

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

about the anti-energy, anti-American reconciliation bill

It's no secret that the budget reconciliation package is loaded with pork-barrel spending and sweeping policy changes that are inappropriate for budget legislation. Many of these provisions include incredibly expensive and harmful anti-energy policies that will cripple our economy, increase our dependence on foreign oil, and increase cost of living, especially for the poorest Americans.

Here are the five most egregious energy policies lurking in the reconciliation bill:

Penalize reliable electric utilities for doing their jobs

By far the furthest-reaching proposal in the bill, the Clean Electricity Performance Program aims to place financial penalties on utilities who do not meet an arbitrary 1.5% increase in renewable electricity generation — and subsidize those that increase renewables by 4% or more. It also extends the production tax credit to 2034. The plan has no provisions to ensure *reliable* electricity even though adding variable generation on the grid leads to an unstable and expensive power supply.

Establishes a taxpayer-funded climate army

The Civilian Climate Corps would be a huge and likely permanent expansion of federal power, cementing the radical climate agenda in D.C. It would burden taxpayers with massive cost — without any impact whatsoever on the global climate — and allow bureaucrats to funnel taxpayer dollars to political organizations with nearly no oversight. It also explicitly endorses racially oriented decision-making. The reconciliation proposal allocates \$2.25 billion to the Forest Service for Civilian Climate Corps activities and another \$2.25 billion to outside groups.

Create a new fee on natural gas (also known as methane)

This provision gives the EPA authority to charge \$1,500 per ton of methane (natural gas) emissions at oil or natural gas facilities. Ironically, the left's anti-pipeline agenda is one of the main culprits for recent increases in flaring due to less available storage for natural gas. Even more concerning, 75% of the money will be kept by the EPA to be create a slush fund for community grants and ineffective methane reduction programs.

Lavish grants and tax credits for electric vehicles

Despite decades of tax credits for electric vehicles, the vast majority of Americans still prefer to drive traditional cars. Worse, these credits have disproportionately benefitted households with incomes well above average, invalidating arguments that tax credits help low-income Americans afford to make the switch. The reconciliation bill includes nearly \$30 billion in pork for electric vehicles, extends the existing \$7,500 tax credit through 2031, *and* creates an extra credit for union-made vehicles.

More than \$100 billion (with a b!) in expensive, ineffective climate programs

Reconciliation appropriates billions to a slew of programs aimed at greenhouse gas emissions, from building efficiency to climate research. For example, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriates \$27.5 billion to the EPA (more than three times its annual budget) to pay for any manner of GHG reduction program it wants. Even if the American people were willing to pay for these programs, which polling consistently disproves, even the most extravagant spending wouldn't stop climate change. According to globally accepted climate data models, even eliminating all U.S. fossil fuel consumption within the decade would cut average temperatures less than two-tenths of a degree by 2100.

Why reconciliation matters:

Expensive energy hurts poor Americans the most, and the cost of energy affects the cost of everything we buy. Nearly a third of Americans have some level of difficulty paying their energy bills each month. As highlighted by a recent lawsuit by The Two Hundred, a left-wing civil rights organization suing California for its regressive environmental policies, anti-energy policies particularly harm minority communities.

Additionally, restricting America's responsible energy producers worsens global pollution *and* greenhouse gas emissions. Policies that restrict American energy force us to import oil from polluting countries with lax environmental standards, unstable governments, and poor human rights records. We won't stop needing affordable, reliable energy to survive and thrive — so we should embrace our nation's global leadership in clean air and proudly produce the energy we need domestically to help reduce pollution.



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