CAC Message Guidance: House GOP “Climate Bill”

Core Message: The House minority Republicans’ climate bill is nothing more than an attempt to greenwash their decades of climate denial and create new corporate welfare programs to prop up the logging industry, developers, and big polluters.

* The House minority Republicans are proposing a sham climate change bill that would do virtually nothing to reduce carbon pollution or protect our communities from devastating impacts from climate change like extreme weather, wildfires, extreme heat, and dangerous air quality.
* The ploy is a blatant attempt to greenwash years of climate science denial and pandering to the fossil fuel industry.
* Sure, the deniers who screamed “climate change is a hoax” and cheered on a climate denier president as he dismantled a number of climate change mitigation efforts are now putting forward a bill on climate change. While that might seem like progress, a closer look reveals that even their conservation efforts are simply more pandering to industry.
* While reforestation and trees need to be a part of any serious plan to act on climate change, the other provisions of this bill are deeply concerning and fall woefully short of any meaningful attempt to address the climate crisis.
* The House minority’s climate bill isn’t really a climate bill. It’s a brazen attempt to fool Americans.
  + There are much more significant climate bills already on the table in the House like the 100 Percent Clean Economy Act, which would transition our nation to net zero carbon pollution by 2050. The GOP leadership and their entire caucus roundly rejected this measure, but we’re supposed to believe their “tree planting bill” is the solution we’ve been looking for.
* Consider the source. The same party that just rejected clean energy tax credits for the rest of us is proposing in its bill a “45Q tax credit” for businesses that capture carbon during production, including potentially the timber industry as they cut down and replant trees.
  + This proposal is also coming from members of Congress who are letting Trump cut down old growth forests in the Tongass National Forest and giving logging companies free reign to cut trees on all our national forests across the country.
  + On top of this, House republicans have broadly supported and even applauded Trump’s attacks on our health and our environment. From rolling back the clean car standards, withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement, attacking NEPA, and gutting the Clean Water Act and Clean Power Plan, Republicans in Congress have continually defended Trump’s relentless attacks on our environment.
  + If they were serious about addressing the climate crisis, they would stop the partisan games, stand up against Trump’s pro-polluter agenda and get behind one of the comprehensive climate bills already introduced this Congress.