



2020 election: Joe Biden's climate change revolution plan shows he's not moderate material

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It has only been weeks since Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez chided former Vice President Joe Biden for embracing “middle of the road” climate policies. He not only heard her but quickly fell in line. In his rush to appease the new generation of Democrats for whom he is completely out of touch, he streamlined the process by copying entire passages from other, more AOC-aligned groups without proper citation.

This is not the first time his penchant for plagiarism has been revealed, but it is the first time his lurch to the left has been so blatant. This plan will no doubt make it more difficult for Biden to maintain his brand of moderate Uncle Joe, but more important, it would be disastrous for America’s working-class families.

Channeling the Green New Deal, Biden’s \$1.7 trillion “Clean Energy Revolution” would raise taxes, send energy costs sky high and kill millions of good-paying jobs. The central piece of it, achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, would have little effect on the climate.

One report from the libertarian Cato Institute found that such a proposal would prevent warming by 0.137 degrees Celsius by 2100. In other words, the range of negative impacts alongside the decimation of the entire coal, oil and natural gas industries would all be in exchange for a negligible impact on the climate.

Biden plans to pay for this by doing away with one of the main policies that has produced real savings for middle-class families: President Donald Trump’s tax cuts. Thanks to doubling the standard deduction, bolstering the child tax credit and eliminating the individual mandate penalty, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has reduced the average tax payer's liability by 25%, according to H&R Block data, delivering real savings to American middle-class families. This has been great for personal pocketbooks and has encouraged businesses to invest locally, resulting in millions of new jobs.

Biden's revolution is unconstitutional

Biden also plans to go well beyond the climate policies of the Obama administration and take matters into his own hands. While he has no doubt lost his moderate bona fides, he seems to also be losing his memory. The central element of the Obama administration's climate plan, referred to as the Clean Power Plan, was stopped in its tracks by the Supreme Court of the United States because of concerns that it was patently illegal. To suggest, as Biden's plan does, that he could suddenly issue broad sweeping climate actions via executive fiat on Day 1 ignores the reality of those legal limits.

If this fails — which it will, don't worry — his plan includes the promise to “demand” that Congress enact climate legislation consistent with his goals. Here, too, lies an important history lesson Biden would be wise to recall. Congress has regularly rejected such proposals. The most recent example occurred in 2010, when Democrats controlled all levers of power, and it was then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid who actually sank the climate legislative effort by refusing to bring it up for a vote. What Democrats realized then, which will no doubt ring true today among the less AOC-aligned members of their party, is that the real world impacts of their climate policies like higher electricity rates, more expensive gas and costly groceries are not popular with the American people.

Climate plan is proof Biden is no moderate

Biden's climate revolution is no doubt a gut punch to the union workers who once formed a central place of relevance in his inner circle. Their distaste for the Green New Deal and the many iterations of it has been on full display all over the country. In March, the AFL-CIO sent a letter to the Green New Deal's authors, making clear they would “not stand by and allow threats to our members' jobs and their families' standard of living go unanswered.”

Since then, they have shown up in droves blasting mayors coast-to-coast, from Bill de Blasio in New York to Eric Garcetti in Los Angeles, making clear their distaste for policies that will export their jobs and do little for the environment. It's not a surprise that unions wouldn't be excited about the energy plan of a candidate who once famously declared: “No coal plants here in America!”

President Trump's 2016 campaign especially resonated with American workers and their families because he promised to strengthen the U.S. economy by investing in and protecting the American worker. He has delivered on this promise while also protecting the environment. Today we are breathing the cleanest air on record, drinking the cleanest water and are making great strides to continue lowering greenhouse gas emissions more than any other country.

While Biden's campaign will try to sell him as a moderate, the truth is there is no room for anything moderate among today's extreme Democratic Party, and his radical climate plan is a stark reminder.