

## Republican Perspective

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### REAL RUSSIAN INFLUENCE

*“Husband and wife are one Satan” — Russian proverb*

To most Progressives, nuclear power is not a tool in the arsenal to combat climate change. Articles have been written in the Rossmoor News saying as much.

Despite Progressive’s views, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, had no issue with assisting Russia towards its goal to become a global builder of nuclear plants. And, along the way the Clinton Foundation was greatly enriched, as reported by Peter Schweizer of the non-partisan Government Accountability Institute.

The Russian State Atomic Nuclear Agency (Rosatom) controls the Russian nuclear arsenal and is responsible for all things nuclear in Russia. In 2009, Sergei Kiriyenko, the head of Rosatom told Putin that “an opportunity” existed to buy foreign uranium deposits. Putin gave the go ahead.

Uranium is a heavy metal that has been used as an abundant source of energy. U-235 atom is used in nuclear reactors. Uranium One is a Canadian company that in 2010 had 61 ongoing or planned projects to mine uranium in Wyoming. It also held uranium claims in Utah, as well as holdings in South Dakota and Texas. With these holdings, Uranium One was projected to control up to half of US uranium output.

One of Uranium One’s key executives was Frank Giustra, who enjoyed a working relationship with former President Bill Clinton. The two established the Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative (CGSGI) as a project of the Clinton Foundation. Giustra told the *New Yorker*: “All of my chips, almost, are on Bill Clinton. He’s a brand, a worldwide brand, and he can do things and ask for things that no one else can.” President Clinton and Rosatom’s head, Sergei Kiriyenko had a working relationship.

Giustra was a wealthy man. The kind of wealth that Progressives usually disparage unless it benefits them. Giustra donated over \$31 million to CGSGI along with a multi-year commitment for another \$100 million. In addition, Giustra offered to give half of Uranium One’s profits to CGSGI. Giustra convinced other Uranium One investors to give in excess of \$145 million to CGSGI.

Enter the Russians. In early summer of 2010, Rosatom announced it was wanting to buy majority control, 52%, of Uranium One. Giustra’s associate and Uranium One executive, Ian Telfer, controlled the Fernwood Foundation. This Foundation donated \$2.35 million to CGSGI. Some Uranium One shareholders, despite the potential of huge profits, feared the company might end up serving Russia’s strategic interests.

Several US Congressmen raised concern about the Russian majority interest. They worried that US mined uranium would find its way to fuel Iran's nuclear reactor. Wyoming Senator Barrasso wrote the Obama administration of his concern, stating Russia's "disturbing record of supporting nuclear programs in countries that are openly hostile to the United States, specifically Iran and Venezuela." Uranium One stated it did not intend to export uranium mined in the US.

Despite the raised national security concerns, the Russian majority control of Uranium One was approved by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US. Secretary Clinton was a member of the Committee. She never revealed the donations made to the Clinton Foundation to the State Department, the White House or to Congress.

Rosatom has since taken 100% control of Uranium One. A senior VP of the company stated that Wyoming uranium could be exported. She said "we've got China — they're looking at opening up to 500 nuclear power plants in the next 40 years; India — several hundred...so you can see worldwide there is a huge demand for nuclear power."

Up until the Uranium One Russia purchase, Secretary Clinton had been a strong opponent of deals that had the potential to impact US national security. *Time* published "the danger of foreign funds might taint Hillary Clinton's role as Secretary of State." Why the change of heart? Surely it had nothing to do with the unreported millions making its way to the Clinton Foundation. Where's a special prosecutor when you need him?