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MANCHIN STATEMENT ON CLEAN POWER PLAN PUBLIC HEARING IN WEST VIRGINIA

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) issued the following statement on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) public hearing in West Virginia this week on the Clean Power Plan. "The Clean Power Plan was an assault on our state's economy and our way of life. This unlawful and harmful policy proved that the Obama administration not only didn't know the impacts of the Clean Power Plan but also, that they didn't care. From 2008-2016, 10,473 hard-working West Virginia coal miners lost their jobs and 178 coal mines closed due to, in part, the uncertainty caused by the Clean Power Plan. "I am glad that the EPA is finally paying attention to these impacts in West Virginia, one of the most affected states of the Clean Power Plan, and is actually on the ground talking with West Virginians about this failed experiment and ways we can work together to create an all of the above energy policy that benefits everyone. "Moving forward in the 21st century economy, we need to strike a balance between the environment and the economy and I have always said that the Clean Power Plan never achieved that balance. The Clean Power Plan never worked and I commend President Trump for doing away with this harmful regulation and preventing further job losses, increases to consumer energy bills, and more damage to our economy.

"Today, coal makes up 30% of our electric portfolio and it will continue to power our nation for generations. To truly achieve an all-of-the-above energy policy, we must use everything we have – coal, natural gas, nuclear, solar, hydro, and wind – while also making sure that we are not adversely hurting our economy and taking away people's livelihoods. I thank the EPA for finally coming to West Virginia and listening to what we have to say."

Gov. Justice Says Expansion of Petrochemical Industry in West Virginia Continues To Move Forward With U.S. DOE Announcement

CHARLESTON, WV - Gov. Jim Justice said today West Virginia has taken another major step toward expansion of its petrochemical industry with an announcement from the U.S. Department of Energy that it has approved the first part in the application process from the Appalachia Development Group for a \$1.9 billion federal loan guarantee to construct a regional underground storage hub and pipeline network for shale gas. "I'm extremely pleased that the West Virginia Department of Commerce, West Virginia University and the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center (MATRIC) have been able to move the process forward for establishing this storage hub," said Gov. Jim Justice. "Thousands of potential jobs and numerous downstream businesses could result from development of this project. We are anxious to see it come to fruition over the next several months with the invitation for ADG to now complete part two of the application process and seek the issuing of the loan guarantees." Appalachia Development Group (ADG) LLC., is owned by MATRIC and the West Virginia University Innovation Corporation.

ADG plans detail a series of subsurface natural gas liquids storage facilities to be built in the Ohio River Valley and Kanawha River Valley in West Virginia along with other infrastructure development in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

MANCHIN APPLAUDS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROGRESS TOWARD \$1.9 BILLION LOAN GUARANTEE FOR APPALACHIAN STORAGE HUB

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) applauded the Department of Energy's (DOE) decision to invite the Appalachia Development Group, LLC (ADG) to begin Part 2 of the application process for a \$1.9 billion loan guarantee – a critical step in the loan guarantee process. Senator Manchin has led efforts in the Senate to help develop the Appalachian Storage Hub, which would create jobs and grow the economy in the Appalachian region. Senator Manchin commends ADG's work and looks forward to working with all stakeholders that seek to advance this extraordinary regional opportunity.

"I am very excited that the Department of Energy is moving forward with the Appalachia Development Group in its efforts to secure a loan to develop the Appalachian Storage Hub. I have long said that the Appalachian Storage Hub is a vital project that will help us capitalize on our state and region's abundant natural resources, growing infrastructure and innovative spirit," Senator Manchin said. "This storage hub will create jobs and develop our economy by attracting significant manufacturing and related investment to West Virginia and our neighboring states. It will also be vital in helping to secure our energy future by providing a reliable affordable supply of natural gas liquids. I look forward to working with the Department of Energy, the Appalachia Development Group to make the Appalachian Storage Hub a reality."

In June, Senator Manchin introduced the Capitalizing American Storage Potential (CASP) Act, highlighting the eligibility of a regional storage hub for the Department of Energy's Title XVII loan guarantee program, allowing the Mountain State to realize the unique opportunities associated with Appalachia's abundant natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGLs) resources, geologic storage opportunities, and expanding energy infrastructure.

An abundance of wet natural gas in the Marcellus, Utica and Rogersville shale formations has recently resulted in significant announcements of new investment in the Appalachian region, particularly by the natural gas and petrochemical industries. In fact, the region's supplies of natural gas liquids (NGLs) are highly underutilized. In a recent report, the American Chemistry Council concluded that the creation of such a hub would allow the Appalachian region to seize on the opportunities associated with these valuable natural resources, potentially attracting up to \$36 billion in new chemical and plastics industry investment and creating 100,000 new jobs in the area. The construction of a hub and the associated infrastructure and ethylene/polyethylene facilities, will attract sorely needed economic activity to this underserved part of the country, which continues to suffer from high unemployment as a result from the downturn in both energy production and manufacturing.

Gov. Justice Issues Executive Order Preserving Annual Leave for Corrections Employees

CHARLESTON, WV – Governor Jim Justice has stepped in to save hard-earned annual leave for hundreds of West Virginia correctional officers and staff who faced losing it through no fault of their own. State personnel rules cap the amount of annual leave that public employees can carry over from one calendar year to the next. Annual leave in excess of that cap must be used during the year it is earned or it expires. But vacancies at West Virginia's prisons, regional jails and juvenile facilities have required staff to work overtime throughout 2017, leaving them unable to take their use-or-lose annual leave. Gov. Justice has issued an executive order allowing these employees to carry all unused annual leave forward into 2018. "The State recognizes that these employees are subject to unused annual leave expiring at the end of this calendar year, and that they have not been able or permitted to use the annual leave that they have accrued, through no fault of their own," Gov. Justice wrote in the executive order. The executive order applies to all correctional officers and employees of the Division of Corrections, Regional Jail Authority and Division of Juvenile Services. At just the Huttonsville Correctional Center, the governor's action rescues nearly 600 hours of hard-earned leave. Throughout Juvenile Services, the executive order will preserve more than 2,000 hours of annual leave or enough for nearly 52 weeks. The three agencies are part of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety.

"The hard working men and women of our correctional agencies have been going above and beyond to protect West Virginians from some of the worst individuals society has to offer," Military Affairs and Public Safety Secretary Jeff Sandy said. "Due to their dedicated service and long hours at work, many have been unable to take their earned vacation this year. I applaud the Governor for his action. Without question, the Governor respects and cares about these public servants."



Logic

By Joe Ingino b.a.
Editor/Publisher

"I live a dream in a nightmare world"

Oprah Said What!!!

Oprah's God like speech to the masses at the Golden Globe was a moment of intense viewing... It was as if she was about to split in half and Hillary to pop out.

Instead, Oprah with the flare of Hollywood stood there and said, "I want all the girls watching here, now, to know that a new day is on the horizon! And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say "Me too" again." Wait a minute... is that statement not prejudice? I can understand the context. But is the statement not bias towards girls and women?

What if a white man stood there and said the same about young boys and men? Would it not be deemed as bias and prejudice and totally out of line?

Then the question lingers why is Oprah able to get away with it?

To add insult to injury. The most untrusted news source CNN is quick to deem it a Presidential candidacy speech. Really? Are we not out to stop bias and prejudice?

I like the opening statement by Seth Meyers, "Good evening, ladies and remaining gentlemen." Part of that had to do with the general side lining of Golden Globes host Seth Meyers. The late-night star described himself aptly as "like the first dog they shot into outer space" as an awards host in the post-Weinstein Hollywood era. And he didn't seem ready for the altitude at first, claiming early on that he'd been a second choice to host after various women said no.

This was in service of an unworthy joke about how women feel uncomfortable in hotels now because of Weinstein, and worse still, didn't feel true. (He's another straight white guy hosting an awards show! What else is new?) What did feel true was a staging of Meyers's Late Night bit "Jokes Seth Can't Tell," in which members of protected-class communities get the opportunity to deliver the punch lines of jokes that, up until very recently, any other straight white guy hosting an awards show would have felt empowered to tell.

Is this going to be the new world order? Is equality not something all can enjoy? You have the Trump bashers making statements that Trump is a racist a bigot and does not respect women. Really, I have yet to see any of those allegations made public. I believe that Trump in the year in office has accomplished many great things for all Americans. For the young boys and girls. For the middle ages men and women. For elderly men and women. Not in one instance was there reference to bettering women over men. Child over adult or youth over seniors. I have yet to see how a cry to young women as Oprah did can't be seen as bias and discriminatory. The underlying monster is politics and how battered we as a population truly are. We suffer from a general overwhelm. Deep inside we all want good in the world but we fail to understand the world enough to appreciate that utopia is not what we should be striving for as in perfection there is imperfection.

Seth in his jokes made references such as: Happy New Year, Hollywood! It's 2018, marijuana is finally allowed and sexual harassment finally isn't. There's a new era under way, and I can tell because it's been years since a white man was this nervous in Hollywood. For the male nominees in the room tonight, this is the first time in three months it won't be terrifying to hear your name read out loud. Satire with a strong social punch. A punch that at times is hard to comprehend as it brings to question the change that we undergoing if it is for the good or the compromising of our civilization. There is no question that there should be no discrimination, bias and or prejudice against no one. If so then why did Oprah draw such line in the sand?

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