

Opening Statement of the Republican Leader McKinley

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change “The CLEAN Future Act: Industrial Climate Policies to Create Jobs and Support Working Communities”

March 18, 2021

As prepared for delivery

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE'RE HERE TODAY TO EXAMINE THE CLEAN FUTURE ACT.

THERE WAS A QUOTE USED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR WHEN, TO PARAPHRASE AN AMERICAN GENERAL: WE HAD “TO DESTROY THE TOWN TO SAVE IT.”

IT REMINDS ME OF THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THIS PROPOSAL. THE GOAL OF THE ACT IS TO DECARBONIZE THE U.S. ECONOMY BY 2050: NET-ZERO IN POWER SECTOR BY 2035, 80% BY 2030

INSODOING, WE WILL: DESTROY LIVELIHOODS, DECIMATE COMMUNITIES, INCREASE UTILITY BILLS, THREATEN THE STABILITY OF THE GRID AND WE WOULD STILL HAVE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SINCE THE REST OF THE WORLD ISN'T FOLLOWING SUIT.

LOOK, WE AGREE - WE NEED TO WORK TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS. BUT WE ALSO NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE WE RUSH INTO LEGISLATING.

TAKE A STEP BACK: KEEP IN MIND, IN 2020 60% OF OUR POWER CAME FROM COAL, GAS, AND OIL. IS IT REASONABLE TO UNDERTAKE THIS TRANSFORMATION OF THE ELECTRIC GRID, IN LESS THAN 14 YEARS?

LOOK AT SOLAR ENERGY...THEY PREDICT AGGRESSIVE GROWTH. QUADRUPLING IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS. INCREASES FROM 2.3% TO 9%. REMEMBER COAL AND GAS REPRESENT 60%.

ACCORDING TO THE UTILITIES WE'VE TALKED WITH, DECARBONIZING OUR POWER SECTOR BY 2035 – AND 80% BY 2030 – WOULD TAKE A MIRACLE, AND AT WHAT COST?

IT WILL INCREASE COSTS FOR FAMILIES WITH HIGHER UTILITY BILLS. ESTIMATE: \$2000 PER HOUSEHOLD ANNUALLY.

DESTROY JOBS: NOT JUST COAL MINERS AND PIPELINERS...BUT ALL THE DOWNSTREAM JOBS THAT RELY ON THEM. RAILROAD, BARGES, MACHINISTS, FABRICATORS - WHERE WILL THESE WORKERS GO – MANY OF WHOM ARE MAKING \$70K, \$80K, \$100K?

WE GET VAGUE PROMISES ABOUT MAKING SOLAR PANELS OR WIND MILLS. TERRY O'SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT OF LABORERS: *"IT'S PIE IN THE SKY BULLS--- ABOUT THESE GREEN JOBS BEING GOOD MIDDLE-CLASS JOBS, BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT."*

AS A RESULT, COMMUNITIES LIKE WELCH, WEST VIRGINIA, GILLETTE, WY, HAZARD, KY, CADIZ, OH. WILL BE CRUSHED.

NOT TO MENTION: WE WILL BE LEFT WITH A GRID THAT IS FAR LESS RELIABLE AND RESILIENT. WITH MORE FREQUENT BLACKOUTS AND BROWNOUTS. DIDN'T WE LEARN ANYTHING FROM CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS ABOUT HOW FRAGILE OUR GRID IS?

AND FOR WHAT GAIN...EVEN IF AMERICA TOTALLY DECARBONIZES, THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL STILL INCREASE CONSUMPTION OF FOSSIL FUELS. WE WILL STILL HAVE WILDFIRES, DROUGHTS AND FLOODING, HURRICANES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE WANT TO WORK IN A BIPARTISAN FASHION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

THIS COMMITTEE HAS DEMONSTRATED A HISTORY OF BIPARTISANSHIP. AND IF YOU'LL LET US, WE CAN DO IT AGAIN. LET'S NOT DESTROY THE VILLAGE TO SAVE IT.

I WANT TO WELCOME MR. KEVIN SUNDAY, OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHO IS TESTIFYING TODAY.

HE WILL EXPLAIN PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION...AND DISCUSS THE DEVASTATING IMPACT THIS LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE ON HIS STATE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO TODAY'S CONVERSATION, AND I YIELD BACK.