

Withdrawal from Paris Climate Treaty the Right Decision for American Workers, the Environment and Constitutional Governance

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We applaud President Trump for having the courage to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord agreed to by President Obama in 2016.

The agreement was a bad deal for the U.S. worker, a bad deal for U.S. industry, a bad deal for the environment and a bad deal for our system of government.

It would have required the United States to decrease its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 to help reduce the perceived threat of global warming.

Despite requiring a wrenching transformation of our economy that would cost millions of jobs, it would accomplish next to nothing even if you buy into all the dubious science upon which it is premised.

Truth in labeling laws really ought to apply to government action.

The accord is, in fact, more likely to increase carbon emissions than decrease them.

China, the world's largest gas emitter, for example, committed under the Paris accord to hit its peak greenhouse emissions level by 2030. This assumes China would meet this commitment. If you believe that, you probably also believe your Comcast repairman will arrive within the four-hour window promised.

India has a similar sweet deal.

In response to President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris accord, both countries bravely re-committed to continue increasing greenhouse gas emissions for another 13 years. What courage!

As if the economic consequences weren't bad enough, it would have threatened the environment here at home. It would have meant more ethanol, which does more environmental harm than good; more unsightly wind turbines, which Audubon estimates kills between 140,000-328,000 birds each year and more solar panels to despoil once-bucolic fields.

But the worst part of the Paris climate accord is the violence it would have inflicted on our system of government. Our Constitution requires that for treaties to be in force, they first be subject to the advice and consent of the United States Senate. This was never submitted to the Senate, and was imposed through executive fiat. That's why it became known as an accord. For this reason alone, the U.S. should have withdrawn from it.

Make no mistake, those corporate CEOs who resigned from President Trump's business advisory panels – Tesla's Elon Musk and Disney's Bob Iger – weren't just signaling indifference to the plight of the working class, but their contempt for the U.S. Constitution.

This is un-American.

Donald Trump made the right choice for the economy, the environment and for constitutional government.

He deserves our gratitude.