

E&E Greenwire

Conservative group looks to examine modern green movement

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The Competitive Enterprise Institute has hired a conservative writer to lead a project to scrutinize the environmental movement.

The think tank, which has gotten funding from the fossil fuel industry and others critical of left-wing environmentalism, said Kevin Williamson's project will examine "the modern environmental movement, its culture, and advocacy."

Williamson is a roving correspondent and columnist for the *National Review*, and has worked for decades in mainstream, foreign and conservative media.



Kevin Williamson. National Review Institute

His books include last year's "Big White Ghetto: Dead Broke, Stone-Cold Stupid, and High on Rage in the Dank Woolly Wilds of the 'Real America,'" and he has written extensively in opposition to what he sees as socialism.

He is also critical of some aspects of the Republican Party, including those who have worked in recent weeks to oust Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) as head of the House Republican Conference.

"One of the interesting — and troubling — things about the environmental movement is how completely policy disputes have been displaced by the culture-war model of politics," Williamson said in CEI's announcement of his new project.

"When there's a policy debate, there is room for compromise and consensus-building. When the same issue is presented as an apocalyptic confrontation between good and evil, there isn't any room for cooperation," he said.

"And those of us who are interested in human flourishing with both robust economic development and a healthy environment are left with very little in the way of attractive alliances and practical policy options," Williamson said.

CEI President Kent Lassman said the group is "thrilled to have a writer as accomplished and observant as Kevin add his considerable talents to our team" and said he'd bring "an unvarnished look at the modern environmental movement and how it actually works."

CEI has been a harsh critic of environmentalism and what it labels "climate alarmism."

"Climate change is not a hoax, but as a political matter, it is a persistent pretext for expanding government control over the economy, redistributing wealth, and empowering unaccountable elites at the expense of voters and their elected representatives," the group said in a [paper](#) it published in 2019.

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