



**ENERGY 45
FUND**

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**STATEMENT OF MANDY GUNASEKARA
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Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. My name is Mandy Gunasekara and I am the Founder of the [ENERGY 45 Fund](http://www.energy45.org). I'm the former Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation in President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I'm responsible for shaping and implementing many of the administration's America First environmental initiatives and major deregulatory successes including withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord, repealing the Clean Power Plan, drafting a legally-sound replacement - the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, streamlining permits and adjusting vehicle standards so Americans can drive safe, efficient and affordable vehicles.

Across the administration, President Trump's deregulatory agenda has saved hardworking American \$33 billion and unleashed a new wave of optimism. President Trump has created 5.8 million jobs since January 2017, including an average of 18,500 manufacturing jobs a month. Administration agencies are once again focusing on achieving important agency missions, like protecting public health and the environment at EPA and ensuring America's prosperity and security at the Department of Energy, instead of peddling politically-motivated agendas aimed at shutting-down politically-incorrect entities.

Three weeks ago, I officially left EPA and established the Energy 45 Fund which is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public, thought-leaders and policy-makers about the many energy, environment and economic successes of the Trump administration. Before I expand on those many successes, let me talk about the Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal (GND) is not a serious proposal. It reads like Karl Marx's Christmas list and is a Soviet-style central planning document calling for a government takeover of the agriculture, transportation, housing and health care sectors. Perhaps most problematic is that it actively seeks to limit competition and eliminate free markets wherever possible; two principles that have been a key driver of America's economic prowess.

This type of socialism is no longer found among the far left but has made its way to the center of the modern Democrat platform. The fact that so many Democrats including the bevy of presidential candidates have signed onto the Green New Deal demonstrates how otherwise serious lawmakers are now beholden to the extreme left. The modern Democrat party is so committed to undermining, discrediting and

destroying President Trump they are willing to obliterate the entire economy and millions of jobs in the process.

A recent estimate by a former nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office Director found that the price of the Green New Deal ranges from \$51 trillion to \$93 trillion from 2020 to 2029. This breaks down to about \$600,000 per household over the life of the deal or \$65,000 per year. The below chart provides additional information from the analysis.

**Summary Table of Green New Deal Costs
(2020-2029)**

Goal	Estimated Cost	Estimated Cost Per Household
Low-carbon Electricity Grid	\$5.4 trillion	\$39,000
Net Zero Emissions Transportation System	\$1.3 trillion to \$2.7 trillion	\$9,000 to \$20,000
Guaranteed Jobs	\$6.8 trillion to \$44.6 trillion	\$49,000 to \$322,000
Universal Health Care	\$36 trillion	\$260,000
Guaranteed Green Housing	\$1.6 trillion to \$4.2 trillion	\$4,000 to \$12,000
Food Security	\$1.5 billion	\$10

Source: [American Action Forum](#)

Much of the recent focus has justifiably been on the problems and consequences of the Green New Deal including its exorbitant costs, lost jobs and whether it will actually improve the environment. Routinely overlooked is that the entire premise of the Green New Deal ignores the US standing on environmental issues today. Not only are we taking proactive steps to improve the environment and lower emissions, we are doing it better than anyone else in the world.

The U.S. has the cleanest air on record having reduced six key pollutants by 73 percent while growing the economy by 230 percent since 1970. Additionally, energy related carbon dioxide emissions fell by 14 percent from 2005 to 2017 while the rest of the world increased their emissions by 20%. On a per capita basis, emissions are at their lowest level in nearly 70 years thanks in large part to fracking and abundant natural gas. The US has also made significant progress cleaning up once contaminated lands through the reinvigorated Superfund program. In FY 2018, the Agency deleted all or part of 22 sites from Superfund's National Priorities List (NPL), the largest number of deletions in one year since FY 2005. The US is also

revitalizing local water infrastructure having helped finance over \$4 billion for water infrastructure projects and created up to 6,000 jobs.

While President Trump has been extremely effective at moving forward a pro-growth and pro-environment agenda, congress too has some serious, bipartisan legislative efforts that could further US leadership. Legislation like Sen. Barrasso's Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies Act (USE IT Act) offers \$50 million in financial incentives for carbon-capture research and infrastructure, including innovative systems that take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and smokestacks. Other promising initiatives include legislative efforts to improve federal permitting processes that would encourage investment in the latest and greatest industrial technologies and efforts to protect and build out our nation's nuclear power plants.

The only thing serious about the Green New Deal is how dangerous it really is for the nation. For those willing to set aside politics, Congress has an opportunity to work collaboratively with President Trump and focus on solutions that enhance market-driven innovations without limiting our position as an energy superpower. Our entire economy is built on successful production, efficient development and affordable use of fossil-based energy resources. The path of the future is not to shut off use of these resources, but to continue to develop them in the cleanest, most efficient way possible and then share these innovations with the world.