

# RNC Research BRIEFING

## McAuliffe's Myth

### ***Terry McAuliffe Insists He Did Not Seek Or Receive Special Favors From Clinton And Obama Insiders; The Facts Prove Otherwise***

Throughout The GreenTech Scandal, McAuliffe Has Insisted That He Did Not Seek To Profit From His Political Connections, Saying "I Never Asked For Any Preferential Treatment, Nor Did I Ever Expect To Receive Any." "McAuliffe said the visa program has bipartisan support but that he was among 'many business leaders and political officials from both parties' who expressed frustration about the program's bureaucracy. 'I never asked for any preferential treatment, nor did I ever expect to receive any.'" (Andrew Cain, "McAuliffe Said He Sought No Special Visa Treatment," [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), 8/4/13)

### **MCAULIFFE REPEATEDLY ENLISTED HIS CLINTON AND OBAMA CONNECTIONS TO HELP GREENTECH**

#### ***McAuliffe Pulled Strings With Vice President Joe Biden To Get A White House Meeting***

According To A GreenTech Attorney, The Company's White House Meeting Was "Set Up Through Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr." After McAuliffe Contacted Someone In The VP's Office. "He reached out to Ms. Napolitano and to a White House liaison to clean energy companies — a meeting that a GreenTech lawyer said was set up through Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. 'Terry knew somebody in Biden's office and that's how the meeting got coordinated,' said the lawyer, Stephen Yale-Loehr." (Trip Gabriel, "Hopeful's Connections Jolt Bitter Virginia Race," [The New York Times](#), 8/9/13)

**McAuliffe Met With Greg Nelson At The White Office Of Public Engagement.** "However, both McAuliffe and White House both downplayed the significance of the meeting with Greg Nelson, who at the time worked in the White House Office of Public Engagement." (Ryan Nobles, "White House Downplays Significance Of McAuliffe Greentech Meeting," [NBC 12 Decision Virginia](#), 8/7/13)

- **Nelson Is The Same White House Official Who Helped Solyndra Obtain Federal Funding.** "Christian Gronet, the Chairman of Solyndra, met with Greg Nelson, from the White House Office of Public Engagement on Sept. 22, 2009." (Jim Snyder, "FBI Raids Bankrupt Solyndra As Lawmakers Question Panel Maker's Finances," [Bloomberg](#), 9/9/11)

**According To Virginia Economic Development Partnership Emails, GreenTech's Business Plan Stated That It Was Planning To Apply For A Federal Loan.** "The DOE incentive program for advanced technology vehicles manufacturing is open to new automotive manufacturers and may be a source of

capital. The business plan indicates that an application package is being prepared and may be submitted by the end of [REDACTED]." (Jeffrey M Anderson, [Email to Sandi McNinch, Mike Lehmkuhler, Robert McClintock and Roy Dahlquist](#), 11/19/09)

### ***McAuliffe Used Hillary Clinton's Brother As A Prop To Oversee Investor Recruitment***

**McAuliffe Hired Anthony Rodham, Hillary Clinton's Brother, To Oversee Investor Recruitment For GreenTech.** "Mr. McAuliffe's GreenTech career — he resigned as chairman last December to focus on his campaign — fits a pattern of tying into the Clinton network. His old friend Bill Clinton attended the ribbon cutting at GreenTech's Mississippi plant in July 2012. Mr. McAuliffe hired Anthony Rodham, Mrs. Clinton's younger brother, to oversee investor recruitment." (Trip Gabriel, "Hopeful's Connections Jolt Bitter Virginia Race," [The New York Times](#), 8/9/13)

**But Company Lawyers Wrote Rodham's Important Emails And He Was Seldom In The Office, According To Company Insiders.** "But if GreenTech thought the Clinton connection would help with financing, Mr. Rodham, according to current and former GreenTech executives, did not play a key role. Company lawyers have been known to write his important e-mails. A former senior employee said Mr. Rodham was almost never in the office, a glass tower next to the Tysons Galleria mall here in Northern Virginia." (Trip Gabriel, "Hopeful's Connections Jolt Bitter Virginia Race," [The New York Times](#), 8/9/13)

- **Former GreenTech Executive: "I Don't Recall Seeing Him On E-Mail Chains, On Conference Calls; I Don't Recall Him Having Any Material Involvement Whatsoever."** "A former executive who worked in the office shared by GreenTech and Gulf Coast, where Mr. Rodham held the title of president, spoke of rarely spotting him. "I don't recall seeing him on e-mail chains, on conference calls; I don't recall him having any material involvement whatsoever," said the former executive, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect relationships with other GreenTech figures. (Trip Gabriel, "Hopeful's Connections Jolt Bitter Virginia Race," [The New York Times](#), 8/9/13)

### ***Secretary Janet Napolitano "Popped In" On McAuliffe's Meeting With USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas***

**In 2011, McAuliffe Met With U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Service Director Alejandro Mayorkas – A Current Obama Nominee For A Top Homeland Security Position.** "President Obama's pick for the No. 2 job at the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged Thursday that he had met with prominent Democrat Terry McAuliffe, who wanted to complain about the agency's slow visa application process." (Ben Pershing and Tom Hamburger, "Homeland Security Deputy Nominee Says He Didn't Give Terry McAuliffe Special Treatment," [The Washington Post](#), 7/25/13)

- **McAuliffe Has Attempted To Dismiss The Meeting As Routine.** "Earlier this week, McAuliffe spokesman Josh Schwerin said the inspector general's probe 'does not involve Terry.' On Thursday, Schwerin described the meeting as a routine effort by McAuliffe to help his business. 'Terry, like many business and political officials from both parties, was frustrated with the bureaucratic pace of the investment program,' Schwerin said. 'As was made clear today, there has been widespread frustration inside and outside USCIS about the bureaucracy there, and Terry was among those who expressed frustration with that bureaucracy.'" (Ben Pershing and Tom Hamburger, "Homeland Security Deputy Nominee Says He Didn't Give Terry McAuliffe Special Treatment," [The Washington Post](#), 7/25/13)

**According To GreenTech President Charles Wang, Who Also Attended The Meeting, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano "Popped In" On The Mayorkas Meeting.** "As their meeting was wrapping up, Ms. Napolitano popped into the room to say hello, Mr. Wang said. Later, Mr. Mayorkas issued a favorable ruling that cleared the way for GreenTech to recruit more foreign investors." (Trip Gabriel, "Hopeful's Connections Jolt Bitter Virginia Race," [The New York Times](#), 8/9/13)

**McAuliffe Had Also Sent A Letter To Napolitano In December Of 2010 Asking Her To Expedite Gulf Coast Funds Management's EB-5 Petitions And To Allow The Company To Expand The Number Of States In Which It Operated.** "GCFM's motion to reopen should be approved as soon as possible so that it can fund GTA's operations and job creation in Virginia and Tennessee. USCIS should also expedite adjudication of all EB-5 petitions for investors in Project Mastiff." (Terry McAuliffe, [Letter To Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano](#), 12/15/10)

### ***McAuliffe Also Involved Senator Mark Warner And Then-Governor Tim Kaine***

**In 2010, McAuliffe Dropped Virginia Sen. Mark Warner's Name In An Email To A Homeland Security Official, Warning "You Should Be Aware That Senator Warner And Other Members Of Congress Have Made Inquiries On This Project."** "I have been extremely frustrated by the USCIS approval process which has delayed our business plan and job creation efforts. The major delay was caused by incorrect information being given to us by USCIS officials regarding the extension process. You should be aware that Senator Warner and other Members of Congress have made inquiries on this project." (Terry McAuliffe, [Email To Douglas A. Smith](#), 7/28/10)

**GreenTech Asked Then-Gov. Tim Kaine, Who Was Also Serving As Obama's DNC Chair, To Write A Letter To Napolitano Supporting Gulf Coast Funds' Request To Expand Its Operations To Virginia.** "We further understand that GTA has asked Governor Kaine to write a letter to Secretary Napolitano expressing strong support for the extension of the reach of that Regional Center into Virginia." (Jeffrey M Anderson, Memorandum To The Honorable Patrick O. Gottschalk, [Virginia Economic Development Partnership](#), 11/19/09)

### ***U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services Employees Got The Message That Gulf Coast Funding And GreenTech Were "Well Connected"***

**U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services Employees Noted That GreenTech And Gulf Coast Funds Management Were "Well Connected" When Discussing How To Deal With The Firms.** "The last note I would like to highlight, and not that I think it matters because it shouldn't impact how we do our job, but from a political standpoint this RC is "well connected." The Principal is the brother of former First Lady and Senator and current Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. The Chairman of Greentech Automotive is Terence (Terry) McAuliffe who has worked for the DNC and both Clinton Presidential Campaigns. There is a long history with these cases which included an inquiry from Terry McAuliffe to the Secretary of Homeland Security when USCIS denied an amendment for Gulf Coast Funds Management, LLC a few years back. Needless to say, a lot of folks were involved with that inquiry." ([USCIS Email](#), 11/19/12, p 10-11)

## **DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS SHOW THAT GREENTECH RECEIVED SPECIAL TREATMENT**

### ***Mayorkas Demanded Control Over An Appeals Office Opinion To Benefit GreenTech***

**Alejandro Mayorkas Attempted To Take Control Over A USCIS Administrative Appeals Office Opinion To Benefit Gulf Coast And GreenTech, Stating He Would Write The Opinion Himself.** "But Mr. Grassley, citing whistleblowers, wrote in a letter dated August 9 that in the summer of 2011, while USCIS's appeals office was drafting an opinion on a visa application from Gulf Coast Funds Management, 'you went beyond merely monitoring or influencing the process, seeking to personally take control of the opinion. In a meeting of USCIS employees, including [appeals office] staff, you allegedly said: 'Give it to me, I'll write the f--ing thing myself.'" DHS is currently investigating whether Mr. Mayorkas used undue influence in pushing through a visa application for Gulf Coast after it had been denied and an appeal

rejected. Gulf Coast processes the visas on behalf of GreenTech Automotive, which Mr. McAuliffe founded in 2009.” (David Sherfinski, “E-mails: ‘Political pressure’ in Gulf Coast visa case,” [The Washington Times](#), 8/9/13)

- **Mayorkas: “Give It To Me, I’ll Write The F–Ing Thing Myself.”** (David Sherfinski, “E-Mails: ‘Political Pressure’ In Gulf Coast Visa Case,” [The Washington Times](#), 8/9/13)

### ***Internal DHS Documents Show That McAuliffe And Anthony Rodham Had Extensive And Unusual Interaction With Mayorkas And Other Top DHS Officials***

**Internal DHS Documents “Show That Mayorkas And Other Senior DHS Officials Had A Dozen E-Mail And Telephone Contacts” With McAuliffe, Rodham And Other Representatives.** “The documents show that Mayorkas and other senior DHS officials had a dozen e-mail and telephone contacts with McAuliffe, Rodham, and other representatives of GreenTech and Gulf Coast.” (Tom Hamburger and Ben Pershing, “Company With Ties To Terry McAuliffe Is Under SEC Investigation,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/2/13)

- **The Documents “Counter The Impression” Left By Mayorkas In His Congressional Testimony That He Had Limited Interaction With McAuliffe.** “The documents counter the impression left last week by a top U.S. immigration official, Alejandro Mayorkas, who testified in front of a Senate panel that he met with McAuliffe on one occasion ‘and that was the extent of the interaction.’” (Tom Hamburger and Ben Pershing, “Company With Ties To Terry McAuliffe Is Under SEC Investigation,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/2/13)

**Whistleblowers Have Indicated That The Level Of Access Enjoyed By McAuliffe And GreenTech Was “Extremely Irregular.”** “Whistleblowers from within USCIS have indicated to me that this level of detailed interaction with a regional center’s attorney regarding specific visa applications is extremely irregular.” (Senator Charles Grassley, [Letter To Alejandro Mayorkas](#), 7/31/13)

### ***Career USCIS Employees Expressed Concern That Political Pressure Was Playing A Role In Helping GreenTech And Gulf Coast***

**A USCIS Employee Expressed Concern That They Were “Setting Ourselves Up For A Fall” By Pushing To Approve Gulf Coast’s Application “Based Upon Politics Instead Of Eligibility Under The Law.”** “If there are new aspects of this situation that we are unaware of, and unresolved material issues that we are unaware of, then we are setting ourselves up for a fall by pushing to approve these cases. We simply cannot approve based upon politics instead of eligibility under the law.” ([USCIS Email](#), 8/16/11)

**The Employee Said Mayorkas Was Facing “Political Pressure” On The Gulf Coast Case.**

“[REDACTED]also told me that AAO had discovered some add’l dirt on GCFM and that the decision was probably not going to play out as Ali had hoped given his political pressure to overturn the previous draft.” ([USCIS Email](#), 8/16/11)