

**To:** Stout, Jan [REDACTED]@aol.com]  
**From:** Stout, Robert [/o=MSXBP/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Fri 08/07/2016 4:08:01 PM (UTC)  
**Subject:** FW: Interesting piece by Heather Zichal from Bloomberg

## Redacted - First Amendment

**Bob**

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**From:** van Hoogstraten, David Jan  
**Sent:** Friday, July 08, 2016 12:04 PM  
**To:** Stout, Robert  
**Cc:** Nolan, James  
**Subject:** Interesting piece by Heather Zichal from Bloomberg

# Redacted - First Amendment

## Sanders Camp Should Start Dealing With Facts on Democrats' Climate Platform: Zichal

By Heather Zichal

For the last seven years, ever since President Obama took office, the Right has demonized compromise as capitulation, and made it their mission to oppose consensus. Nowhere has this been truer than on the environment where they've gone from accepting science to denying climate change is real, and where they've taken the cap and trade policies which originated in the first Bush White House and treated them like heresy. For earnest policy-makers who chose to vote their conscience, the Tea Party rose up and knocked them off in primaries - the defeat of pro-environment Republican Rep. Mike Castle in 2010 became the death knell for compromise.

That's the politics of Trump, the politics of Mitch McConnell, and the politics of Big Polluters. It's their way or the highway. We shouldn't join them in a burn-it-down march to the ideological sea.

But when I close my eyes and listen to some Sanders supporters outrage about the environmental planks of the Democratic Party Platform, I hear echoes of the Tea Party.

In spite of being awarded a proportionally higher number of Platform Committee seats than even the Clinton campaign, and despite winning more than half of their proposed climate planks, some Sanders designees accuse Clinton designees of obstruction.

It's untrue and unreasonable.

Bernie Sanders deserves great credit for elevating many important issues, especially regarding climate and energy policy, but that doesn't mean he's entitled to shape the entire platform of the party on climate without compromise.

Climate supporters made more significant progress in this platform than any other in history, Republican or Democrat. Make no mistake: this platform is stronger than the two most recent Democratic presidential platforms under President Obama, broadly considered the most successful President on climate change-policy in history and the first "climate president."

Still, Sanders' voices on the platform committee want you to believe the most successful climate change platform in history is a loss or capitulation. While conceding the Clinton campaign has "committed to taking on our worst problems," they charge that Clinton designees are "not willing to say how."

That's nonsense. I've spent my adult life advancing progressive climate and environmental policies, and believe me, the progress on the platform is real - and specific: producing 100 percent clean energy by mid-century; getting half our electricity from clean energy within ten years; a phasing out of fossil fuel extraction on public lands in favor of renewable energy; reducing greenhouse gases by 80 percent by 2050 through increased fuel economy standards, extension of clean energy tax incentives, and updated building codes to increase energy efficiency among other policies.

These aren't platitudes or aspirations, but concrete commitments. In fact, there is very little daylight between the Clinton and Sanders camps regarding climate change, in spite of the hyperbole. Essentially, the one major item the Sanders camp didn't get was approval of a proposed carbon tax. That's like saying Barack Obama opposes health care because he didn't pass a single-payer bill. Bill McKibben even mocked passage of his own bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure amendment, saying "we did, however, reach unanimous consent on more bike paths!" As a means of improving public health, public safety and job creation, I assure you the Clinton camp and other members of the platform committee didn't think a green infrastructure plank was a joke - and neither do America's mayors who have brought that kind of visionary thinking about green cities to the forefront of public policy.

This is going to be the most important election for climate change policy in our history - because the next Administration and Congress will decide whether the United States meets our commitments from the Paris COP, and whether we at last tackle this challenge before it is too late. We know a President Trump would do because he's told us: roll back regulations, more dirty coal, and more denial of the science. He'd be aided and abetted by a Republican majority in Congress committed to making sensible climate policy a livewire their members fear to touch at all. We can't govern this way - and we don't have to. But we can't defeat them in November if we're stuck fending off myths and deceptions from within. Sanders environmental advocates who spout voter-depressing untruths will have carbon on their hands if they cost us this election.

I've seen this movie before. In 2000, too many of the same people who would cheer his Nobel Peace Prize victory on the environment years later, spent an entire election cycle believing the self-defeating myth that Al Gore and George W. Bush were no different on the environment. What a disaster that brought us.

In 2016, make no mistake - America can't afford a sequel to that movie. On the platform, at the convention, and throughout this campaign - it is time for the Sanders camp to start dealing in facts not fiction - because once again, our country depends on it. Let's leave the deception to Donald J. Trump.

(Heather Zichal is the president of Zichal Inc., an energy and environmental advisory consultancy and is the former Deputy Assistant to President Obama for Energy and Climate Change)

**David J. van Hoogstraten**

Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs (Environmental)

BP America Inc.

