BIDEN’S “AMERICA LAST” ENERGY POLICY

During one of President Trump’s final weeks in office (Dec. 27 – Jan. 2), the U.S. did not import crude oil from Saudi Arabia for the first time in 35 years, marking newfound American energy independence. Unfortunately, in his first week in office, President Biden undermined America’s economy, our energy security and national security and our Canadian confidence in the U.S. as an energy partner with his executive order to cancel the Keystone XL Pipeline.

- The immediate impact of Biden’s decision to shut down construction of the Keystone XL pipeline project was that more than 1,000 men and women lost their jobs. Longer term, over 10,000 jobs and $1.6 billion in gross wages that were planned will now not come to fruition.
  - Ron Berringer, a second-generation pipeline worker from Clarinda, Iowa, was one of those immediately laid off. He said his future looks "gloomy." As a result of the layoff, he can no longer afford to replace his work truck, and will have to reduce the financial help he sends to his two adult daughters.
  - Tyler Noel, from Aberdeen, South Dakota, is another worker fired because of Biden’s actions, and finds John Kerry’s suggestion that “they can make solar panels” or other renewables hollow. Tyler said, "I'm a foreman. My trade is in labor. The money is so much better running a crew. I wouldn't be anywhere near that doing a wind turbine, which I've never done."
- In addition to the damage to America’s job market, Biden’s actions have killed jobs in Canada and strained ties with one of our closest allies. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney has called for "proportional economic consequences" and called the decision, “a deeply disturbing precedent for any future projects and collaboration between our two nations.”
- Russia and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), on the other hand, are the beneficiaries financially and politically in their regions. Because of Biden’s energy policies Russia has also gained serious political leverage over the European nations that are now more dependent on Russian natural gas.

Unless Biden’s moratorium on federal oil and gas leasing are overturned and his plans to ban hydraulic fracking stopped, the U.S. will return to its position of energy dependence weakening our national security and undermining our economy.

- Due to the shale revolution and lifting the ban on oil and gas exports, the U.S. has gone from on oil exported from the Middle East to the world’s largest oil and gas producer.
- Banning fracking, as Biden has promised to do, would eliminate 19 million jobs between 2021-2025, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- The American Petroleum Institute estimated that banning oil and natural gas development on federal lands would cause nearly 1 million Americans to lose their jobs and that the U.S. would spend $500 billion importing gas from places like Russia.
Americans are already experiencing the financial burden of Biden’s policies as they face skyrocketing gas and energy prices that is helping drive inflation. Rather than take action to lower energy costs, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm doubled down on the Administration’s bad decisions by suggesting that the U.S. might consider reinstating the ban on exporting U.S. crude oil which would cause prices to rise even higher. President Biden’s order to release 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the equivalent of about three days supply of gasoline, was more about trying to improve his poll numbers than it was about lowering energy costs.

Under Biden’s policies, American families will face significantly higher household energy costs this winter and be much more susceptible to cold-related illnesses because they can’t afford to keep their homes adequately heated. Higher energy costs mean higher inflation, leaving American families facing higher costs for food, medicine, rent, clothing and other goods and services. President Biden should reverse these poor decisions, streamline the oil and gas development permitting process which will spur U.S. economic growth, create new jobs, lower the cost of living for all Americans and enhance our national security while continuing to lead the world in reduction of green house gas emissions.

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