” “A UK Professor says American power plants using less coal, means companies will ship coal out of the country. Frank Scott says that means fewer jobs for Kentuckians. ‘It is costlier to mine coal and ship it across the world to China, or across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe, and so coal mined in Kentucky is at a competitive disadvantage the further it has to travel,’ said Frank Scott, UK Economics Professor.” (Aaron Adelson, “Several KY Politicians Criticize EPA CO2 Emissions Plan,” [WTVO](#), 6/2/14)

And Grimes And Obama Are Already Paying The Price In Kentucky For The New Coal Regulations

Coal Miner That Lost His Job: “It Makes Someone Like Me Very, Very, Leery Of Grimes ... Obama And Democrats Have Done So Much To Hurt The Coal Industry, It Makes Me Question How Trustworthy She Can Be.” “‘It makes someone like me very, very leery of Grimes,’ said Tim Birman of Harlan, a 38-year-old single father who lost his coal mining job years ago and now drives to construction jobs in a nearby county. ‘Obama and the Democrats have done so much to hurt the coal industry, it makes me question how trustworthy she can be.’” (John Whitesides, “In Kentucky Coal Country, Democrat Grimes Fights The Party Label,” [Reuters](#), 5/28/14)

Obama’s EPA Regulations Make It “Almost Impossible” For Grimes To Win This November. “These regulations are likely to make almost impossible for Alison Lundergan Grimes to beat Mitch McConnell in Kentucky, and they deal a serious blow to the prospects of red-state Democrats Mary Landrieu, Kay Hagan, Mark Begich and Mark Pryor.” (John Feehery, “The Moment Obama Lost The Senate?” [The Wall Street Journal’s Washington Wire](#), 6/3/14)

- **UK Political Scientist Stephen Voss: “No Matter What She Believes And How She Is Going To Vote, She Is Still Going To Put That Party That Backs Those Anti-Coal Policies In Charge Of The Senate.”** “‘No matter what she believes and how she is going to vote, she is still going to put that party that backs those anti-coal policies in charge of the Senate,’ Voss said.” (John Whitesides, “In Kentucky Coal Country, Democrat Grimes Fights The Party Label,” [Reuters](#), 5/28/14)
- **Retired Coal Miner: Grimes Is “Toast” In East Kentucky.** “Dwayne Collett, 60, a retired coal miner in Leslie County, predicted that Grimes will falter outside Lexington, Louisville and the northern part of the state that borders Ohio. ‘She can make a good talk, but when she gets out of the triangle, she’s toast,’ he said.” (John McCormick, “Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)

Retired Coal Miner: Obama Is “The Worst Thing That Happened To Our Government Since I’ve Been Alive.” “‘He’s the worst thing that’s happened to our government since I’ve been alive,’ Mikel Morgan, a 52-year-old retired miner, said outside the hair salon his daughter runs in the once-thriving town of Hyden.” (John McCormick, “Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)

Leslie County, KY Judge-Executive Jimmy Sizemore Blames Obama And The EPA For The Disastrous Effects Of The War On Coal. “‘We lay it on Obama and the EPA,’ said Leslie County Judge-Executive Jimmy Sizemore, the county’s top elected official and a distant relative of the Grimes supporter, when asked who is to blame for the local economy. ‘People are hurt, and there is nothing they can do about it.’” (John McCormick, “Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)

C. Allen Muncy Blames The 50 Percent Loss Of Business At Lumber-Supply Shop On Obama. “C. Allen Muncy, who owns a lumber-supply business in the county and keeps a coal mining helmet under glass near his front desk, said his business has dropped about 50 percent since Obama was elected in

2008. He blames the president for his losses and said he's confident McConnell will be re-elected." (John McCormick, "Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race," [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)

- **Muncy: "If Grimes Gets In, That Will Just Be A Vote For Harry Reid."** "'If Grimes gets in, that will just be a vote for Harry Reid,' he said, in reference to the Senate majority leader. Muncy recalled that Reid, a Nevada Democrat, six years ago remarked that 'coal makes us sick,' in a television interview as he discussed the hidden costs of fossil fuels. Those four words are seared in Muncy's memory and those of his neighbors." (John McCormick, "Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race," [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)

Executive Director Of The Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program: "We Were Dependent On Coal More Than Detroit Is On The Auto Industry." "'We were dependent on coal more than Detroit is on the auto industry,' said Jeff Whitehead, executive director of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, a nonprofit that promotes employment. 'It's basically a single-industry economy, for the most part, and that's really our challenge.'" (John McCormick, "Coal Counties Angry At Obama To Sway Kentucky Senate Race," [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/14)