



# Obama's Tar Heel Blues

***As Obama Returns To North Carolina On His Jobs Tour, A Reflection On His DNC Speech's Promises And How (Not) Far He Has Come To Fulfilling Them***

**Today, Obama Is Back In North Carolina As Part Of His Middle Class Jobs And Opportunity Tour – His First Visit To Charlotte Since His 2012 DNC Convention.** “President Barack Obama is making his first visit to North Carolina’s largest city since accepting his party’s re-election nomination there last September at the Democratic National Convention. The White House announced Obama will be in Charlotte this coming Thursday on the latest stop of his ‘Middle-Class Jobs and Opportunity Tour.’” (“President Obama Returning To NC For Economic Tour,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/31/13)

## **OBAMA MADE PROMISES TO HELP IMPLEMENT AN AMERICAN ENERGY BOOM**

**FLASHBACK: In His 2012 DNC Speech In Charlotte, Obama Boasted About His Energy Policy, Including Oil And Gas Extraction.** OBAMA: “You can choose the path where we control more of our own energy. After 30 years of inaction, we raised fuel standards so that by the middle of the next decade, cars and trucks will go twice as far on a gallon of gas. We have doubled our use of renewable energy, and thousands of Americans have jobs today building wind turbines and long-lasting batteries. In the last year alone, we cut oil imports by 1 million barrels a day, more than any administration in recent history. And today the United States of America is less dependent on foreign oil than at any time in the last two decades. So now you have a choice between a strategy that reverses this progress or one that builds on it. We’ve opened millions of new acres for oil and gas exploration in the last three years, and we’ll open more.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At DNC Convention Speech](#), Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

## ***Obama Hasn't Lifted His Offshore Drilling Moratorium For North Carolina***

**Obama Is In North Carolina On A Jobs Tour Pit Stop Despite The Fact That He Has Not Lifted His Offshore Drilling Moratorium For The Atlantic – A Move That Would Help Create Thousands Of Jobs For North Carolina.** “Gov. Pat McCrory, on the heels of headlining a panel in Texas this week on offshore drilling, said opening up the Atlantic Ocean could ‘create thousands of jobs, produce much-needed revenue and move us closer to energy independence.’ But local officials are keeping a watchful eye on the possibility of drilling off North Carolina’s coast – even though it may be years out if likely at all. ... The reason it’s not likely to happen for a long time is because President Barack Obama’s five-year plan – from 2012 to 2017 – developed by the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

does not include the Atlantic or eastern Gulf of Mexico for offshore drilling or exploration.” (Molly Parker, “McCrary Adds Voice To Coastal Governors Who Want Offshore Drilling,” [Star News Online](#), 5/9/13)

**Obama Eliminated The Mid-Atlantic Planning Area – In Which North Carolina Sits – From Consideration For Oil And Gas Development Through 2017.** “On December 1, 2010, Secretary Salazar announced an updated oil and gas strategy for the OCS. The new strategy continued a moratorium for areas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and eliminated the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Planning Areas from consideration for potential sales and development through the 2017 planning horizon.” (“Outer Continental Shelf Oil And Gas Leasing Program: 2012-2017,” [U.S. Department Of Interior Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management](#), 7/12, p.2.1)

### ***And Obama Still Hasn't Approved The Keystone Pipeline – A Job-Creating Project Even Supported By North Carolina's Democrat Senator***

**Democrat Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) Co-Signed A Letter To Obama After The 2012 Election Pleading With Him To Put Politics Aside And Approve The Keystone Pipeline.** “Dear Mr. President: With the elections of 2012 behind us, we write to remind you of the continuing importance of the Keystone XL Pipeline. We want to work together to keep creating jobs, and Keystone XL is one vital piece of the puzzle. We would like to meet with you in the near future to discuss this important project. Setting politics aside: Nothing has changed about the thousands of jobs that Keystone XL will create. Nothing has changed about the energy security to be gained through an important addition to the existing pipeline network built with sound environmental stewardship and the best modern technology. Nothing has changed about the security to be gained from using more fuel produced at home and by a close and stable ally. And nothing has changed about the need for America to remain a place where businesses can still build things. We hope that you will follow through on your directive of March 22, 2012, to federal agencies to move forward vital energy infrastructure like Keystone XL.” (Sen. Kay Hagan Et. Al., [Letter To President Obama](#), 11/16/12)

**“The Obama Administration Is Unlikely To Make A Decision On The Canada-To-Nebraska Keystone XL Pipeline Until Late This Year As It Painstakingly Weighs The Project's Impact On The Environment And On Energy Security.”** “The Obama administration is unlikely to make a decision on the Canada-to-Nebraska Keystone XL pipeline until late this year as it painstakingly weighs the project's impact on the environment and on energy security, a U.S. official and analysts said on Friday. The decision may not be made until November, December or even early 2014, said a U.S. official, as President Barack Obama will not rush the process, which still has a number of stages to work through. One of those stages has not even begun yet and will run for months.” (Timothy Gardner, “Exclusive: U.S. Decision On Keystone XL Pipeline Seen Dragging Past Summer,” [Reuters](#), 5/10/13)

## **OBAMA MADE PROMISES TO RESTORE THE MIDDLE CLASS**

**FLASHBACK: In His 2012 DNC Speech In Charlotte, Obama Said “Ours Is A Fight To Restore The Values That Built The Largest Middle Class And The Strongest Economy The World Has Ever Known.”** OBAMA: “Ours is a fight to restore the values that built the largest middle class and the strongest economy the world has ever known.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At DNC Convention Speech](#), Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

### ***The Obama Economy's Tepid Growth Is Still Failing To Create Good Jobs And A Stronger Middle Class***

**“Nearly Two-Thirds Of Jobs Lost During The Recession Paid Middle-Class Wages, According To The National Employment Law Project. Yet Only 22 Percent Of Jobs Created Under Obama Are**

**Mid-Wage Occupations.** “Nearly two-thirds of jobs lost during the recession paid middle-class wages, according to the National Employment Law Project. Yet only 22 percent of jobs created under Obama are mid-wage occupations. That disparity is what Obama had in mind when he declared in his Inaugural Address, ‘We know that America thrives when every person can find independence and pride in their work, when the wages of honest labor liberate families from the brink of hardship.’” (Ron Fournier, “Middle Class Falls, Wall Street Rises...And Washington Dithers,” [National Journal](#), 5/31/13)

**“The Country's Tepid Growth In Its Gross Domestic Product Isn't Creating Enough Good Jobs To Build A Strong Middle Class.”** “The country's tepid growth in its gross domestic product isn't creating enough good jobs to build a strong middle class, according to a UCLA report released Wednesday. ‘Growth in GDP has been positive, but not exceptional,’ UCLA economists wrote in their quarterly Anderson Forecast. ‘Jobs are growing, but not rapidly enough to create good jobs for all.’ The report, which analyzed long-term trends of past recoveries, found that the long-anticipated ‘Great Recovery’ has not yet materialized.” (Ricardo Lopez, “UCLAS Anderson Forecast Paints Dismal Picture Of Economic Recovery,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 6/5/13)

**“When The Autopsy Is Written On The Death Of The Middle Class, The Current Lousy Economic Recovery Will Be A Major Contributing Factor.”** “When the autopsy is written on the death of the middle class, the current lousy economic recovery will be a major contributing factor, according to a new report. The job market's recovery from the Great Recession has been the slowest since World War II, and middle-income jobs lost during the recession are being replaced by low-wage McJobs.” (Mark Gongloff, “The Death Of The Middle Class Is Being Sped Up By The Anemic Recovery: Study,” [The Huffington Post](#), 6/5/13)

## **OBAMA MADE PROMISES TO RESTORE MANUFACTURING TO GREATNESS**

**FLASHBACK: In His 2012 DNC Speech In Charlotte, Obama Promised To Help Implement A Boom In Manufacturing.** OBAMA: “And after a decade of decline, this country created over half a million manufacturing jobs in the last two and a half years. And now you have a choice: We can give more tax breaks to corporations that ship jobs overseas, or we can start rewarding companies that open new plants and train new workers and create new jobs here, in the United States of America. We can help big factories and small businesses double their exports, and if we choose this path, we can create a million new manufacturing jobs in the next four years. You can make that happen. You can choose that future.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At DNC Convention Speech](#), Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

### ***America's Manufacturing Sector Is On The Decline And Showing Increasing Signs Of Weakness***

**Since Obama Took Office, Manufacturing Jobs Have Declined Nationally By 566,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 6/5/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, Manufacturing Jobs Have Declined In North Carolina By 37,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 6/5/13)

**The Month Of May Saw The Slowest Pace Of Manufacturing In Four Years, With The Third Straight Monthly Decline In The Sector.** “The pace of manufacturing slowed to nearly a four-year low in May as the global economy sagged and businesses reduced new orders and production. The gauge measuring factory activity fell to 49 percent last month, a decline from 50.7 in April, the first drop since November and only the second decline since June 2009 when it hit 45.8, the Institute for Supply Management reported on Monday. May is the third straight month the index has declined.” (Vicki Needham, “Manufacturing Drops To Nearly Four-Year Low,” [The Hill's On The Money](#), 6/3/13)