

Kuster's RES Is Another Assault on the Middle Class

Rep Kuster (D-NH) partnered with Congressman Jared Polis (CO-02) and Congressman Ben Ray Lujan (NM-03) to introduce legislation to establish a national Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). This bill, the Renewable Electricity Standard Act of 2013, would require utility companies to produce at least 25 percent of their power from renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and biomass by 2025, allegedly helping spur growth in our country's renewable energy sector.

The claim is that "Investments in clean energy are investments in a healthier environment and a stronger economy. This common sense bill will help create good middle class jobs, cut pollution, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil - all while saving consumers money on their utilities."

FACT CHECKS:

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently updated the list of loan guarantee projects on its website. In 2008, Barack Obama pledged to create 5 million jobs over 10 years by directing taxpayer funds toward renewable energy projects, but instead for the over \$26 billion spent since 2009, DOE loan guarantees have created only 2,298 permanent jobs for a cost of over \$11.45 million per job.

David Kreutzer of the Heritage Foundation's Center for Data Analysis analyzed a [generic RES](#) that starts at 3 percent of total power generation in 2012 and rises by 1.5 percent per year. Such an RES would destroy 1 million jobs by 2020, when the standard reaches 15 percent. Average families will pay \$2,400 more per year. Households will see their electricity prices rise 36 percent by 2035, while industrial users will see their electricity prices rise 60 percent even after adjusting for inflation.

The claims about 'saving money on utilities for consumers sounds very much like the promise that the middle class families would save \$2500 a year from the ACA. The CBO and experiences in Europe suggest that energy costs like health cost would instead skyrocket.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron who once pledged to lead the 'greenest government ever', has publicly promised to 'roll back' green taxes, which add more than 110 pounds a year to average fuel bills. A senior aide said 'He's telling everyone, "We've got to get rid of all this green crap."

Even in EU economic leader Germany, up to 15% of the populace is now believed to be in "fuel poverty" as fuel prices have skyrocketed as renewables have seriously under-delivered on the promised energy. Firms such as RWE and E.on are going flat out to build 16 new coal-fired and 15 new gas-fired power stations by 2020, with a combined output equivalent to some 38 per cent of Germany's electricity needs to keep more industry from fleeing to lower cost energy countries like China and India and lower the cost for the public.

Meanwhile, some 600,000 low-income Germans are now being cut off by their power companies annually, a number expected to increase as a never-ending

stream of global-warming projects in the pipeline wallops customers. In the U.K., which has labored under the most politically correct climate leadership in the world, some 12 million people are already in fuel poverty, 900,000 of them in Scotland alone, and the U.K. has now entered a double-dip recession.

Almost two-thirds of young Greeks are unable to find work, exemplifying Europe's 'lost generation'. In France, the number of jobless rose to a record, while in Italy, the unemployment rate hit its highest level in 36 years, with 40 percent of young people out of work. In Spain, unemployment reached a record 27.2% due to a combination of the progressive big government anti-business policies and the enviro pushed green energy subsidies. This green push (wind power is not only a health hazard to humans and deadly to birds (killing millions worldwide including many endangered species like eagles and condors), but among the most inefficient of all energy sources) caused energy prices to skyrocket, shutting businesses or forcing manufacturers overseas.

In Spain, 2.2 jobs were lost for every green job created and only 1 in 10 green job was permanent. In Italy it was 3.4 jobs lost for every temporary green job, Spain ceased subsidization, but the damage has been done.

All the while, instead of global warming, Europe suffered through five of the coldest years in a century with scientists "baffled" by the failure of their climate models. The UK Office of National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) in a report dated November 26th 2013 titled "Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales" states that last winter 31,000 UK residents died due to lack of heat. The vast majority were over 75 and on fixed incomes. The UK Spectator says 280,000 thousands in the UK died in the cold since 2003.. In December 2010, when the UK had the second coldest December since the Little Ice Age in 1659, the massive wind farms produced less than 0.5% of their energy needs.

Sadly, even as Europe has soured on the green dream and are furiously building coal and gas power plants, Kuster and her party want us to go down the same failed green path.

It appears Kuster needs to study more than her geography. And her call for more assistance for poor people LIHEAP to pay for rising fuel bills flies in the face of her bill that will cause those costs to skyrocket.

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