



## Front Group Alert: American Consumer Institute Getting (Back) Into Climate Disinfo

By Climate Denier Roundup

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Yesterday, we found [an op-ed in the climate disinfo hub RealClearEnergy by Steve Pociask](#), president of the American Consumer Institute, arguing that Biden should roll back environmental regulations, for sake of (wait for it!) ... drumroll please ... "his campaign pledges to create 5 million new manufacturing jobs in the U.S. and fight climate change."

This is the latest of the emerging new genre of climate disinfo, calling for policymakers to undo environmental protections to improve the environment. In this case, Pociask is essentially saying that the Toxic Substance Control Act should give manufacturers even *more* deference when it comes to toxic substances, because some of them are necessary for wind and solar tech.

It's a stupid argument, and only stupid people will fall for it. But the people putting it forward aren't stupid to do so. They know the Democratic party (nominally) controls the House, Senate and White House, so they're trying to appeal to the desire to *Get Something Done* in hopes Biden et al. don't notice the "something" is just rolling back regulations that inconvenience polluters (who also happen to make a component or two for renewable energy).

But who does Steve Pociask and the American Consumer Institute represent? By their own [account](#), simply "consumers," but scratch beneath that surface and it's obvious that they're a big business front group.

And there are indications it's a Koch connection. Aside from the op-ed in the Koch-funded RealClear, they also used the Koch network recruiting service "Talent Market" [to hire a communications staffer](#). [Looks like they found](#) a former Cato institute crony Rachel Altman for the gig, joining [Krisztina Pusok](#), who was previously at the Koch-funded Reason dot com.

During the Trump administration, [Ben Jervey at DeSmog reported](#) the American Consumer Institute led a coalition of mostly Koch groups to attack California's authority to set standards for auto pollution: "The ACI letter to Pruitt, dated March 28, 2018, was signed by representatives from 11 groups, eight of which have known ties to the Koch network, and all of which are routine commenters on conservative issues."

Jervey details all those koch-nections, and points to a 2014 VICE article about how cable companies were using front groups to oppose net neutrality: "ACI, like Broadband for America, is financed by an ISP lobby group. Annual tax returns show that a foundation controlled by lobbyists from the cell phone industry, called MyWireless.org, has contributed to ACI since 2010."

These days though, Trump climate guy and dark money darling George David Banks is one of their experts, which perhaps explains their re-entry into the climate disinfo sphere.

But that's about all we know- let us know if we missed anything!