

Episode 57BZ January 18 2025 German Party positions ahead of the February Snap Election

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1 World and United States Fed Quits Global Climate Network Ahead of Trump Presidency Federal Reserve Bank officials said the decision to leave the network came after the groups work had increasingly broadened in scope The Federal Reserve said Friday that it was dropping out of a network of central banks and other financial regulators focused on climate change [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times Reported from Washington January 17 2025 The Federal Reserve has withdrawn from a network of global financial regulators focused on climate risk days before President elect Trump returns to power The central bank announced that it was formally joining the network in December 2020 shortly after President Biden was elected Republicans who worried that increased attention to climate risk by financial regulators could have harmful impacts on American bank customers The group known as the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System exists to help central banks and other regulators exchange ideas and research as they figure out how to account for climate related risks in the financial sector The network also aims to mobilize mainstream finance to support the transition toward a sustainable economy Five members of the Feds Board of Governors voted to withdraw from the network including Fed Chair Jerome H Powell Two members abstained including Michael Barr who recently announced that he would step down from his role Feb 28 2025 The central banks move to join the network was seen as a sign of its recognition that the Fed had to begin taking into account the impact of extreme weather events as they occur more frequently and pose a greater risk to the financial system The Fed had been participating in the network informally for more than a year before it officially joined Days before the Fed formally became a member a group of Republican lawmakers expressed skepticism about the Feds involvement with the network Its recommendations could significantly limit access to capital for crucial industries and place harmful

restrictions on regulated entities the Republican lawmakers wrote in a letter to Fed officials in December 2020

2 United States nine Western states with Ninth Circuit Appeals Court in California San Francisco Why Trump Second Term Agenda Could Hinge on the Court He Hates the Most Once again an incoming Trump White House is likely to clash with the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit But the court in San Francisco has changed since 2017 The United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco is the largest of the countrys 12 regional appeals jurisdictions The Ninth Circuit covers nine Western states and two territories **RAWSEP View** United States Federal Courts of Appeals There are 13 appellate courts that sit below the U.S. Supreme Court, and they are called U.S. courts of appeals The appellate court task is to determine whether the law was applied correctly in the trial court or federal administrative agency District Courts The nation's 94 district or trial courts are called U.S. district courts District courts resolve disputes by determining the facts and applying the law to those facts **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times January 17 2025 Trump will push executive orders expected to curtail unleash oil and gas drilling The famously liberal US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is where progressive lawyers repeatedly persuaded a court dominated by judges nominated by Democratic presidents to stymie much of the Trump agenda during his first term The Trump team has had years to plan for the fights sure to take place Trump arguments could receive a warmer reception now that 10 of the appeals courts 29 judgeships have been filled with Trump nominees The Ninth Circuit is the largest of the countrys 12 regional appeals courts in terms of judges population and square miles Its sprawling jurisdiction covers nine Western states including the technology hub of Silicon Valley Most of the states within the Ninth Circuit have Democratic governors and attorneys general making the court a crucial referee for state challenges to policies from any Republican White House California alone filed more than 100 suits during the Trump first term Democratic attorneys general from Western states won a number of victories in the circuit that slowed or even stopped some of the Trump agenda The Ninth circuit figures largely in the oppositions emerging in second term legal strategies as well During the next four years there is going to be a lot of litigation promised the president and chief executive of Democracy Forward Appellate courts have the power to uphold or overturn trial court rulings on the legality of administration policies Appeals court procedural decisions could mean the difference between the swift and decisive action that Trump has promised and what happened in Trump first term The number of Ninth Circuit trial court judges matters Eighty eight of those judges were chosen by Democratic presidents and 21 were chosen by Republicans But the legal terrain changed since 2017 A key Trump ally now is the America First Legal Foundation run by Stephen Miller a Trump deputy chief of staff The Supreme Court with its 6 to 3 conservative supermajority and three Trump nominees will still have the last word on any appealed case it chooses from the Ninth Circuit The Ninth Circuit has changed as well Trump judicial appointments tightened the balance on the appeals court from an 18 to 7 split between Democratic and Republican nominees in 2017 to a 16 to 13 divide today Other appellate courts will also be called on to examine Trump policies New Englands First Circuit the Fourth Circuit in the South Atlantic region and the DC Circuit all have majorities of Democratic nominees Between 2005 and 2016 any senator of any state could effectively veto the nomination of any circuit court judge in their home state a power they still hold for district court judges

3 United States Scientists Trump Targeted Scientists in His First Term This Time They are Prepared Agencies and unions have put in place new guardrails designed to limit political interference in government research

Virginia Burkett is a senior scientist at the Interior Department who during the first Trump term 2016 to 2020 filed the whistleblower complaint against Trump administration efforts to dismantle government science

RAWSEP View United States research scientists have prepared themselves if the second Trump administration follows through on threats to stop scientific research on climate change The list includes government whistleblower protection government union protection government scientific integrity officials and outside legal protection

RAWSEP View Why is RAWSEP concerned with attacks on the scientific truth of climate change? The arguments for stopping indoor residential wood burning rest on scientific facts about wood burning emissions and their contribution to climate change as well as scientific facts about public health concerns related to wood burning taken from research that shows that wood burning is 90 percent PM2.5 particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths Scientific facts also disprove the scientifically debunked theory of Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning which currently despite scientific facts but with political promotion allows each country in the world to ignore the emissions from wood burning to be counted when calculating whether each nation in the world is meeting its United Nations climate goals of reducing total harmful emissions but with wood smoke emissions allowed to be ignored. This scientifically debunked theory is applied through political maneuvering to all forms of biomass industrial wood burning and this scientifically debunked theory trickles down to support through its lies toleration of and continuation of air polluting indoor residential wood burning when truly clean renewables such as wind solar and geothermal are available and increasingly cheaper to the consumer and economical overall in 2025

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization

The New York Times January 17 2025 During the first Trump administration Virginia Burkett a senior government scientist felt like she had a target on her back She fought attempts by Trump officials to eliminate climate research programs while also rejecting their requests that she alter the nations premiere report on how global warming affects every region of the country But Dr Burkett says she paid a price In a whistleblower complaint she said the Trump administration retaliated by demoting her and removing her as chair of the committee overseeing the report Her experience was part of a broad assault on science across the federal government during the first Trump administration Other scientists were also demoted or reassigned projects were disrupted and scientists were pressured to delete their research or were blocked from publicizing it In the end hundreds of scientists and experts in environmental policy left the government But Dr Burkett was reinstated to a senior position by the Biden administration and has remained in federal service along with thousands of others And with Trump about to return to the White House they have pushed for new policies and procedures to guard against political interference I am most concerned about protecting future scientists from the harms that I faced she said echoing the views of about two dozen current and former government scientists and policy officials interviewed for this article One senior government official who works in science and spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation by the Trump administration said career employees had started building a firewall four years ago We have been preparing since Day 1 of the Biden administration to better protect science and scientists the official said Steps taken include the creation and expansion of scientific integrity policies at many federal agencies that detail how government scientists should conduct and publish research what to do if political appointees try to block that work and outline the penalties for violations Scientific integrity officers have been newly installed at several agencies to enforce the policies And new union contracts carry consequences for political appointees who retaliate against scientists for following the policies The goal is to shine a bright public spotlight on the work of

government scientists and to guard against any efforts to suppress or manipulate it Republicans on the House Oversight Committee agree are seeking emails and other communications between top officials at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services Trump who has called the established science of human caused global warming a hoax has promised to erase limits on tailpipe and smokestack pollution Soon after he is sworn in he stripped the phrases climate change and clean energy from every agency website People working on his transition have prepared a slate of executive orders to reorient the government away from climate change including withdrawing the United States from the 2015 Paris climate agreement signed by nearly every country Trump allies are also discussing moving the EPA headquarters and the agency's 7000 workers out of Washington During his first term the administration moved the Bureau of Land Management to Colorado and relocated two scientific research arms of the Department of Agriculture to Kansas leading to an exodus of employees During the Obama administration the White House directed government agencies to create scientific integrity policies laying out standard practices and processes for government scientists to follow President Biden built on that instructing agencies to expand and strengthen the policies to ban improper political interference and prevent the suppression or distortion of scientific or technological findings data information conclusions or technical results The Biden White House also directed every cabinet agency to designate a chief science officer and scientific integrity officials to enforce the policies Today there are more than 30 scientific integrity officials The White House directive requires that these officials be career civil servants not political appointees A 2023 memorandum from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy defined scientific integrity to mean that research is peer reviewed that scientists must be able to openly express dissent without fear of retaliation and that violations of scientific integrity policies should be treated as seriously as violations of government ethics rules and come with consequences White House officials concede that nothing would stop future administrations from erasing or disregarding those policies At the US Geological Survey scientists are to report suspected misconduct to the agency inspector general an independent watchdog rather than to senior agency officials who are usually appointed by the president The Union of Concerned Scientists an advocacy group sent a letter signed by 2,405 scientists to Congress asking members to stand up against attempts to politicize or eliminate scientific roles agencies and federal research that protect our health environment and our communities Representative Paul Tonko Democrat of New York and a member of the House Science Committee plans to introduce legislation to require government agencies to maintain and enforce scientific integrity policies But the prospects for passage seem dim in the current Republican majority Congress Employees at some agencies have used labor contracts to lock in new protections A new union contract for employees at the Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service which was relocated to Kansas from Washington during the first Trump term says that scientific findings cannot be altered by managers nonscientists or public relations staff and can be freely communicated outside the agency without political influence At the National Institutes of Health where many employees were distressed by the way the Trump administration understated the risks of Covid early in the pandemic a union contract finalized this month says that any changes to the scientific integrity policy must be approved by union negotiators At the EPA a union contract finalized in June 2024 allows employees to file a grievance if they have experienced retaliation for reporting scientific misconduct It says any employee who faces retaliation for adhering to the policy can seek a legally binding decision from an independent arbiter The nonprofit organization the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund offers free legal counsel to climate scientists In December the group offered packed workshops at the annual conference of the American Geophysical Union a gathering in Washington of about 25000 earth

and space scientists from around the world Compared to the first Trump administration government scientists are now more comfortable coming to us and using our legal assistance taking legal action They are less afraid of rocking the boat Some employees are coming up with creative survival strategies In a corner of the EPA's large headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington is the National Environmental Museum which opened last year Joanne Amorosi the project manager pointed to the top of a display celebrating Trump in large letters for signing a 2020 law that eliminates a sliver of greenhouse pollution At the bottom of that display in smaller letters it notes that Biden who has done more than any president to combat climate change designated a task force to promote climate change in federal agencies If Trump sees his name there maybe he will be more inclined to keep it as it is

4 Europe and Elon Musk EU Expands Investigation of X Over Spread of Illicit Content The probe is a test of the European Union's willingness to go after X owner Elon Musk whose geopolitical influence has grown because of his ties to the incoming Trump administration The European Union started an investigation of Elon Musk X more than a year ago **RAWSEP View** Real and true information about the air pollution caused by indoor residential wood burning can be disseminated by any online podcaster such as **RAWSEP A larger effort to suppress disinformation would also be helpful in stopping anti scientific lies among other lies from overwhelming the truth** online such as enforcing the EU Digital Services Act described in the article below The Digital Services Act in the European Union could also trip up Elon Musk and potentially stop Musk disinformation and illegal content currently affecting the European Union countries including Germany where Musk is attempting to influence the upcoming February German Snap Election in favor of the AfD a neo Nazi German party Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates **RAWSEP** is concerned about Musk German election interference because the AfD neo Nazi German Party does not believe in climate change and **RAWSEP** would expect the AfD to be against German government Heat Pump Rebates which for example in the democracies of the United States and Canada Heat Pump Rebates make replacement of air polluting indoor residential wood burning with clean Heat Pumps economically possible for the average United States or Canadian citizen of any income level **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times January 17 2025 As Elon Musk's geopolitical influence grows because of his closeness to incoming President Trump E U regulators in Europe have faced questions about whether they would scale down an investigation of X the social media network that Musk owns On Friday European Union officials indicated that they were not backing off Regulators in Brussels said they would expand an investigation into X for potential violation of a law called the Digital Services Act intended to clamp down on online disinformation and illegal content Officials said they had ordered X to hand over internal documents about the company's recommendation algorithm as well as provide access to data that would allow regulators to study the platform's content moderation policies and understand why material on certain accounts may go viral We are committed to ensuring that every platform operating in the EU respects our legislation which aims to make the online environment fair safe and democratic for all European citizens The Digital Services Act passed in 2022 gives regulators wide powers to force social media companies to police their platforms for hate speech misinformation and illegal content Companies that do not comply can face fines of up to 6 percent of global revenue The European Union started an investigation of X more than a year ago accusing the company of failing to address illicit content and disinformation The probe came after Musk dramatically scaled back X content moderation policies The incremental development announced on Friday has wider significance because it shows that European regulators are pressing ahead despite Musk ties to the incoming Trump

administration On January 18 2025 E U regulators ordered X to preserve documents that could be part of the probe until the end of 2025

5 Germany election Here is what the major parties promise voters **RAWSEP View** of German Public Television Predictions of the German Snap Election starting at 33:18 minutes on this video released January 17 2025 Berlin Briefing Podcast DW News DW is a German public broadcast service **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** January 17 2025 Berlin Briefing Ahead of Germany election DW political team discuss the big issues dominating the campaign Hear why the man with the best chances of becoming the next chancellor conservative is CDU leader Friedrich Merz Why the far right Alternative for Germany is striking a more radical tone Why the Greens have gone from pacifists to becoming the tightest allies of Ukraine And why current Chancellor Olaf Scholz is sure he will stage a remarkable comeback against the odds DW Chief political editor Michaela Küfner pushes her colleagues Nina Haase Matthew Moore and Giulia Saudelli to bet their reputation on predicting the outcome of the most consequential elections this year Chapter Breakdown 00:00 minutes Intro 03:30 minutes Migration 10:00 minutes Economy 14:57 minutes Ukraine 33:18 minutes Predictions **RAWSEP View** of German Public Television Predictions of the German Snap Elections starting at 33:18 minutes on this video released January 17 2025 **RAWSEP View** The moderators seem to think that The CDU a conservative German party will win the most votes and the moderators seem to think that AfD the neo Nazi Party despite its predicted relatively high vote count will be rejected as a partner in any coalition government because of far right views that echo Nazi propaganda of the Hitler era **RAWSEP** is concerned because the CDU may replace the SPD which allied with the Greens offered more environmentally friendly government policies which in **RAWSEP View** would more likely support efforts to stop indoor residential wood burning such as the German government continuing to offer Heat Pump Rebates or subsidies to allow clean energy Heat Pumps to replace air polluting indoor residential wood burning at net prices that would be economical to the average German citizen no matter what their income level

6 China Tiktok Ban Will President Elect Trump Stop the Law From Taking Effect? It is unclear if Trump who has previously said he will spare the social media platform will or can stop the ban President elect Trump could attempt to instruct the government not to enforce the law potentially through an executive order **RAWSEP View** RAWSEP itself uses Tiktok but RAWSEP supports a ban for reasons of United States national security **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times January 17 2025 The answer to whether President elect Trump can or will save TikTok from an upcoming ban is unclear Trump who takes office the day after the Chinese owned app is scheduled to be banned on Sunday has previously promised to spare the social media platform Reportedly Trump also considered an executive order aimed at allowing TikTok to continue operating in the United States But on Friday Trump took a noncommittal tone on Truth Social The Supreme Court decision was expected and everyone must respect it Trump posted I must have time to review the situation The law upheld by the Supreme Court requires TikToks Chinese parent company ByteDance to sell the app or face a ban