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Graham Joins Kerry On Cap-And-Trade

Posted 10/19/2009 07:57 PM ET

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10/20/2009 10:00:22 AM ET

Investing Tip

The safest place to be during a market downtrend is in cash.



Graham: Another GOP "maverick" bucks his party on cap-and-trade. [View Enlarged Image](#)

Politics: Move over, John McCain and Olympia Snowe. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina is fast becoming the Democrats' favorite Republican as he partners with John Kerry to push cap-and-trade through the Senate.

Earlier this year, eight Republican congressmen made it possible for Waxman-Markey, the 1,400-page job- and economy-killing cap-and-trade legislation, to barely pass the House of Representatives. At the time it seemed dead on arrival in the Senate if it was brought up there this year.

Once again, as with their medical plan, the Democrats seek to better the odds by putting a GOP hood ornament on a Democratic clunker. On cap-and-trade, Olympia Snowe's role will be played by Graham as he partners with Kerry to commit the U.S. to the flawed

science and disastrous economics of climate change.

Ignoring the evidence, Graham joined Kerry in a recent New York Times op-ed cleverly titled "Yes We Can (Pass Climate Change Legislation)." In the piece, Graham and Kerry write: "Our partnership represents a fresh attempt to find consensus that adheres to our core principles and leads to both a climate change solution and energy independence."

There's that word again — consensus. The consensus on climate change touted by Al Gore has melted as fast as the earth has cooled over the last decade. It's hard to consider what "core principles" Graham's talking about. The GOP is supposed to be the party of low taxes and free markets.

Cap-and-trade imposes draconian energy taxes on the American people, ends the free market as we know it and brings economic growth to a screeching halt.

In the op-ed, Graham makes it clear he believes Democrats will seriously push for increased use of nuclear power and relax prohibitions on offshore drilling and domestic energy production as part of this new spirit of consensus and bipartisanship.



Graham shouldn't expect any stimulus money going to build nuclear power plants in South Carolina anytime soon. He forgets that this administration, with the approval of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, showed its support for nuclear power by killing the spent fuel repository being built at Yucca Mountain, Nev.

Democrats can promise anything, knowing that between the EPA, which covers up its own research debunking man-caused climate change while it declares carbon dioxide a dangerous pollutant, and groups such as the Sierra Club, nothing will happen while Lucy holds the political football for Sen. Graham to kick.

The U.S. economy depends on fossil fuels for 85% of the energy we use. That's not likely to change soon. While China and India race ahead unimpeded, our economy will be burdened by costs of which the \$700 billion in carbon emission permits will be only the beginning, costs that will be passed on to the American consumer, including Graham's constituents.

According to the Center for Data Analysis at the Heritage Foundation, gas prices at the pump will increase 58%. Residential electricity costs will "necessarily skyrocket" by 90%. Job losses will reach nearly 2.5 million in 2035. Total GDP loss by 2035 would be \$9.4 trillion.

For all this grief, climatologist Chip Knappenberger says Waxman-Markey would lower temperatures by only hundredths of a degree by 2050 and no more than two-tenths of a degree by century's end.

Kerry and Graham have an answer for countries such as China and India which refuse to join us in our folly: trade-killing carbon tariffs. They wrote that "we should consider a border tax on items produced in countries that avoid these standards."

Terrific. Graham advocates carbon taxes, carbon tariffs and protectionism as Waxman-Markey meets Smoot-Hawley. It's not surprising, however. Graham, according to the Cato Institute, voted for trade barriers 13 out of 23 times in the Senate (since 2002) and a whopping 19 out of 24 times in the House (1994-2002).

We would suggest that Sens. Graham and Kerry write a more accurate op-ed with the title: "Yes We Can (Raise Your Energy Taxes And Send American Jobs Abroad)."

Avg. Rating: (10) Your Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

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Never live your life waiting for a politician to do what is right. They are the masters of expedience and compromise. All politicians live to be a politician the next day, and the next. They will throw their own mother under the bus if it means getting re-elected and getting along in Washington. Have to go to the right parties, don't you know. Is anyone really surprised by Graham's actions or words? Pay attention to these wolves in sheep's clothing.

What a buffoon! I guess he speaks for the GOP (Greed over Principles/Gluttons of Power) & has crossed over to the dark side with the Demoncrats. Follow the \$\$\$! I'm being pushed to leave my country because of the insanity that passes for 'representative government' inside the American Rubicon. Someone needs to check the air & water in Washington, D. C. Surely, no one goes into Congress as stupid as they become once they get there. Why don't I hear a peep from the 'good' Republicans?

Give him time, he'll pull an Arlen Specter on SC ... this guy is a complete bum. All he cares about Lindsey Graham. Such a fool.

It was also the RINO Graham who is solely responsible for allowing SOTOMAYOR to even have a senate confirmation vote after what Democrats did to Estrada. (Search leaked *** Durbin memos on Estrada and understand the audacity the parrots accuse Republicans of 'racism'.) A nationwide poll revealed that an overwhelming percentage would vote ANY RINO out that confirmed that racist, sexist and treasonous witch.

We have been betrayed by both Parties. Graham, in particular is a Benedict Arnold! I wonder what's in it for him? We need a Conservative Party made up of Independents, Republicans and Democrats. I believe it would have a majority of voters!

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