

Message

From: Thomas Pyle [REDACTED]@mail40.atl161.mcsv.net]
on behalf of Thomas Pyle [REDACTED]@ierdc.org]
Sent: 4/26/2017 12:29:39 PM
To: Koetze, William A [/O=CHEVRON/OU=AG01/cn=Recipients/[REDACTED]]
Subject: [**EXTERNAL**] Last Friday's Meeting



Bill,

I recently had a meeting that never happened during the Obama administration. Last Friday, I was invited to the White House to discuss energy policy, particularly the Paris Agreement on climate change.

As you know, President Trump is considering his next steps on the Paris Agreement. Though he promised during the campaign to get the United States (U.S.) out of the agreement, some in his administration have asked him to reconsider.

As President Trump weighs his decision on this important matter, I'm pleased that your Institute for Energy Research (IER) and American Energy Alliance (AEA) were invited to the White House to share our perspective. After all, our work was clearly reflected in the "America First" energy plan that candidate Trump promised to fight for and President Trump has worked hard to implement in his first few months in office.

My message to President Trump's team was simple and straightforward: keep your promise and withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement.

But I also explained that IER and AEA's position on this issue goes beyond the merits of simply keeping a campaign promise. We provided his team with a detailed roadmap of how best to do it. And we explained why it is so important that the U.S. not be saddled with former President Obama's international green fantasy.

The President needs to announce our intention to withdraw from the agreement and go through the necessary steps to do so. Anything short of that could pose a very real threat to his agenda of reforming the federal government and creating more economic opportunity for American families.

There are other options as well. President Trump could send the agreement to the Senate for ratification. You see, contrary to the Obama Administration's spin, the Paris Agreement isn't really just an agreement. Many other countries have formally recognized the agreement requires approval or consent of their respective legislative bodies and have taken steps to do so.

So, President Trump could submit the Paris Agreement to the Senate for ratification and let Congress decide whether to bind the United States to the international agreement. But even if Congress rejected the treaty, President Trump would still have to take the necessary steps to remove the U.S. from it.

I reminded President Trump's team that remaining in the agreement in any way means that he and future presidents will be required, by the very terms of the agreement, to ramp up U.S. commitments, not reduce them. In other words, it's not even possible to negotiate a "better deal" as some have argued.

Remaining in the agreement also keeps the U.S. on the hook for hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars to subsidize green energy projects in developing countries. The countries that stand to benefit from billions are certainly not going to agree to anything that would mean a reduction in those payments.

If President Trump chooses to keep the U.S. in the Paris Agreement, it could jeopardize many of his domestic regulatory reform items and hamper his ability to make good on his promise to revive the American economy. That's because the national environmental lobby is certain to sue the Trump Administration to stop these necessary reforms arguing that the U.S. won't be able to adequately meet our commitment to the Paris Agreement if Trump undoes the harmful and unnecessary Obama era regulations. They may not ultimately prevail, but they will certainly stall President Trump's reform and economic growth agenda for months, if not years.

The bottom line is that if the Trump administration truly wants to strengthen our economy and deliver a better deal for American families and business, it must follow through on its promise to pull out of the Paris Agreement altogether.

I'm hopeful the President will come to the right decision on this issue. We're glad that he has sought out and advocated the views of your IER and AEA. In his first months in office, he has demonstrated an understanding of and commitment to reforming the regulatory state and setting American business free to get our economy growing again. And he has been honoring his campaign promises. These are all good signs that he will do the right thing in the end and cancel this bad deal for American families.

I will keep you up-to-date on developments from Washington, D.C. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]@ierdc.org.

Finally, please accept my gratitude for choosing to invest in our important shared mission. It is your partnership that enables us to fulfill our promise to implement policies that improve people's lives, create greater opportunities for all, and protect our freedoms.

Best,
Tom

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