

began to tell something very different than what they knew to the public.

A 1998 Exxon internal memo acknowledged that the “greenhouse effect may be one of the most significant environmental issues for the 1990s,” but Exxon’s position would be to try to “[e]mphasize the uncertainty in scientific conclusions regarding the potential enhanced Greenhouse effect,” and that became the drumbeat of the industry: minimize the danger—the one they knew—that the greenhouse effect may be one of the most significant environmental issues for the 1990s but, instead, undermine the science.

So the industry set up front groups with innocuous-sounding names like the Global Climate Coalition or the Information Council on the Environment to do this PR work for it. The scientific brief notes this bit of industry propaganda from 1996 from the so-called Global Climate Coalition: “If there is an anthropogenic component to this observed warming, the GCC believes that it must be very small.”

Well, here is what an earlier draft of the same document said: “[The] scientific basis for the Greenhouse Effect and the potential impacts of human emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO₂ on climate is well established and cannot be denied.”

They just weren’t telling the truth. They knew, and they said things they knew were not true.

Money poured from the oil industry into these denialist groups. In 1991, the so-called Information Council on the Environment launched a nationwide campaign with one goal, to “reposition global warming as theory (not fact).” This thing they said was well established and cannot be denied, they decided to reposition as theory, not fact.

The polluters kept this up all the way through the 1990s. A 1998 American Petroleum Institute strategy memo tells what they wanted people to believe, even though they knew it wasn’t true. They said: “[It is] not known for sure whether (a) climate change is actually occurring, or (b) if it is, whether humans really have any influence on it.”

Again, well established, cannot be denied on the one hand and not sure whether it is occurring or whether humans have anything to do with it on the other hand.

Here is Martin Hoffert, who was an Exxon scientist for 20 years. He said:

Even though we—

“We,” meaning the Exxon scientists.

Even though we were writing all these papers . . . [saying] that climate change from CO₂ emissions was going to change the climate of the earth . . . the front office—

The front office said otherwise.

. . . the front office which was concerned with promoting the products of the company was also supporting people that we call climate change deniers.

So even as they spun this massive fraud out to the public, Big Oil internally took the evidence of climate change seriously. They took the evidence of climate change seriously enough to factor it into their own plan-

et. So while they were telling the public “This isn’t for real, and we don’t have anything to do it with, and the science isn’t secure,” they were doing their own planning based on that very science.

For instance, in designing and building the Sable gas field project off the shores of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mobil, Shell, and Imperial Oil explicitly told their own engineers about sea level rise. They said that “[a]n estimated rise . . . due to global warming, of 0.5 meters may be assumed.”

Big Oil protected its own assets against predicted sea level rise based on this science, while, at the same time, funding a massive campaign of deception to fool the public and policymakers about this science. They protected themselves, and they connived to prevent the public from taking steps to protect itself.

There are some unsung heroes in this climate battle. Among them number the dedicated and assiduous group of scholars and scientists who track this climate denial apparatus that this industry built. Many of them are the authors of this brief, such as Robert Brule, Justin Farrell, Benjamin Franta, Stephan Lewandowsky, Naomi Oreskes, and Geoffrey Supran. They are just a few. There are many, many others who are watching, examining, reporting, and subject to a peer review chronicling the climate denial apparatus set up by the oil industry to fool the public. They patiently and thoroughly assembled in their brief a record of industry malfeasance, and they are helping to make sure that the long history of industry deception is part of the court’s official record.

I thank them for their work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Readler nomination expire at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request relating to the nomination of William R. Evanina to be Direc-

tor of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, PNI92.

When I noticed my intention to place a hold on this nominee back in June of 2018, I made it very clear to the public and to the administration my reasons for doing so, and I put my statement of those reasons in the RECORD. I have done that consistently, not only since the rules of the Senate require every Member to do that, but even before that rule was ever put in place.

I continue to experience difficulties obtaining relevant documents and briefings from the Justice Department and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, ODNI, related to 2016 election controversies. On several occasions, Deputy Attorney General, DAG, Rod Rosenstein has personally assured me that the Senate Judiciary Committee would receive equal access to information provided to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, HPSCI, with regard to any concessions in its negotiations regarding pending subpoenas from that committee. However, I and the Judiciary Committee have not received equal access.

For example, on August 7, 2018, I wrote to the Justice Department and pointed out that the House Intelligence Committee had received documents related to Bruce Ohr that we had not received. The Department initially denied those records had been provided to the House Intelligence Committee. After my staff confronted the Department, we eventually received some Bruce Ohr documents. In that 2018 letter I have referred to, I asked for documents based on my equal access agreement with Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein, and I have not received a response to date.

I have since learned that the Justice Department has taken the position that Director Coats has prohibited them from sharing the requested records with the committee.

In addition to the records request, in May 2018, the Director of National Intelligence and the Justice Department provided a briefing in connection with a pending House Intel subpoena to which no Senate Judiciary Committee member was invited.

Thus far, the committee’s attempts to schedule an equivalent briefing have been ignored.

The administration’s continued, ongoing, and blatant lack of cooperation has forced my hand. I must object to any consideration of this nomination.

In the authorizing resolution that created the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, SSCI, the Senate explicitly reserves for other standing committees, such as the Senate Judiciary Committee, independent authority to “study and review any intelligence or intelligence-related activity” and “to obtain full and prompt access to the product of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of a department or agency,” when such a

matter “directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of that committee,” S. Res. 400. As I understand it, the information at issue here falls into that category.

Thus, unfortunately, I must object to any consideration of this nomination. My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Mr. Evanina in any way. This objection falls squarely on the administration’s continued failure to uphold their end of the agreement. The executive branch must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BAIRD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this year, the University of Pikeville in my home State will mark its 130th year of service to students in the mountains of central Appalachia. For more than half of that time, a member of the Baird family has served the school, its community, and most importantly, its students. After three decades of service, Bill Baird recently retired from the UPIKE board of trustees. In recognition of his legacy of leadership, mentorship, and accomplishment, UPIKE President Burton J. Webb awarded my friend with the inaugural Baird Family Service Award. So, I would like to take a moment today to pay tribute to Bill Baird and his family for their steadfast contributions to eastern Kentucky.

Bill’s family is deeply rooted in this region with history going back nearly a century. His father, William J. Baird II, grew up on a farm in the Bluegrass State before attending Berea College. In 1947, William hung a shingle, founding Baird & Baird law firm. Outside of his professional success, William dedicated much of his life to philanthropy and leadership, serving on the board of trustees of Pikeville Community College for nearly three decades. In gratitude for his service to the Pikeville community and the central Appalachian region, William received an honorary doctor of humanities degree in 1977 from Pikeville College, UPIKE’s name until 2011. Bill’s mother, Florane, attended the Pikeville Collegiate Institute, a high school that later became part of the modern UPIKE. Through her care and compassion for the community, Florane also received an honorary doctorate from Pikeville College. Bill lovingly remembered them both as service-oriented people, and their influence, paired with a deep faith, inspired his work for the Pikeville community and the school.

Working in the mines while studying at Pikeville College, Bill graduated in 1966. He later earned admission to the bar and served our country in the U.S. Army. Reentering private life, Bill worked at the family law firm and was eventually joined by his brothers, Charles and John, and members of the family’s next generation.

Even as he worked full time at Baird & Baird, Bill seemed to find extra

hours in the day for his community. With leadership roles at UPIKE, in his church, and at Westcare of Kentucky—a substance abuse treatment facility—Bill constantly gave of himself to others. He coached the local high school’s softball team for nearly two decades and the UPIKE team from 1994–2004, even receiving admission into the university’s athletic hall of fame. After he retired from the practice, Bill hardly slowed down. He did so much pro bono work that he quipped, “Some people say I’m the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day.”

When asked about his impact on the school, the chairman of UPIKE’s board said Bill gave “of his time, talent, and treasure to the university at a level few have ever given, and he has done so with an unmatched sense of love and care.” A great deal of Bill’s support focused on first-time college students from the local community to foster the potential of Pikeville families. In addition to creating the award named in the Baird family’s honor, the board of trustees also unanimously voted to establish the Bill Baird Family Scholarship to improve student retention and to help provide for students who may struggle to afford their education.

Bill’s not the only impressive member of his household. Kaye, his wife, spent much of her career contributing to the community, helping lead organizations like the chamber of commerce, the school board, and the Christian Appalachian Project. Excelling as an educator, she touched the lives of numerous eastern Kentucky children and earned her place in the inaugural class of UPIKE’s Distinguished Educators Hall of Fame.

Bill and Kaye have done so much for their community, with compassion, philanthropy, and leadership. I am so proud to pay tribute to the Baird family. They have earned our thanks and have made a lasting impact on this region. I am glad the Baird family name has rightfully earned a place of honor at UPIKE, and I ask each of my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill and Kaye for a lifetime of dedicated service to Kentucky.

The UPIKE Magazine published a profile on Bill’s contributions to the school. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the UPIKE Magazine, Fall 2018]

THE BAIRD FAMILY LEGACY: BILL BAIRD
HONORED FOR EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE

(By Mark Baggett)

“Our dad was a great teacher in treating people right,” says Bill Baird about his father, William J. Baird II, and about the heart of the Baird family’s long legacy of support for UPIKE students.

Among the many stories of the family’s support, a remarkable statistic stands out: A Baird has been serving at UPIKE for over half of the 129 years of its existence. During the 2018 opening convocation ceremony, President Burton J. Webb, Ph.D., honored

UPIKE Trustee Emeritus Bill Baird with the inaugural Baird Family Service Award, in recognition of his remarkable impact on the lives of others through steadfast service to the university, to the Appalachian region and to all humanity.

“In 2019, we will celebrate 130 years of service in the mountains of Central Appalachia,” says Webb. “During that span of time few families have impacted the college more than the Baird family. Bill Baird has taken the legacy of servant leadership from his mother, father, and brother even further. He has been a softball coach, a friend of the university and an ardent supporter of the university for decades.”

After more than 30 years of distinguished service Bill Baird retired from the UPIKE Board of Trustees, which was also served by Bill’s father and brother, Charles. In recognition of Bill Baird’s indelible contributions, the board voted unanimously to establish and fund the Bill Baird Family Scholarship to improve student retention by filling financial gaps for students.

“You pick up the need down here,” says Bill Baird. “There is a gap between the educated part of the community and the working class such as the retired coal miners or people on fixed incomes.”

UPIKE Board Chairman Terry L. Dotson has witnessed the fruits of Bill Baird’s selflessness for decades.

“The entire Baird family is a treasure to Eastern Kentucky and to the University of Pikeville,” Dotson says. “Bill is an exceptional person in every way. He is someone every good person strives to be. Bill cares about all things—his church, family and community. He has been a special board member who has fully given of his time, talent and treasure to the university at a level few have ever given, and he has done so with an unmatched sense of love and care. Bill is my friend and has served our board with distinction.”

Dotson’s sentiments are echoed by UPIKE Trustee Richard A. Sturgill. “Bill Baird has been an inspiration to me and many others in the UPIKE community. His unwavering positive attitude, his willingness to encourage and mentor the students and his ability to always stand up for what is right has been steadfast. I am thankful to call him my friend,” says Sturgill.

Bill Baird says the university and medical and optometry colleges are “miracles.”

“UPIKE is a light on the hill to this city, the region and even nationally. To me, what we are is the answered prayers for the many people who laid the foundation for this place by praying for years. These are people who have sacrificed and dedicated themselves to the university.”

Humbly, Bill Baird deflects the spotlight to his parents. His father, who died in 1987, was raised on a Kentucky farm and was a graduate of Berea College and Duke Law School (a classmate of Richard Nixon). He also founded in 1947 the Baird & Baird law firm in Pikeville where Bill Baird and his brothers (Charles and John) as well as children, grandchildren and in-laws also practice. Bill Baird’s mother Florane Justice Baird, who died in 2011, also had strong Pikeville roots: She attended the Training School for grades 1–8 in Pikeville (which operated in the original college building) and then the Pikeville Collegiate Institute for high school, before going to the University of Kentucky.

“My parents were very service-oriented people,” says Bill Baird. “They were giving, caring people who gave back to their community.”

Bill Baird started at Duke University as an undergraduate and says he “made an A in fraternity and an A in football,” and soon he