Obama Green-Energy, Crony-Corruption Cartel Has Ordered The Government To Never Compensate The Victims And That Is A Felony

Marita Noon
Marita Noon

|

Everyone who pays any attention to the news knows the name Solyndra. It has become synonymous with the overall failed green energy program administered by the Obama team. Politicos know there are many other companies that have received loan guarantees for various green energy projects that have since become a source of ridicule for the White House. Some might even be able to name a few. There is the now-bankrupt company that made batteries for electric cars: Ener1. The plug-in electric sports car company, Fisker, that made its cars in Finland and has troubles too numerous to cite. And, of course, we know about the Chevy Volt—that our taxpayer dollars bailed out only to have demand so low that Chevrolet had to pull the plug on the production line and lay off workers for five weeks earlier this year. But few know the full story.

Connecting the dots will make your head hurt. There are various programs and special tax breaks and different kinds of

companies that received green energy loans: solar, wind, and geothermal; and car companies, battery manufacturers, and biofuel producers. While the projects differ, they have several startling similarities. The vast majority of the green energy loan guarantees were given to companies that could not obtain enough financial backing from private investors. Their "junk" or "speculative" grade kept people from putting their own money into them —yet your money and mine was given to them, and we had no say in the matter. Of the 27 loans issued through the 1705 Loan Guarantee Program to 21 firms, virtually all of them have "connections" to either President Obama or other highranking Democrats—or both! The loans were made to fill a market created not by free-market demand, but by government mandates. And, all of the "special seven" got fast-tracked approvals through the Department of Interior with little scrutiny over environmental damages that would have taken any other energy company months, if not years, to get, and EPA regulations were applied selectively.

<u>CARTOONS</u> | <u>Close to Home</u> View Cartoon

Many of the companies that received the funds had involvement with large donors and/or bundlers for the Obama campaign, and there is an amazing revolving door through which the players pass many times. They worked, for example, for Senator Harry Reid. Then they are on the staff of an investment firm that invested in one, or more, of the companies. Next you find he or she is on some White House commission—or worse, became part of the Obama Department of Energy team. Some 460 companies applied for DOE loans, but only 27 projects, 21 companies, got the funds. And 85% of these have been found to

have "connections." The remaining 15% may well have connections too, albeit more guarded or hidden.

These are not wild assertions. I have the data to back them up.

Following the publication of my column a couple of weeks ago on <u>crony capitalism</u>, I was connected with Christine Lakatos. She's a private citizen and a single mom with a nose for research. Beginning in 2009, she was hired to work on investigative projects, following the green energy money. But when those projects were completed, she didn't stop digging. She kept finding more and more. With no outlet for her work, she started a blog where she "brain dumps" her findings—which for a total unknown has received an impressive number of readers. For anyone but the most stalwart, her <u>Green Corruption Blog</u> is like getting a drink of water from a fire hydrant.

On Sunday, some of Lakatos' research was presented in my weekly column. The response prompted us to begin a collaboration.

For each of the next 17 weeks, we will expose one green-energy, crony-corruption story after another (though my travel schedule may require me to skip a week here and there). It will be a "book" released chapter-by-chapter. If you like what you find, we hope you'll let us know and come back the following week for the next installment.

Some single stories of what we'll expose are "out there"—though surely not covered by the mainstream media and not all in one place or all connected as we're doing. If you made a study of the green-energy, crony-corruption story your passion, you likely found out a lot of what we'll share. If you read the <u>report</u> from

the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HOGRC) on the Obama Administration's green energy gamble word-for-word, or watched the incriminating hearings, you'll already know some of what we'll present. Or, if you've read the chapter in Peter Schweizer's book *Throw Them All Out* that addresses alternative energy and "how the game of funneling taxpayer money to friends has exploded to astonishing levels in recent years," you have a good idea of the big picture. If you have made this your passion, have studied the report, and have coordinated with Schweizer, as Lakatos has, you are encouraged to help make these reports as complete as possible. Together, we'll connect the dots and present it here in bite-sized pieces.

Each of the energy projects we will profile in the "special seven" section were recipients of billions of taxpayer dollars through the 1705 Loan Guarantee Program (LGP) and many will be receiving millions more through the 1603 Grant Program. The 1705 LGP is an expansion of the 1703 program that was approved in 2005 under President Bush—increasing the expenditures from \$17.9 billion in 2007 to \$37.2 billion in 2010. The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act significantly expanded the DOE's authority, under Energy Secretary Steven Chu, through the newly created 1705 LGP. (Under the Recovery Act, \$86 billion approximately 10% of the stimulus package—was earmarked for green energy projects.) The LGP means that companies get riskfree money. If the company succeeds, the low-interest loan gets paid back. If they fail—as many have—we, the taxpayers, lose. In contrast, the 1603 Grant Program—implemented as part the Obama stimulus—is administered by the Treasury Department, with the goal of reimbursing eligible applicants for a portion of the costs of installing specified energy property used in a trade or business or for the production of income. Basically 1603 gives

billions in favored businesses tax-free cash gifts that do not have to be paid back.

While we can prove that cronyism has run amok within the majority of 1705 LGP, we'll stay focused on the Special Seven. Here, in Part 1, we present a complete overview of the connecting dots on one project: SolarReserve, LLC. With this introduction made, we'll likely address several companies, with a common denominator, in subsequent releases.

In Sunday's column, the following thumbnail was presented: "SolarReserve's <u>Crescent Dunes</u> project is a solar thermal power tower plant utilizing the advanced molten salt power tower technology with integrated storage located in Tonopah, NV. The company's Fitch rating is BB, yet in September 2011, it was the recipient of \$737 million in DOE loan guarantees. Obama's law school buddy and 2008 Obama campaign bundler, Michael Froman, was managing director of alternative investments at Citigroup—which became a <u>major investor</u> in SolarReserve. Froman currently serves on the <u>White House staff</u>. Additionally, other high profile Democrats are involved with SolarReserve."

But there is more.

More about Michael Froman. Peter Schweizer reports that "When Obama ran for president, Froman helped raise large sums of money on Wall Street" for the 2008 campaign. The HOGRC report (page 47) confirms Peter's findings and adds that Froman was a \$200,000 bundler: "Michael Froman currently serves as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs. He was a friend of President Obama's from law school, and supported his political career by bundling over \$200,000 for his 2008 presidential

candidacy. Prior to his arrival at the White House, Froman was the Managing Director of Alternative Investments at Citigroup, where he managed infrastructure and sustainable development investments. Citigroup became a major investor in SolarReserve, which ultimately received a \$737 million loan guarantee in September 2011."

The Citigroup connection is tighter. <u>Richard Parsons</u> was Chairman for Citigroup from 2009 until he <u>announced stepping</u> <u>down</u> in March 2012. <u>Citigroup</u> was a top Obama donor in 2008. Parsons served on the Obama Transition Team and on the Economic Advisory Board. In 2011, Parsons was appointed to the <u>President's Council on Jobs and Competiveness</u>.

Next, David Sandalow—who is currently "the Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs at DOE, where he acts as Secretary's Chu's principal adviser on energy policy, as well as coordinating DOE's foreign policy involvement." (HOGRC report page 49) "Sandalow's ties to the White House date back to the Clinton Administration, during which he worked with President Clinton on environmental issues. After having gained this experience, Sandalow became the influential Chair of the Energy & Climate Working Group of the Clinton Global Initiative. He went on to advise President Obama's presidential campaign in 2008. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Sandalow was a senior advisor to Good Energies, Inc., an energy-focused venture capital firm. Good Energies is an investor in SolarReserve."

Other SolarReserve connections to the Democratic Party include:

Ronald Pelosi—Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's brother-in-law, <u>Ronald Pelosi</u>, holds a leadership position with Pacific Corporate Group Asset Management—which is an

<u>investor in SolarReserve</u>. Additionally, his colleague, <u>Jasandra Nyker</u>, has served as a member of SolarReserve's board of directors.

George Kaiser—Argonaut Private Equity is an investor in SolarReserve. Argonaut Private Equity is owned by <u>major</u> <u>Democratic fundraiser</u> and a 2008 Top Obama bundler George Kaiser, who also invested in Solyndra. Kaiser made multiple visits to the White House in the months before the company was granted a \$535 million loan from the government. The Managing Director for Argonaut Private Equity, Steve Mitchell, serves on SolarReserve's Board of Directors.

Tony Podesta—OpenSecrets.org shows that SolarReserve paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in lobbying fees to the Podesta Group. Tony Podesta is the principal at the Podesta Group—which he started with his brother John. John Podesta ran Barack Obama's presidential transition team and is the Director of the Center for American Progress—which is "reportedly highly influential in helping to craft White House Policy." Both Tony Podesta and his wife Heather (a Washington power couple) are frequent White House visitors that share high ranks in "lobbying power," and Democrat bundling as well.

Lee Bailey—SolarReserve's Chairman of the Board is Lee Bailey, a Managing Director with U.S. Renewables Group, who holds a significant financial stake in SolarReserve. Bailey has donated \$21,850 since 2008 to Democratic candidates, including President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, California Sen. Barbara Boxer and then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

James McDermott—SolarReserve board member James McDermott is also a Managing Director with U.S. Renewables Group. He contributed \$61,500 to various Democratic campaigns since 2008, including \$30,800 to Obama's presidential election campaign. U.S Renewable Energy Group has ties with Senator Harry Reid.

If there were only one connect-the-dots story, it would be easy to dismiss it as coincidence. But here, with just one company, you can see the dots connect, and connect, and connect. As you will continue to see, they keep on connecting. In this case, connect-the-dots is no innocent childhood game. It is a high-stakes gamble and only those with connections get to play. Obama and his Democratic friends are the winners. We, the taxpayers, the losers. We lose the financial investment of our tax dollars and our electricity rates go up—all to support the discredited ruse of man-made climate change.

252 Documented Examples of Barack Obama's Lying, Lawbreaking ...

c https://www.infowars.com/252-documented-examples-of-barack-obamas-lying-lawbreaking-corruption-cronyism-etc/
Aug 29, 2013The original title of the article is "**Obama** supporters will go hysterical over this well sourced list of 252 examples of his lying, lawbreaking, **corruption**, cronyism, etc." it's lengthy, but is a 'one-stop shop' for all the dirty details on the **Obama** presidency.

<u>'CORRUPTION CHRONICLES': OBAMA'S</u> <u>CRONY CAPITALISM | Judicial ...</u>

< https://www.judicialwatch.org/in-the-news/corruption-chronicles-obamas-crony-capitalism/

Judicial Watch, Inc., a conservative, non-partisan educational foundation, transparency, accountability and integrity in government, politics and the law.

The List Increases: 1,375 Well Sourced Examples Of Barack ...

c https://freedomoutpost.com/the-list-increases-1375-well-sourced-examples-of-barack-obamas-lies-lawbreaking-corruption-cronyism-hypocrisy-waste-etc/

May 25, 2019The List Increases: 1,375 Well Sourced Examples Of Barack **Obama's** Lies, Lawbreaking, **Corruption**, Cronyism, Hypocrisy, Waste, Etc.

<u>Cronyism, Corruption, and the Obama</u> <u>White House | People's ...</u>

S

https://www.peoplespunditdaily.com/policy/2017/05/05/cronyis m-corruption-obama-white-house/

Just as crime is bad for society but good for criminals, cronyism is bad for the economy and good for cronies, including friends of the **Obama** White House.

<u>Obama's Green-Energy, Crony-Corruption</u> <u>Story, Part 2 | The ...</u>

c <u>https://www.stridentconservative.com/obamas-green-energy-crony-corruption-story-part-2/</u>

The previous green-energy **crony-corruption** column unraveled SolarReserve and its share of "meaningful" political connections - Citigroup, a major investor in SolarReserve, also a top 2008 **Obama** donor, as well as two former Citigroup executives, one of whom is an **Obama** "buddy and bundler ...

<u>Obama's Green-Energy, Crony-Corruption - Marita Noon</u>

C

https://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/06/2 9/obamas-greenenergy-cronycorruption-n1010038

Jun 29, 2012**Obama's** Green-Energy, **Crony-Corruption** . Marita Noon | Posted: Jun 29, 2012 12:01 AM. Share Tweet . Everyone who pays any attention to the news knows the name Solyndra. It has become synonymous ...

The List Increases: 1,375 Well Sourced Examples Of Barack ...

c <u>https://governmentslaves.news/2019/05/26/the-list-increases-1375-well-sourced-examples-of-barack-obamas-lies-lawbreaking-corruption-cronyism-hypocrisy-waste-etc/</u>

The List Increases: 1,375 Well Sourced Examples Of Barack **Obama's** Lies, Lawbreaking, **Corruption**, Cronyism, Hypocrisy, Waste, Etc. By Government Slaves on 05/26/2019 Emigrate While You Still Can!

<u>Top 10 "Most Corrupt" List Dominated by</u> <u>Obama Administration</u>

C

https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/politics/item/14092top-10-"most-corrupt"-list-dominated-by-obama-administration President **Obama** and key members of his Democrat cabinet like Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, ... the Department of Justice sinks further into the abyss of cronyism, **corruption**, and deceit

• • •

<u>1,063 Documented Examples of Barack</u> <u>Obama's Lying ...</u>

c https://freedomoutpost.com/1063-documented-examples-of-barack-obamas-lying-lawbreaking-corruption-cronyism-hypocrisy-waste-etc/

Jul 19, 2017Editor's Note: Our friend, Dan from Squirrel Hill, has updated his list to 1,063 documented examples of Barack **Obama's** lying, lawbreaking, **corruption**, cronyism, etc. He began with 252 examples, then quickly grew to 504 and later to 694. In November 2014, he added more than 200 more examples of the usurper-in-chief's unlawful acts.

<u>Obama Administration - 8 Years of Lies and Corruption - Just ...</u>

< https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gdt1WyhJLNI

Aug 7, 2016**Obama** Administration: 8 Years of Lies & **Corruption** - Just another puppet after all. 'We are five days away from fundamentally transforming the United States of America.' - Barrack **Obama**, 2008 ...

OBAMA BROKE THE LAW BY OVER-RIDING CONGRESSIONAL LAW SECTION 136 IN THE CLEANTECH CRASH

The White House violated the law when it froze U.S. 'Green Energy' Aid to American companies waiting on the Department Of Energy financing they had been invited to accept, Federal analysts concluded in a new report.

President Barack Obama ordered the hold on the critical domestic energy assistance in order to protect his campaign financiers from competition, a slew of senior White House officials and insider witnesses testified to investigators over the last years, a move that coincided with the president and his allies' effort to pressure crony tech stock market deals into exclusive deals for themselves. The Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and other investment bank records, prove this.

Because Obama and his allies controlled the owners of all western news media, particularly in Silicon Valley, and had a multi-hundred million taxpayer financed White House media budget, the story never got media attention.

"Faithful execution of the law does not permit the president to substitute his own policy priorities for those that Congress has enacted into law," the GAO has ruled!

Obama's decision to order Steven Chu to withhold billions in domestic aid, which he reversed after House investigators began probing the move, should have been at the heart of articles of impeachment the House attempted to pass against Obama, and it will be a central allegation in the Applicant's charges going forward.

The facts undercut an oft-stated defense of Obama's decision to hold the aid back: that it was a lawful exercise of the president's authority.

Mr. Rusco and other GAO staff, an independent nonpartisan government watchdog that responds to congressional requests, said the White House attempted to justify its decision not to notify Congress by claiming it was simply a programmatic delay. Investigators reject that claim, saying Obama's decision, carried out by the budget office, was a violation of the Impoundment Control Act, which requires notification to Congress of any such delay in an appropriation of funds, such as the Section 136 funds for the Department of Energy.

Obama's assertions have no basis in law, the GAO argues, referring to the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Public investigators reports also state that OMB and the White House "failed" to provide all of the information that was necessary for its investigation. Obama obstructed Congress' ability to investigate the Cleantech Crash matter and he and The Department of Energy were been engaged in a coverup to hide their crony payola deals with Obama's campaign financiers: The Silicon Valley tech oligarchs..

"The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office has confirmed what congressional Democrats have understood all along: President Obama abused his power and broke the law by withholding energy assistance to domestic cleantech outsiders who were competing with his campaign financiers," said investigators. In fact, history has proven that of all of the Applicant's, only Obama's closest friends got the money and their competitors were sabotaged and blockaded.

A number of administration officials have raised concerns about whether the president's decision violated federal budget law.

Congressional officials and the public have charged Obama with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for using his office and federal resources to pressure Energy Department funding to go to his financiers and investigating his political rivals and then resisting a House investigation.

At issue in the legal opinion is how the Department of Energy aid pause gels with the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, a law that sharply curbs the executive branch's authority to alter congressionally appropriated funds, such as Section 136.

Investigators have said the Department of Energy aid pause is part of a broader "pattern of abuse" by the Obama

Administration, which has disregarded federal budget law and congressional spending authority.

<u>Infrastructure Follies: Railroads, Cleantech</u> <u>And Crony Capitalism</u>

c https://cei.org/content/infrastructure-follies-railroads-cleantech-and-crony-capitalism

Sep 13, 2011How many other directors of **cleantech** companies said yes? How many scandal time bombs are sitting there ticking, ready to go off when these companies go down? How much more **crony** capitalist **corruption** are American voters going to put up with before they say No Mas? We have fourteen months before we find out.

The DNC Corruption Cleantech Crash Deaths

C

https://globalnewstimes.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/cleantech-death-list-1-9.pdf

The DNC **Corruption Cleantech** Crash Deaths: - All of the dead people below were connected to the suspects. - Their deaths are mathematically fully outside the odds-of-coincidence. Forensic math says a large number of them are murders. - Family and friends of many of these deceased persons have publicly stated that they have "evidence

<u>Teslas Crony Scam Corruption - Our Report</u> <u>to Congress</u>

c https://nationalnewsnetwork.net/video/teslas-crony-scam-corruption

Christine Lakatos, who has worked with me on the green-energy, **crony-corruption** reports I've written, has done thorough research on the topic. She has read each and every one of the 350+ pages of emails released on October 31 and has written a blog post specifically addressing the ATVM program and its hijinks.

THE ATTACKERS- Inside the Delightful Suicide of Gawker That ...

c corruption123.com/index.php?post/Inside-the-Delightful-Suicide-of-Gawker

For example, in the **CleanTech** Crash: Every single Dept of Energy executive, and related Senator, owns stock market assets in Tesla, Fisker, Solyndra, Ener1, etc. so they blockaded and sabotaged every applicant who competed with their holdings in a RICO-violating, felony organized crime, using taxpayer funds, in order to profit at the expense of ...

<u>Tag - Crony Elon Musk - THE WAR ON</u> POLITICAL CORRUPTION

the **corruption** case - part ten - the sick sex cult and rape culture of silicon valley oligarchs; the attackers - rico racketeering charges against gawker, jalopnik, gizmodo, deadspin investors; the **corruption** case - part eleven - the oligarch tech sex cults get

even more twisted; the deadly tesla motors fire danger cover-up.

<u>Political Corruption & Bribery In The U.S.</u> <u>Department of ...</u>

c https://nationalnewsnetwork.net/cat/proof-that-cleantech-was-stock-scam/video/political-corruption-bribery-in-the-u-s-department-of-energy-?catName=proof-that-cleantech-was-stock-scam

It was a precision controlled, coordinated organized crime effort designed to rape, both, the U.S. taxpayers and the non-**crony** applicants for these funds. The crime used the traditional bribes, **crony** payola contracts, revolving doors, sex worker payoffs and other political **corruption** but it mainly used a new tactic called Dark Money'. Our team knows this because some of them were solicited to participate in these crimes and some of them had close personal relationships with the politicians who ...

The Silicon Valley Mafia - Abel Danger

content/uploads/2017/05/The-Silicon-Valley-Mafia-Update-4.2-1.pdf

The Silicon Valley Mafia From Computer Chips to Gun Clips. From the Whore House To The White House. How Tech Billionaire Oligarchs Make Al Capone Look Tame. By Alex Lund, Audrey Finis and Connie Britley with acknowledgement to International Consortium of Investigative Journalists VOLUME ONE OF A TEN VOLUME SET Madicore Press First Edition

<u>Obama's Green-Energy, Crony-Corruption</u> <u>Story, Part 2 | The ...</u>

c <u>https://www.stridentconservative.com/obamas-green-energy-crony-corruption-story-part-2/</u>

The previous green-energy **crony-corruption** column unraveled SolarReserve and its share of "meaningful" political connections - Citigroup, a major investor in SolarReserve, also a top 2008 Obama donor, as well as two former Citigroup executives, one of whom is an Obama "buddy and bundler" and now has a "seat" at the White House, while the other served on President Obama's Transition Team and now sits on his Jobs Council.

The War on Political Corruption

c londonworldwide.com

We won our federal case proving political **corruption** influences citizen applications for government funds and permanently posted the **corruption** expose documents on public record for the world to see. We may be the only people on federal record in which the federal court has referred to an agency "infected by political **corruption**" and ...

REVEALED: Silicon Valley's Secret Slushfund Led by Longtime Soros Ally - Let The Doxing Begin

by <u>Staff Writer</u> Soros

Who's behind Mind the Gap, "the secretive Silicon Valley group that has funneled over \$20 million to Democrats" that boasts a "\$140M War Chest to Beat Trump"?

According to the <u>Vox exposé</u>:

"The group's leaders are a pair of Stanford law professors:

<u>Barbara Fried</u>, who has no apparent campaign experience, and

<u>Paul Brest</u>, the former president of the William and Flora

Hewlett Foundation."

You probably haven't heard of either professor, which makes sense, since Mind the Gap's <u>modus operandi</u> is secrecy.

But Brest is extensively associated with someone you've *definitely* heard of: progressive mega-donor and founder of the <u>Open</u> <u>Society Foundation</u>, noted globalist George Soros.

Yes... again.

Look no further than Brest's 2018 book, <u>Money Well Spent: A</u>
<u>Strategic Plan for Smart Philanthropy</u>, where he used a blurb from Soros to promote the book:

Soros writes: "In philanthropy, as in investing, you need a solid strategy to understand what works, what fails, and why. Money Well Spent provides the tools philanthropists need to create an effective strategy and achieve success."

DOWNLOAD THE WAR ROOM PODCAST FREE

Their bromance dates back at least 2 decades when Brest was <u>president</u> of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, a position he held until <u>2012</u>.

According to a <u>press release from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund</u>, Soros's Open Society Institute and Brest's Hewlett Foundation collaborated on the Connect US Initiative in 2002 to "reverse the dangerous course on which U.S. global engagement seemed to be headed":

In late 2002, RBF President <u>Stephen Heintz</u>, along with Paul Brest of the Hewlett Foundation and George Soros of the Open Society Institute, gathered the presidents of a dozen foundations at the Soros home in Bedford, New York to consider what their institutions might do together to halt or reverse the dangerous course on which U.S. global engagement seemed to be headed. After nearly two years, a core group of the original "Bedford" participants came together to form the Connect US Initiative, a pooled fund to support fresh thinking about and grass roots advocacy in support of a more collaborative, farthinking, and constructive US global engagement".

In typical Soros fashion, the Connect US Initiative is <u>embraces</u> a globalist worldview. According to their mission statement:

"To exercise effective leadership and make progress on these issues, the United States must advance a vision for responsible U.S. global engagement that emphasizes international cooperation, affirms the strong connections between today's most pressing global issues, and recognizes that progress on compelling global problems will require the active support of friends, allies and other major stakeholders in the international community. The United States will only gain such cooperation and support if it exercises power and influence in a manner that is widely perceived as legitimate, and that clearly demonstrates foresight and responsibility to future generations."

Together, the pair also <u>launched</u> the <u>Revenue Watch Institute</u>, an initiative focused on countries rich in natural resources, in 2006:

"George Soros, OSI's chair and founder, announced his gift of \$4.5 million to develop better oversight of resource revenues so that citizens can benefit from their countries' natural wealth. In collaboration with OSI, Erik Solheim, the Minister for International Development, said that Norway will give \$3 million and Paul Brest, President of the Hewlett Foundation, said Hewlett will contribute \$1.5 million to the new RWI."

Together, Soros and Brest under the auspices of the Hewlett Foundation and the Open Society Institute, have spent millions of dollars attempting to push the world closer to embracing the <u>'false song of globalism.'</u>

And here they are, at it again, with the secretive Silicon Valley donor class.

Democrats and journalists were excited Thursday when the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a legal opinion that the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had violated the Impoundment Control Act by withholding congressionally appropriated aid to Ukraine last summer.

The non-binding opinion was disputed by the OMB, which released a memo last month arguing that the "programmatic" delay sought to *fulfill*, not oppose, congressional intent.

The GAO <u>decision</u>, which had been requested by Democrat Senator Chris van Hollen of Maryland, disagreed, concluding that the delay had been for "policy reasons," not "programmatic delay." Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) cited the decision in her morning press conference — though she had trouble pronouncing the word "impoundment" — and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) likewise trumpeted the GAO decision as a vindication of the House impeachment.

Though the GAO works for Congress, it is not the finder of fact in impeachment cases. Moreover, it is not even clear that the Impoundment Control Act is constitution.

Nevertheless, if a mere GAO finding is sufficient to justify impeachment, then President Barack Obama ought to have been impeached at least seven times over for each of the following cases in which the GAO found that the Obama administration had violated federal law.

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and United States Secret Service (USSS) were <u>found</u> to have violated section 503 of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, and the Antideficiency Act, in 2009 after the Secret Service reported that it had overspent on candidate protection in 2008 by \$5,100,000, and used money from another program to cover the shortfall. DHS failed to notify Congress 15 days in advance of the "reprogramming."
- The Department of the Treasury was <u>found</u> to have violated the Antideficiency Act in 2014 when it used the voluntary services of four individuals. "Treasury did not appoint any of the individuals to federal employment, nor did any individual qualify as a student who may, under certain circumstances, perform voluntary service," the GAO found, adding that there was no emergency that might have justified using the individuals to perform several months of work without receiving pay.
- The Department of Defense was <u>found</u> to have violated the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Antideficiency Act in the infamous Bowe Bergdahl swap, when President Barack Obama traded five high-level Taliban

- detainees for a U.S. Army deserter. The administration transferred the five Taliban from Guantanamo Bay without notifying relevant congressional committees 30 days in advance, as required by law. Republicans complained; Democrats were silent.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development was found to have violated the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, and the Antideficiency Act in 2014 when the deputy secretary of the department sent an email to "friends and colleagues" asking them to lobby the Senate in favor of a bill appropriating money to the department, and against amendments offered by Republican Senators.
- The Environmental Protection Agency was <u>found</u> to have violated "publicity or propaganda and anti-lobbying provisions" in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act and the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act in 2015 by using some of the department's social media accounts in rule-making for the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) regulations (which have since been repealed under the Trump administration).
- Two officials in the Department of Housing and Urban Development were <u>found</u> in 2016 to have violated Section 713 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act by attempting to prevent a regional director within the agency from being interviewed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. (Notably, the GAO reversed its earlier decision that the department's general counsel had not violated the law once it was presented with more evidence.)

• The Federal Maritime Commission was found to have violated Section 711 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, as well as the Antideficiency Act, in 2016 when it failed to notify the relevant Senate and House committees that it had spent more than \$5,000 to furnish and redecorate the office of its former director in 2010. (The total amount spent was \$12,084 over three years, as noted by the GAO in a footnote reference to an inspector general's report on the excessive expenditures.)

Needless to say, Obama was never impeached.