



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 27, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: President Biden’s Executive Actions on Climate to Address Extreme Heat and Boost Offshore Wind

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the States of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Utah, the undersigned attorneys general respectfully oppose the executive actions you announced on July 20, 2022 at Brayton Point Power Station in Somerset, Massachusetts. What you argue to be necessary action is instead foolish, expensive, unfunded, inflation-causing executive overreach to address a so-called climate emergency. But making environmental policy without statutory authorization is not only illegal but subverts the very democratic process you are sworn to protect.

You say that you want to spend \$2.3 billion on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program to “increase resilience to heat waves, drought, wildfires, flood, hurricanes, and other hazards by preparing before disaster strikes.” But the best resilience to natural disasters is technological progress. Global deaths caused by extreme weather events have declined 98 percent since the 1920s.¹ Technological progress is driven by affordable energy. Yet your policies have ended American energy independence and driven the price of gasoline through the roof for American families and industries.

Moreover, recent power outages during extreme weather have demonstrated that expensive, subsidized, “green energy” is no substitute for coal, nuclear, oil, and gas. You announced that you want to help families with household energy costs, including summer cooling. But household energy, including air conditioning, does not work during blackouts that are caused by your policies.²

¹ See Indur Goklany & Julian Morris, *Wealth and Safety: The Amazing Decline in Deaths from Extreme Weather in an Era of Global Warming, 1900–2010*, REASON FOUNDATION, September 2011, <https://reason.org/policy-study/decline-deaths-extreme-weather>.

² See Arjun Singh, *Experts Warn of Summer Energy Blackouts during Biden’s Green Transition*, YAHOO! NEWS, June 1, 2022, <https://news.yahoo.com/experts-warn-summer-energy-blackouts-151956561.html>; Catherine Morehouse, *Spiking temperatures could cause more blackouts this*

You also announced that you intend to reverse the Trump Administration's efforts to protect our nation's coasts in order to push through unproven, unreliable, and ugly offshore wind power. But wind power is still an unprofitable investment that cannot compete without substantial subsidies and major infrastructure costs. Wind energy costs are higher than traditional power sources, and it will always be less reliable. Wind turbines are also unattractive eyesores, which is why Ted Kennedy—a self-proclaimed “environmentalist”—killed a wind turbine project that would have been visible from one of his Massachusetts oceanfront mansions.

Your behavior—and that of many Democrat leaders—suggests that you don't genuinely believe there is a climate emergency in the first place. Somerset is on the Massachusetts coast. Other oceanfront Massachusetts property—for example, in Boston and on Cape Cod—remains in high demand. Barack Obama, for one, certainly does not seem very concerned that the Martha's Vineyard mansion he purchased for \$11 million is at risk of being swallowed up by the sea.

Ironically, you arrived in Somerset to give your speech in your usual giant fleet of gas-guzzling, carbon-dioxide-spewing automobiles, rather than give your speech on Zoom from your basement like you did during your campaign. Your “climate czar” John Kerry flies all over the world in his private jet, emitting more carbon dioxide in a year than most people do in their entire lives. You talk about a climate emergency, but your actions tell a different story. And you expect the working people and small businesses of this country to bear the ever-increasing pain to prop up your green vanity and power grabs.

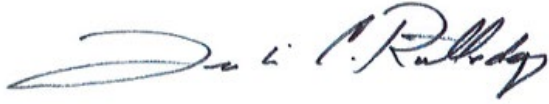
Rather than pleasing the extreme left of your base with hypocritical and unpopular policies that Congress will not enact and subverting through executive orders the very laws enacted to ensure the democratic process, I submit that it is time for you to get your foot off the neck of the American energy industry. The people want low gas prices and the cheap, reliable energy they had before you began your unlawful experiments on the American economy.

Respectfully,



Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas

summer. They won't be the last., POLITICO, May 31, 2022, <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/31/spiking-temperatures-could-cause-more-blackouts-this-summer-they-wont-be-the-last-00034858>; Ethan Howland, *FERC commissioners respond to elevated power outage risks across two-thirds of US*, UTILITY DIVE, May 20, 2022, <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/ferc-nerc-power-outage-risks-summer-drought/624111>.



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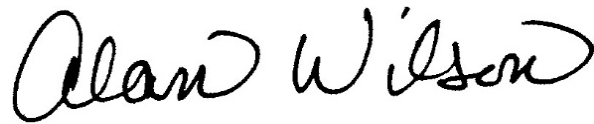
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