

Statement of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
On the Nomination of Ms. Rachel Brand  
to be Associate Attorney General of the United States  
April 3, 2017

As Associate Attorney General, Ms. Brand will be charged with overseeing the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the Department of Justice. Yet at her confirmation hearing, she repeatedly refused to acknowledge that there is a public interest in addressing climate change. All she needs to do is ask the Rhode Island fishermen who have told me their livelihood is at stake to learn that there is a very real public interest in addressing climate change. Her refusal to answer this most basic question seems characteristic of an administration that has been captured by the oil and gas industry. If she cannot give an accurate answer to a question this simple, it suggests that on other questions, as well, she will follow the party line, not the facts. I will not support her nomination.