



Running On Empty

With The 2014 Election On The Line, Obama's Energy Allies Are Nowhere To Be Found

Obama's Energy Policies Will Be A Focus In The 2014 Midterm Elections, "As Democrats From Energy-Dependent States Find Themselves Squeezed Between Economic And Environmental Concerns." "Energy advocates have staunchly opposed Obama's proposed emissions limits on new and existing power plants, and accuse him of dallying on approval for the Keystone XL pipeline. The issue promises to play a prominent role in the 2014 midterm elections, as Democrats from energy-dependent states find themselves squeezed between economic and environmental concerns." (Josh Lederman, "Obama Admin Drives Ahead With New Cleaner Gas Rule," [The Associated Press](#), 3/3/14)

Once Obama's "Staunchest Allies," Vulnerable Democrats In Congress Are Running From Obama's Energy Policies. "President Barack Obama is counting on Senate Democrats to help approve his legislative agenda during his final years in office. And though they are his staunchest allies on most economic issues, many Democratic senators are breaking with him on key issues in very public ways. From trade to Iran sanctions, the Keystone XL pipeline, Obamacare, the National Security Agency and energy policy, Senate Democrats seem unusually comfortable criticizing the president, with only minimal concerns about repercussions from the White House." (Burgess Everett, "Senate Democrats Break From Obama," [Politico](#), 2/2/14)

- **In Some States, Democrats Are Even Intentionally Highlighting The Contrasts In An Effort To Save Their Own Jobs.** "Democrats from energy-producing states are likely to whack the administration's energy policies and red-state Democrats up for reelection in 2014 are worried about Obamacare fallout. In some instances, the contrasts between vulnerable Senate Democrats and the White House appear to be orchestrated to counter Obama's low approval rates in red states where incumbents will face voters this fall, congressional aides in both parties suggest." (Burgess Everett, "Senate Democrats Break From Obama," [Politico](#), 2/2/14)

AFTER VOTING FOR THE EPA ADMINISTRATOR, DEMOCRATS ARE NOW ON THE RUN FROM NEW EPA REGULATIONS

Last Week, The EPA Issued Strict Emission Regulations For Cars And Trucks. "The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday issued stricter emissions standards for cars and trucks that limit the amount of sulfur that can be used in gasoline." (Laura Barron-Lopez, "EPA Announces New Sulfur Emission Limits," [The Hill](#), 3/3/14)

"E.P.A. Officials Estimate That The New Regulation Will Raise The Cost Of Gasoline By About Two-Thirds Of One Cent Per Gallon And Add About \$75 To The Sticker Price Of Cars." (Coral Davenport, "E.P.A. Set To Reveal Tough New Sulfur Emissions Rule," [The New York Times](#), 3/3/14)

- **Oil Refiners Say The New Regulation Will Cost The Industry \$10 Billion And Raise Gasoline By Up To 9 Cents Per Gallon.** “But oil refiners say that it will cost their industry \$10 billion and raise gasoline costs by up to 9 cents per gallon.” (Coral Davenport, “E.P.A. Set To Reveal Tough New Sulfur Emissions Rule,” [The New York Times](#), 3/3/14)

The Regulation Will Put An “Undue Burden” On The Oil Refinery Industry. “Oil refiners protest that the new rule will put an undue burden on their industry. Charles Drevna, president of the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, which lobbies for the oil-refining industry, said that the new regulation comes on top of a series of additional burdensome regulations.” (Coral Davenport, “New EPA Gasoline Rule Could Raise Prices And Spark Political Pushback,” [The National Journal](#), 3/7/13)

- **“The Rule Will Require Oil Refiners To Install Expensive New Equipment To Clean Sulfur Out Of Gasoline And Force Automakers To Install New, Cleaner-Burning Engine Technology.”** (Coral Davenport, “E.P.A. Set To Reveal Tough New Sulfur Emissions Rule,” [The New York Times](#), 3/3/14)

Democrat Lawmakers Say They Oppose Moving Forward With The Regulation...

The EPA Regulation Put Several Red-State Democrats At Odds With Obama. “The rule also puts the White House and EPA at apparent odds with several red-state Democrats. Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Mark Begich (D-Alaska) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) asked the White House to punt the rule just last week. They were joined by 11 Democratic representatives who sent a letter to the Office of Management and Budget asking it to hold the rule.” (Erica Martinson, “With Gasoline Rule, W.H. Picks A Side,” [Politico](#), 3/29/13)

- **A Group Of Democrat Senators Sent A Letter To Obama, Raising Concerns Over The Regulation.** “This week, Senator Heidi Heitkamp sent a letter to President Obama regarding the proposed Tier 3 gasoline standards that are currently at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This rule will potentially cost gasoline refiners billions of dollars in capital and compliance costs, costs that would be ultimately passed on to the consumer and would hamper U.S. refiners’ global competitiveness. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not provided clear scientific justification that Tier 3 regulations are necessary and will have clear benefits to public health that outweigh the costs. Joining Senator Heitkamp on the letter were: Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Mark Begich (D-AL) and Joe Manchin (D-WV).” (Senator Heidi Heitkamp, [Press Release](#), 3/21/13)

In 2013, Sixteen House Democrats And Five In The Senate Appealed To The White House To Delay The EPA Proposal. “Sixteen Democrats in the House and five in the Senate have appealed to the White House in recent days to delay the proposal for a year, while at least 60 congressional Republicans have objected to it.” (Juliet Eilperin, “Obama Administration Moves Ahead With Sweeping Rules Requiring Cleaner Gasoline,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/28/13)

...But Democrats, Including Those Supposedly Concerned With The Regulation, Voted To Confirm The Regulation's Champion As Head Of The EPA

In 2012, Then-Assistant EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Argued Forcefully Against Delaying Tier 3 Regulations. “In March, 2012, Assistant EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, testifying before an Energy and Commerce subcommittee, argued against a proposed bill that would have delayed any Tier 3 proposal while an interagency committee studied the issue for nine months. Committee members expressed concern that tighter fuel regulations would only boost already high gasoline prices. ‘Let me be clear — programs to reduce smog and protect public health are not the cause of high fuel prices,’ McCarthy said at the time. McCarthy has since been nominated by Obama to replace Jackson as EPA administrator.” (Gary Gentile, “Looming Rule On Sulfur In Gasoline Pits Oil Industry Against Automakers,” [Inside Energy](#), 4/1/13)

Despite McCarthy's Vocal Advocacy For The Regulation, Nearly Every Senate Democrat Voted To Confirm Her As EPA Administrator In 2013. (McCarthy Nomination, [Roll Call Vote #180](#), Confirmed 59-40: R 6-39; D 53-1, 7/18/13)

EVEN DEMOCRATS & OBAMA'S CLOSEST ALLIES AREN'T BACKING HIM ON THE CONTINUED KEYSTONE DELAYS

***The Washington Post* Headline: "New Post-ABC News Poll: Keystone XL Project Overwhelmingly Favored By Americans"** (Juliet Eilperin And Scott Clement, "New Post-ABC News Poll: Keystone XL Project Overwhelmingly Favored By Americans," [The Washington Post](#), 3/7/14)

The Majority Of Democrats Want The Keystone XL Approved. "Support for Keystone is highest among Republicans, with 82 percent backing it. But majorities of independents and Democrats also want it approved, at 65 and 51 percent, respectively." (Juliet Eilperin And Scott Clement, "New Post-ABC News Poll: Keystone XL Project Overwhelmingly Favored By Americans," [The Washington Post](#), 3/7/14)

- **51 Percent Of Democrats Support The Keystone Pipeline, While 32 Percent Oppose It.** ([The Washington Post/ABC News Poll](#), 1002A, MoE 3.5%, 2/27-3/2/14)

Americans Believe Keystone Would "Produce Significant Economic Benefits." "The findings also show that the public thinks the massive project, which aims to ship 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta and the northern Great Plains to refineries on the Gulf Coast, will produce significant economic benefits." (Juliet Eilperin And Scott Clement, "New Post-ABC News Poll: Keystone XL Project Overwhelmingly Favored By Americans," [The Washington Post](#), 3/7/14)

- **85 Percent Of Americans Say The Keystone Pipeline Would Create Jobs, While 10 Percent Say It Would Not.** ([The Washington Post/ABC News Poll](#), 1002A, MoE 3.5%, 2/27-3/2/14)
- **81 Percent Of Democrats Say The Keystone Pipeline Would Create Jobs, While 15 Percent It Would Not.** ([The Washington Post/ABC News Poll](#), 1002A, MoE 3.5%, 2/27-3/2/14)

Obama's Former Advisors Are Calling For Keystone's Approval

Marcia McNutt, The Former Head Of The U.S. Geological Survey From 2009 To 2013: "I Believe It Is Time To Move Forward On The Keystone XL Pipeline." "Marcia McNutt, who headed USGS from 2009 to 2013 and now serves as editor-in-chief of the journal Science, wrote in an editorial, 'I believe it is time to move forward on the Keystone XL pipeline' in exchange for getting Canadian officials to reduce their oil industry's carbon emissions. McNutt, who also served as the Interior Department's senior science adviser, is the latest former Obama administration official to come out in favor of the pipeline in recent weeks." (Juliet Eilperin, "Former USGS Head Endorses Keystone Pipeline," [The Washington Post](#), 2/20/14)

"Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Says He Believes The Keystone XL Oil Pipeline From Canada Should Be Built." (Matthew Daly, "Salazar: Build Keystone XL Pipeline," [The Associated Press](#), 2/5/14)

- **Salazar: Keystone Could Be A "Win-Win" That Benefits U.S. Energy Security While Boosting Conservation Efforts.** "Salazar told The Associated Press that the pipeline could be a 'win-win' project that benefits U.S. energy security while boosting conservation efforts in Montana, South Dakota and other affected states." (Matthew Daly, "Salazar: Build Keystone XL Pipeline," [The Associated Press](#), 2/5/14)

Former Obama National Security Advisor Tom Donilon: "I Would" Recommend That Obama Approve Keystone Pipeline. WALTER ISAACSON: "I know you're not in the administration anymore, so maybe you could answer. Would you recommend for the Keystone pipeline if you were there?" DONILON: "You know, I would." (Tom Donilon, [Remarks At Aspen Institute Forum](#), Washington, D.C.,)

DEMOCRATS AGREE: OBAMA'S WAR ON COAL WOULD BE "DEVASTATING"

***The Wall Street Journal* Headline: "The Future Of Coal: New Pollution Rules Choke Old Power Plants"** (Rebecca Smith And John W. Miller, "The Future Of Coal: New Pollution Rules Choke Old Power Plants," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/7/14)

In September 2013, The Obama Administration Announced The "First Federal Carbon Limits On The Nation's Power Companies." "The Obama administration on Friday announced that it was not backing down from a confrontation with the coal industry and would press ahead with enacting the first federal carbon limits on the nation's power companies." (Michael Shear, "Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits," [The New York Times](#), 9/20/13)

- **As A Result Of New Environmental Regulations, Dozens Of Coal-Fired Plants Are Likely To Close Over The Next Decade.** "Now the government and utilities are taking on what may be a stiffer challenge: reducing pollutants whose effects are harder to see, like mercury and greenhouse gases. As a result, dozens of coal-fired plants are likely to close over the next decade as utilities conclude it isn't cost-effective to bring old coal generators into compliance with environmental rules." (Rebecca Smith And John W. Miller, "The Future Of Coal: New Pollution Rules Choke Old Power Plants," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/7/14)
- **"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Long-Awaited Guidelines Are Expected To Make It More Difficult For New Coal-Fired Power Plants To Be Built."** (Valerie Volcovici, "U.S. EPA Sets First-Ever Curbs On Power Plant Pollution," [Reuters](#), 9/20/13)

The EPA Plans To Announce Regulations On Existing Coal Plants, "A Far More Costly And Controversial Step." "Ms. McCarthy also announced a yearlong schedule for an environmental listening tour — a series of meetings across the country with the public, the industry and environmental groups as the agency works to establish emissions limits on existing power plants — a far more costly and controversial step. Mr. Obama has told officials he wants to see greenhouse gas limits on existing and new power plants by the time he leaves office in 2017." (Michael Shear, "Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits," [The New York Times](#), 9/20/13)

Harvard University's Daniel P. Schrag, One Of Obama's Advisers On Climate Change, Said "A War On Coal Is Exactly What's Needed." "A Harvard University geochemist who serves as a scientific adviser to President Obama is urging the administration to wage a 'war on coal.' 'The one thing the president really needs to do now is to begin the process of shutting down the conventional coal plants,' Daniel P. Schrag, a member of the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology, told the New York Times. 'Politically, the White House is hesitant to say they're having a war on coal. On the other hand, a war on coal is exactly what's needed.'" (Aaron Blake, "Obama Science Adviser Calls For 'War On Coal,'" [The Washington Post](#), 6/25/13)

Democrats Know The EPA Proposals Are "Simply Unobtainable"

10 House Democrats Voted To Override The EPA's Rule On Carbon Limits For Coal-Fired Electricity Plants. "The House voted Thursday to override a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule limiting carbon emissions from future coal-fired electricity plants. Members passed the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, H.R. 3826, in a mostly partisan 229-183 vote; 10 Democrats voted for passage." (Pete Kasperowicz, "House Votes To Block EPA Regs On Coal-Fired Electricity Plants," [The Hill](#), 3/6/14)

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV): The EPA Regulations "Will Have Devastating Impacts To The Coal Industry And Our Economy." "'Never before has the federal government forced an industry to do something that is technologically impossible,' said Senator Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat. 'Forcing coal to meet the same emissions standards as gas when experts know that the required

technology is not operational on a commercial scale makes absolutely no sense and will have devastating impacts to the coal industry and our economy.” (Mark Drajem, “New Coal Plants Must Limit Carbon Pollution Under EPA Regulation,” [Bloomberg Businessweek](#), 9/20/13)

- **Manchin: “It’s Just Common Sense That Regulations Should Be Based On What Is Technologically Possible, And Unfortunately, What The EPA Has Proposed Is Simply Unobtainable.”** (Senator Joe Manchin, [Press Release](#), 3/6/14)

FLASHBACK: THIS ISN’T THE FIRST TIME DEMOCRATS HAVE CHANGED THEIR TUNE ON ENERGY RIGHT BEFORE AN ELECTION

During His 2008 Campaign, Obama Pledged To Impose A Cap And Trade Program On Carbon Emissions. “One of Barack Obama’s promises during the 2008 campaign involved ‘cap and trade,’ the system environmentalists adored for regulating gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Obama promised that to fight global warming, he’d ‘set a hard cap’ on carbon emissions with the goal of reducing them 80 percent by 2050, with 10-year goals along the way. Under a cap and trade system, companies are capped on how much carbon they can emit, but can trade with other companies for more permits if they need them.” (Matt Negrin, “Whatever Happened To Cap And Trade?” [ABC News](#), 7/17/12)

However, Senate Democrats Walked Away From Obama’s Cap-And-Trade Energy Bill Due To 2010 Election Concerns

In 2010, Senate Democratic Leaders Shelved Efforts For A Cap-And-Trade Energy Bill. “Senate Democratic leaders Thursday shelved their effort to cap greenhouse-gas emissions as part of a broad energy bill, putting aside indefinitely a centerpiece of President Barack Obama’s ambitious effort to transform the way Americans produce and consume energy.” (Stephen Power, “Senate Halts Effort To Cap CO2 Emissions,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/23/10)

Even Before Sen. Harry Reid Dropped The Cap-And-Trade Bill, “With Political Will Running Short Before The Midterm Election,” Senate Democrats Showed “Little Appetite” For The Bill. “With political will running short before the midterm election, the Senate has shown little appetite for a broader, economy-wide climate change bill as passed by the House almost exactly one year ago.” (Lisa Mascaro and Richard Simon, “Senate Democrats Poised To Start Energy Bill,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 6/27/10)

House Members “Worried About Losing Votes In November Over Far-Reaching Climate Change Legislation,” Even Though The Senate Didn’t Pass The Bill. “On the House side, Speaker Nancy Pelosi is taking heat from members in conservative districts. They are worried about losing votes in November over far-reaching climate change legislation, even though the Senate isn’t taking up the House’s more comprehensive version of the bill. Members will still probably face hostile campaign ads based on their votes.” (Gail Russell Chaddock, “Harry Reid: Senate Will Abandon Cap-And-Trade Energy Reform,” [Christian Science Monitor](#), 7/22/10)