

## Mark Gordon: Setting the Record Straight

*Turns Out, Not Everything on the Internet is True*

### THE SITUATION

We are all familiar with the ugly state of national politics. Someone delves into a candidate's past, trying to dig up what they hope is enough dirt to discredit the opposition. They twist the facts and only tell half the story in hopes of taking their opponent down. **Unfortunately, Sam Galeotos and Harriet Hageman are bringing these DC-style campaign tactics to Wyoming.**

The story they are trying to sell is this: Mark Gordon hasn't been a puppet to the party establishment. And to that extent, they're right. **He's a lifelong conservative who has done more to support Wyoming Republicans and conservative causes than any other candidate in this race.** But he's thought for himself. He's taken matters into his own hands and tried to work with organizations he didn't always agree with to find solutions. He's been so bold as to claim that energy development and responsible stewardship can go hand-in-hand.

The bottom line is this: **Mark is the ONLY candidate in this race with the experience, knowledge and skills to fight for Wyoming every single day.** He's the only candidate who has fought to uphold the Constitution and won. He's the only candidate who knows how to successfully work with the Wyoming Legislature. He's the only candidate with a detailed energy policy to ensure a vibrant future for the industry moving forward. He is the only candidate ready to go on day one.

Sam Galeotos and Harriet Hageman have no record to run on. They know Mark is the leading candidate. Their only path to victory is to distort the truth about Mark, instead of talking about what they bring to the table or their ideas for Wyoming. Attacks are all they have. **Sam and Harriet will keep attacking. Mark will keep working.**

### SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

*ATTACK: Mark Supported Wolf Reintroduction*

TRUTH: This is completely false. Mark has never given money for wolf reintroduction or spoken in favor of it in any way. As a rancher, and a [member of the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative](#), this is ludicrous. [Mark has long supported predator control efforts](#), writing regular contributions to the Johnson County Predatory Animal Board in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2018 to protect Wyoming livestock and ensure local control. Contributions were not requested due to program changes after 2004.

Somebody's crying wolf.

*ATTACK: Mark has opposed coalbed methane*

TRUTH: This is untrue. Mark has been a supporter of coalbed methane (CBM) in Wyoming. He's [allowed for development on his property of coalbed methane, oil and gas](#). Peabody Natural Gas drilled exploratory holes on his own place, the Merlin Ranch. He also facilitated the methane

development on lands leased from the Ucross Foundation and Apache Corporation. Under his leadership, and in accordance with the University of Wyoming, Stanford University, and Montana School of Mines (known today as Montana Tech), Mark helped coordinate a peer reviewed study on CBM water discharge done during the 2000s. In fact, he worked hand-in-hand with Wyoming energy developers. He also fought against bad actors from out of state who in some cases defrauded investors and abandoned CBM wells leaving them to taxpayers to clean up and negatively impacting local Wyoming ranchers and landowners. Wyoming can, and has, developed her minerals without harming other uses of the land or negatively affecting the environment. Wyoming has an excellent track record on this point and Mark has helped to make it that way.

Opponents reference an article from *High Country News* that infers Mark's opposition to coalbed methane. Turns out, not everything on the internet is true. Go figure.

*ATTACK: Mark is a 'Republican in Name Only.' He switched party affiliation just to run for office.*

TRUTH: [Mark has been a registered Republican his entire life](#) and his record of service and support to the Republican Party shows that. Mark and Jennie have long been passionate supporters of leaders and causes they care about. **Over the past four decades [they have given to dozens of individuals, local, state and national parties – the vast majority of which have been Republicans candidates and organizations – over 90%.](#)** This includes donations to the late Senator Thomas, Senator Enzi, Senator Barrasso, Congressman Lummis, the Wyoming Republican Party, the Republican National Committee and the Presidential campaigns of both John McCain and Mitt Romney. **Mark and Jennie have done more to support Republican candidates in Wyoming than any other candidate in this race. Period.**

Like many Wyoming citizens, he has been frustrated by what he has seen in Washington and wanted to see change. Mark knows, as a country and as a state, we can do better than politics as usual. These contributions to Democrats came from a place of sheer frustration, wanting to send a message that the status quo wasn't cutting it, and a commitment to taking action when he believed we needed change. If this says anything about Mark, it's that he will never be beholden to establishment politics and isn't afraid to go against the grain when he believes it is right. Mark will always put Wyoming and her people above all else.

*ATTACK: Mark Gordon donated to the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)*

TRUTH: The Rocky Mountain Institute is a bipartisan research organization with a focus on developing economically profitable solutions for energy improvement and efficiencies. Their work has been largely to support ideas, initiatives and projects similar to the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC) that aim to ensure a future and viable role for Wyoming's fossil fuels long into the future.

The Rocky Mountain Institute moved in a different direction in 2014 when they [merged with the Carbon War Room](#) and Mark ended his affiliation at that time.

*ATTACK: Mark supported environmental groups like the Sierra Club, Friends of Earth & The Nature Conservancy*

TRUTH: Some truth – many decades ago. Mark considers himself a conservationist and, as ranchers, Mark and Jennie are particularly committed to being stewards of the land. It's their life. Like most ranchers in Wyoming, they have very strong ideals about how you manage your land, how you take care of it for your family and future generations.

But back in the 1970s, it came as a great surprise to Mark to hear criticisms of ranchers as stewards of the land. As a result, he decided to get involved with certain groups, thinking he could make a difference in educating their leadership about the value of ranching and its importance to landscapes, wildlife and resource management. At that time, Republicans, including Mark, really were environmental leaders and many of the most important laws that were passed were done under Republican Administrations including the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. The organization has strayed greatly since that time and Mark ended his affiliation with them many years ago when he realized he couldn't make a difference. When Mark sees a need for change and an opportunity to make a difference, he takes action. That's how Mark was raised and it is a value many of us share in Wyoming.

- *Friends of Earth:* Mark hasn't been involved with this group in three decades. His opponents have taken to doctoring the Wikipedia page and creating [erroneous pages](#) for this organization to highlight Mark's very minimal involvement. This is demonstrated by the fact that Mark's name is listed FIRST among notable supporters like Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Jon Bon Jovi. Anyone can edit a Wikipedia page, or make a fake one. Clearly, one of Mark's opponents used this tool to list Mark Gordon next to some of the most famous individuals on the planet.
- *Sierra Club:* Mark hasn't been directly involved with the group for nearly thirty years. The organization played a key role in the 'Cattle Free by 93' campaign to try and remove livestock from public lands by 1993. As a rancher, Mark saw how detrimental and shortsighted this policy was and got involved to stop it. A donation made more than a decade ago was done in honor of a dear friend who had passed away.
- *The Nature Conservancy:* Mark supported this organization during a time when [they were focused on making conservatives the leaders in conservation once again](#). Mark does not believe responsible land management and energy development are mutually exclusive. Wyoming people prove this every single day as tremendous stewards of all our natural resources.

*ATTACK: Mark Donated to Republican Congressman John Anderson for President*

TRUTH: True. Nearly 40 years ago, Mark supported a [Republican Congressman](#) in his run for President of the United States. John Anderson was a Representative from Illinois who served as Chair of the House Republican Conference. A known fiscal conservative, one of Anderson's proposals was a swap of a 50-cent a gallon gas tax with a corresponding 50 percent reduction in social security taxes.

*ATTACK: Mark spent \$90 million from the Treasurer's office on a study.*

TRUTH: Complete lie. This one is so far-fetched, Mark's team cannot even begin to figure out where it came from.

*ATTACK: Mark Gordon doesn't support Wyoming Rodeo.*

TRUTH: Huh? Sounds like a load of bull. The [Gordon family has a long and strong tradition of participating in, and supporting, rodeos throughout Wyoming.](#) Mark's dad, Crow Gordon, competed at Cheyenne Frontier Days throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s – finishing third one year in steer roping. Mark's daughter, Bea, competed in rodeo events growing up. Mark and Jennie's ranch has been proud to support the Johnson County Rodeo, Kaycee Friday Night Rodeo, Powder River Days Ranch Rodeo, Johnson County Cowgirl Rodeo, Don King Days, Cheyenne Frontier Days, and Johnson County Youth Rodeo.