**To:** Interested Parties

**From:**

**Date:**

**Re:** Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans Refuse to Take Action on Climate Change

Americans overwhelmingly believe there is an urgent need to act on climate change after years of inaction with big polluters working to stymie action in Congress. The Green New Deal is an opening attempt to provide a bold and comprehensive pathway toward addressing climate change that relies on American ingenuity and innovation. Efforts by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to undermine the draft proposal – including a cynically-motivated rush to bring his version of the proposal up for a vote only for he and every other Republican to vote no – are nothing more the political stunts led by him and Republicans out of touch with both the reality of climate change and the will of the American people.

***Following is background on both the Green New Deal and the efforts by climate change deniers to undermine it. We encourage you to report on their lies and misrepresentations, political shenanigans, and, ultimately, failure to address one of the most urgent challenges facing our society today. Their efforts can be summed up in two words: gross negligence.***

The American people – Democrats, Independents, and even the majority of Republicans – have made it clear they want action on climate change. Theyare demanding solutions to climate change after years of inaction with big polluters using their influence to stymie action from Congress. Since he became Senate Majority leader in 2015, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has not allowed a single Republican bill that would cut carbon pollution in a meaningful way to reach the floor of the Senate.

Now, though, McConnell wants a show vote on his Green New Deal resolution – a resolution he and the entire Republican conference plan to vote against. Meanwhile, McConnell refuses to allow votes on any legislation that would actually move us toward clean energy or make the big polluters curb their carbon pollution. His big, bold idea on the environment is a push to confirm Andrew Wheeler, Trump’s nominee for EPA Administrator and a former coal industry lobbyist. McConnell is already working with Wheeler to undermine public health protections on everything from carbon pollution to mercury pollution.

Mitch McConnell has demonstrated time and again that his fossil fuel billionaires’ agenda is unforgivably out of touch with what the American people overwhelmingly support: action on climate change. To be clear, support for climate action is growing, across all age groups, all religions, and all political persuasions. A [December poll](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/climate-change-in-the-american-mind-december-2018/) from climate change researchers at Yale and George Mason Universities found 87 percent of Democrats and 56 percent of Republicans support bold climate action. Similarly, a [November AP-University of Chicago poll](http://www.apnorc.org/projects/Documents/EPIC%20fact%20sheet_v4_DTP.pdf?wpisrc=nl_energy202&wpmm=1) found 86% of Democrats, 70% of independents and 52% of Republicans believe that climate change is happening now; and of those who believe climate change is happening *83 percent say the federal government should take steps to address climate change*. And a [December 2018 Fox News Poll](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-president-trump-ends-year-two-with-46-percent-job-approval) found that 64% of voters are concerned about climate change – up 7 points from January 2018 – a boost mostly driven by a 13-point jump among Republicans.

The Green New Deal is an attempt to kick-off consideration of legislation to move the country to clean energy – with cleaner cars, power plants and other industries moving toward net-zero carbon pollution while boosting American innovation.Tackling the global climate crisis will create the 21st century jobs in communities across our country that fuel our economy. We already have created [3.2 million jobs](https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Clean-Jobs-America-2018.pdf) as part of our transition to a clean energy economy and we can continue to build on that success, lifting up urban, suburban and rural communities. The legislative process will identify how fast we can go, how we can get there, and how best to build the clean energy economy and stave off the climate crisis.

With a hat tip to the [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/02/14/liz-cheneys-claim-that-green-new-deal-would-eliminate-air-travel/?utm_term=.cfae4feba31a), let’s do some fact checking around some of the more suspect claims attempting to undermine the Green New Deal…

Myths

*At a political rally on February 11, President Trump said that people will not be able to own cars, travel by air, or own cows.*

*McConnell received his climate-denying marching orders and* [*tweeted*](https://twitter.com/Team_Mitch/status/1095429215808311296) *the following day: “We’re going to vote in the Senate and see how many Democrats want to end air travel and cow farts.” Cow farts?*

*Congresswoman Liz Cheney (R-WY) also claimed the plan would “eliminate” air travel or at least put the government in charge to decide who can fly.*

Facts

The Green New Deal is ambitious, but the claims by Trump, McConnell, Cheney, and others are false. The resolution says nothing about planes, cows, or many of the other cavalier assertions thrown around by climate change deniers.

The Green New Deal resolution calls for “overhauling transportation systems in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in — (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transportation; and (iii) high-speed rail.” No mention of banning air travel.

It further calls on our leaders to work “collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible.” No mention of cows or their gaseous tendencies.

We put a person on the moon because we set a goal and a deadline and watched American innovation flourish. American innovation brought us smart phones more powerful than mainframe computers and wind turbines and solar panels. We already have the ability to solve the climate crisis; we just need to harness it. The American people demand it.

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