

Climate Plan Has the Potential of Destroying Our Economy

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For the past few weeks, I have been addressing the issue of The President's Climate Action Plan (TPCAP), a plan that reaches far beyond sensible management of resources and instead threatens us with another massive law in the style of Obamacare.

This document describes three "key pillars" on which "executive actions" will be made.

The first pillar is "Cut Carbon Pollution in America." Comparing carbon to "other toxins like mercury and arsenic," the document touts our growing economy and states that "the Obama Administration is putting in place tough new rules to cut carbon pollution."

Under this pillar, look for massive regulations that will diminish or eliminate power sources that come from fossil fuels, especially coal. It states in TPCAP, "President Obama is issuing a Presidential Memorandum directing the Environmental Protection Agency to work expeditiously to complete carbon pollution standards for both new and existing power plants."

Recently, a West Virginia senator changed his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican specifically because of Obama's efforts to stop coal mining in their state.

Instead, the focus is being given to renewable energy sources such as wind, biomass and geothermal, promising to increase funding to research and loan guarantees to investors in energy development that will place much of the research and development under the control of the federal government.

One of the technologies that is being focused on is biofuels, but little regard is being given to the risk of food shortages and soil depletion.

The plan will increase the federal bureaucracy's ability to make law outside of the legislature. It states, "To ensure that federal energy policy meets our economic, environmental, and security goals in this changing landscape, the Administration will conduct a Quadrennial Energy Review which will be led by the White House Domestic Policy Council and Office of Science and

Technology Policy, supported by Secretariat established at the Department of Energy, and involving the robust engagement of federal stakeholders.”

The plan includes the imposition of higher fuel efficiency ratings for heavy-duty vehicles, and this is in addition to an already established standard for passenger vehicles with an “average performance equivalent of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.” To accomplish this, focus is being given to electric vehicles, which have very limited range and use fossil fuels to charge their batteries.

Through the “President’s Better Buildings Challenge” the Obama Administration promises to expand affordable (subsidized) multifamily housing, and plans to implement yet another program, the “Better Buildings Accelerator” that will create more regulations for energy-efficiency. Look for privately-funded construction to decrease as regulations increase, and for construction times and costs to increase under the weight of compliance with more regulations and inspections.

The plan will also affect urban planning, and will likely work to eliminate development that is not in urban areas. It states, “Pressures to develop forest lands for urban or agricultural uses also contribute to the decline of forest carbon sequestration. Conservation and sustainable management can help to ensure our forests continue to remove carbon from the atmosphere...” Look for more federal regulations requiring urban growth boundaries and the prevention of the rights of individuals to use lands as they see fit.

The other two “key pillars” are “Prepare the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change” and “Lead International Efforts to Combat Global Climate Change and Prepare for its Impacts” – which I will write about in subsequent articles.

Suffice it to say for now that this plan has the same potential for destroying our economy and freedoms as Obamacare is doing now and the immigration bill will likely do in the near future if it is not stopped. The relatively short, 21-page President’s Climate Action Plan has all the same potential for the creation of law outside of our Constitutional legislative process. After the Obama Administration and the Democrats (and some Republicans) have pushed the immigration bill through, look for a climate bill to be voted into law without legislative review and subsequently expanded without legislative oversight.

Once you read TPCAP, it is not difficult to imagine how massive the bureaucracy will become.

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