

# CHECKING IN



by Keith Biondo | **Publisher**



## Speaking Truth to Power

In a monumental case of bait and switch, the current White House administration is set upon a course that will handicap every U.S. worker and business, and give global economic advantage to all who are not lucky enough to live here.

Energy policy—specifically, the carbon offset cap and trade plan—will transfer wealth to the government at every supply chain touch from raw material to your household and back again. This magisterial magic is usually accomplished by finding a victim, becoming the savior, and appropriating power and wealth to get the “saving” done. What better victim could government have but the entire planet? No one wants to be against Earth, right?

I can't help thinking that if it were truly *all about* carbon-driven global warming, the Obama administration would levy a prepaid carbon offset import fee on every product from countries spewing carbon indiscriminately. After all, the air over there is the same as here. Why just burden domestic enterprises, workers, and consumers? I am sure other countries are as concerned about global warming as our policy-makers are. They can't all be against Earth, and will gladly help pay the costs the administration deems necessary, right? Good luck with that one.

I also can't help thinking that if these initiatives were really *all about* carbon, the administration would trash 35 years of their party's paranoia about the only zero-carbon power source currently in use: nuclear. That anti-nuke fear is largely the reason why we are all stewing in our own carbon juices right now.

Here is a calming answer to fear about nuclear waste. More than two decades ago an actor, a priest, and a union shipyard worker joined forces to talk Mikhail Gorbachev out of an empire, eventually resulting in the decommissioning of almost 10,000 nuclear weapons. Where are all those fearsome things? Wherever they are, let's put the spent rods in the same place. Next.

If you work in a business that uses electricity, here is an interesting point to consider. *The New York Times* reported last year that rates at just one utility, Duke Energy, could rise up to 160 percent to cover the outlay for offsetting carbon credits. If that power was not generated by natural gas and evil coal, offsets would not be needed and we could power everything we need to build wealth with near-zero carbon output. Instead, any product or service we sell domestically—and especially internationally—will have to factor in all these extra costs. If you are involved in the movement of product, tack on all the fuel-related offsets, too. If only our leaders were thinking clearly 30 years ago and prevented this. Clear thinking is needed now, but the mindset in Washington seems set in stone.

The cap and trade and power policy currently being pushed on us has us standing at an economic precipice. If our leaders don't back away, it will be a very long way down. If you believe as I do, now is the time to act. Start speaking truth to power before it is too late. ■

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