

PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY #10



Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah)

Sponsored Bills: 5; Cosponsored Bills: 18;

Total Possible Bills: 84

U.S. House of Representatives (2009-Present),

Utah's 3rd District

Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Jason Chaffetz — who represents much of southern and eastern Utah's red rock desert — sponsored five and cosponsored 18 of the 84 anti-public lands bills analyzed for this report, earning the rank of Public Lands Enemy #10.

In 2016, one month after the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, the congressman introduced a bill — [H.R. 4751](#) — that would take away the authority of the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to enforce federal law on lands managed by those agencies. Instead the law would give all law-enforcement powers on U.S. public lands to local sheriffs, ceding to a major demand of anti-government extremists who believe sheriffs have more authority over local matters than the federal government. The bill's title, "Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act," fails to recognize that all Americans own public lands.

Chaffetz was one of the architects of [H.R. 5780](#); the now-failed Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI). This "grand bargain" to end disagreements over public-lands issues in southern and eastern Utah, instead promotes fossil fuel development and provides loophole ridden "conservation" designations. The PLI seizes authority from public-land managers and gives the state of Utah control over the permitting and regulation of all forms of energy development on millions of acres of public lands. The bill even requires that federal land managers submit a report to Congress if they fail to follow the demands of local politicians. The PLI would unleash a carbon bomb by giving large blocks of public land to the state of Utah for tar sands, oil shale, coal, oil and gas extraction. The bill also fails to protect well over half a million acres of culturally important areas in the Bears Ears region, placing these important sites at risk of vandalism and theft and leaving out protections for about half of the region's deserving wilderness.

Chaffetz also cosponsored bills that would grant an estimated 6,000 miles of rights-of-way (RS 2477 routes) across federal land to three Utah counties ([H.R. 4579](#)) and that would block the President's authority under the Antiquities Act to designate new National Monuments in Utah ([H.R. 2147](#), [H.R. 758](#) (2013)). Chaffetz also sponsored three bills, [H.R. 1126](#) (2011), [H.R. 2657](#) (2013), and [H.R. 435](#) (2015), that force the secretary of the interior to sell off certain public lands in 10 western states. In 2017, one week after Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) reintroduced his bill to sell 3.3 million acres of public lands, Chaffetz withdrew his bill after massive public opposition.

Chaffetz [previously worked for two coal corporations](#), Covol Fuels and Headwaters Energy Services, and has received at least [\\$147,650](#) in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry during his political career. Showing his favor of fossil fuels, in 2014, he said, "Is our air and is our quality of life affected by what we throw into the air and in the water? Yes, of course, but the Al Gore defined global warming is a farce, it is."³²

³² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1kx39GNbcc>

Anti-Public Lands Bills Sponsored or Cosponsored by Chaffetz:

Bill Type	Sponsored	Cosponsored
Land Seizure Sale of Western Land (H.R. 1126) Sale of Western Land (H.R. 2657) Sale of Western Land (H.R. 435) State Choice of 5 Percent of Public Lands (H.R. 2852) Oak Flat Land Trade (H.R. 1904)	X X X	X X
Private/County/State Control of Public Lands End BLM/USFS Law Enforcement (H.R. 4751) Utah County Road Claims Giveaway (H.R. 4579) Public Lands Initiative (H.R. 5780) State Oil and Gas Control (H.R. 866) Local Control of Public Land Access (H.R. 1555) Local Control of Public Land Access (H.R. 4272) State Beetle Kill Logging Projects (H.R. 695)	X	X X X X X X
Weakening Federal Protections Border Patrol Free Reign (H.R. 2398) No More Uranium Withdrawal (H.R. 3155) Remove Wilderness Management (H.R. 1581) Sage Grouse is Not Endangered (H.R. 4739)		X X X X
No More Parks, Monuments, Refuges No New Monuments (H.R. 250) No New Monuments in Utah (H.R. 2147) No New Monuments in Utah [H.R. 758 (2013)] PLI Antiquities Attack Companion (H.R. 5781) Barriers to New Monuments (H.R. 1459) No New Monuments [H.R. 758 (2011)] No New Monuments (H.R. 817)	X	X X X X X X

Campaign Contributors ([2016 Election](#), as of December 2016, source: Center for Responsive Politics):

- Oil & Gas Industry:
 - \$48,800
- Energy & Natural Resources Sector:
 - \$84,900
- Major Funders (in Chaffetz’s Top 100 Contributors, 2016 Election):
 - **Oil & Gas:** Sinclair Companies (\$13,300), Sinclair Oil (\$5,200), Anadarko Petroleum (\$5,000)
 - **Energy:** Duke Energy (\$11,000)
 - **Conglomerates:** Berkshire Hathaway (\$15,700), Koch Industries (\$10,000)

League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard:

[Lifetime](#): 3 percent