

July 3, 2013

In the Daily Beast, Lloyd Green says this president's agenda will leave behind a strong government and a weak country.

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Jennifer Rubin says Putin has slapped down the prez once again.

*... Obama has an uncanny knack of simultaneously demonstrating a lack of spine and a lack of tact. In this case, that knack has proved doubly embarrassing. It is in this light that we should evaluate his recent pledge to cut our nuclear arsenal in hopes that Russia will follow suit. It was daft when he said it and it's more so now that we see vividly how Putin operates.*

*In the future, it may be good for a president to avoid going on bended knee to the Russian autocrats to bail the United States of a geopolitical loss (as Obama did on Syria), entering into arms agreements the Russians have no intention of abiding by, slashing our armed forces and promising to cut unilaterally our nuclear arsenal. Russian leaders tend to regard such behavior as unserious or downright foolish, which is precisely how Putin now sees Obama.*

**Peggy Noonan** will not let go of the IRS scandal.

*'Documents Show Liberals in I.R.S. Dragnet,' read the New York Times headline. "Dem: 'Progressive' Groups Were Also Targeted by IRS," said U.S. News. The scandal has "evaporated into thin air," bayed the excitable Andrew Sullivan. A breathlessly exonerative narrative swept the news media this week: that liberal groups had been singled out and, by implication, abused by the IRS, just as conservative groups had been. Therefore, the scandal wasn't a scandal but a mere bungle—a nonpolitical series of unhelpful but innocent mistakes.*

*The problem with this story is that liberals were not caught in the IRS dragnet. Progressive groups were not targeted.*

*The claim that they had been rested mostly on an unclear, undated, highly redacted and not at all dispositive few pages from a "historical" BOLO ("be on the lookout") list that apparently wasn't even in use between May 2010 and May 2012, when most of the IRS harassment of conservative groups occurred.*

*The case isn't closed, no matter how many people try to slam it shut.*

*On Wednesday Russell George, the Treasury inspector general whose original audit broke open the scandal, answered Rep. [Sander Levin](#)'s charge that the audit had ignored the targeting of progressives. In a letter released Thursday, Mr. George couldn't have been clearer: The evidence showed conservative groups were singled out for abuse by the IRS, not liberal groups. While some liberal groups might have wound up on a BOLO list, the IRS did not target them. "We did not find evidence that the criteria you identified, labeled 'Progressives,' were used by the IRS to select potential political cases during the 2010 to 2012 timeframe we audited." One hundred percent of the groups with "Tea Party," "Patriot" or "9/12" in their names were given extra scrutiny. "While we have multiple sources of information corroborating the use of Tea Party and other related criteria . . . including employee interviews, e-mails, and other documents, we found no indication in any of these other materials that 'progressives' was a term used to refer cases for scrutiny for political campaign intervention." ...*

More from [AllahPundit](#) at Hot Air.

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*The inspector general also stressed that 100 percent of the groups with "Tea Party," "patriots" and "9/12" in their name were flagged for extra attention. '*

**Rick Manning** at Politico posts that timelines of the IRS scandal point to White House culpability.

*... This leads a reasonable person to conclude that either the orders from the White House demanding that the targeting be discontinued were never issued, or the orders were ignored by those in charge of the IRS operation in spite of the extensive public scrutiny.*

*Neither conclusion is good.*

*One indicates that the White House's concern was merely about political backlash and not about the activity itself. This wink-and-nod approach to the IRS abuse scandal gives them ownership of it, something that would not be surprising given the public calls for this exact political targeting in 2010 by **Sen. Max Baucus** (Mont.) and other Democrats.*

*If no one at the White House demanded that the action stop, in spite of admitted knowledge about the scandal by the **White House chief of staff**, it shows either a stunning complicity or an equally stunning incompetence.*

*The other possible, but much less likely scenario, paints a picture of an out-of-control bureaucracy immune from a White House demand that it stop illegal activity and unwilling to bend to public outrage over its actions. ...*

**Tory Aardvark** writes on another unintended consequence of the liberal push against oil. It is the story of the 14,000 abandoned wind turbines in the U. S.

*There are many **hidden truths** about the world of wind turbines from the pollution and environmental damage caused in China by manufacturing bird choppers, the **blight on people's lives** of noise and the flicker factor and the **countless numbers of birds that are killed** each year by these blots on the landscape.*

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**The Daily Beast**

## **The Sprawling, Dimming Age of Obama**

***The Age of Obama is mandated healthcare, crony capitalism, and First Family TV spots as modern iteration of bread and circuses.***

by Lloyd Green

In Barack Obama, America elected a chief executive whose Department of Justice has [repeatedly targeted the press](#), whose Internal Revenue Service has gone [gunning for conservatives](#), and whose government has elevated secrecy into a cardinal virtue. The Obama administration's data grab is not just about national security, or Edward Snowden. It is also an epilogue befitting a candidate who delivered his 2008 convention acceptance speech in front of [a temple façade dedicated to himself](#), and whose faith in government and the state is at the center of his presidency.

Under the Obama Rules, the unauthorized dissemination of non-classified government information is now ["tantamount to aiding the enemies of the United States."](#) Think Nixonism without the sweaty five o'clock shadow; Cheneyism without the dyspepsia, armed with a jump shot instead of a shotgun.

Forget Obama's paeans to civil liberties. The Age of Obama is a celebration of ever-growing and ever-more intrusive government, with mandated healthcare, crony capitalism, and First Family daytime and late-night television appearances as the modern iterations of bread and circuses.

On Tuesday, Obama environmental adviser Daniel Schrag [announced to the world](#) that "a war on coal is exactly what's needed," only hours before the president rolled out his environmental regulatory scheme that would have the EPA issue more regulations, while constraining development of the Keystone XL Pipeline — jobs be damned. Talk about timing! Just a day later, first quarter GDP growth was [revised downward](#) to 1.8 percent.

Having previously been rebuffed by Congress over a carbon tax, the President didn't propose anything to Congress this time. He simply announced what his executive branch would do unilaterally.

Still, the administration's candor about its use of executive fiat to attain that which could not be gained through legislation stands in marked contrast to the obfuscation surrounding the government's surveillance efforts. That was also vintage Obama, insofar as it was one more attempt to expand government's reach — in the name of a greater good.

And what does Obama get in return for his push for big government? A government that loves him back. Unlike the financial, insurance and real-estate industries that have been fickle about him — showering him with hosannas and cash in 2008, while offering a relative trickle of support in 2012—Obama remains the living end for government workers.

IRS employees donated to Obama over Romney by a 4-to-1 margin, IRS attorneys favored Obama by 20-to-1, and government lawyers at the National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Education [shut out the Romney campaign completely](#). The federal bureaucracy had effectively lined up against nearly half the country.

Meanwhile, the White House press secretary dissembles daily; the intelligence community appears incapable of delivering a complete and truthful answer to [Congress](#), and IRS employees apparently enjoyed a giant [tax payer](#) funded party catered by Wolfgang Puck.

Given this totality, public distrust of Washington should come as no surprise.

For the record, spending \$2.4 million on an Olympics-themed confab, complete with an open bar while America's housing market was crashing, is not prudent. Using credit cards to buy bottles of wine and \$140 dinners is not what we want from the [IRS's green-eyeshade brigade](#). Trust, what's that?

According to a recent [Quinnipiac Poll](#), 47 percent of Americans trust the government only some of the time and 36 percent hardly ever trust it. CNN reports that 50 percent of those surveyed answered that the words "[honest and trustworthy](#)" do not describe [the President](#), and Obama's disapproval numbers have outpaced his positives for nearly all of June, according to [Real Clear Politics](#).

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Without his credibility, [Obama is lost](#). Preachy and divisive doesn't get you a whole lot of friends — just ask Jimmy Carter. And no one is confusing Obama with Bill Clinton, who knew how to maneuver; or, if one prefers, how to pander. Bill was Hillary's and the GOP's problem, not the nation's.

Obama has fallen, but the question is how far? Pop culture may shed a clue or two. Yes, Beyonce and Adele have agreed to sing at [Michelle Obama's birthday party](#), but it is Mick Jagger who told the truth. The other night at D.C.'s Verizon Center, [the Stones front man quipped](#), "I don't think President Obama is here tonight . . . But I'm sure he's listening in."

Sadly, Obama appears more than comfortable with a strong government and a weak America. Although four years have passed since the Great Recession technically ended, [employment has yet to regain its pre-recession peak](#). The lag in jobs has been matched by a lack of new investments. According to the Wall Street Journal, "total venture capital invested in the U.S. fell nearly 10% last year and has yet to return to its pre-recession peak." However, the White House appears content to live with this dismal version of the "new" normal, one where all but the wealthiest struggle and the American Dream is a campaign cliché or a fading memory.

To add to his woes, the President is repeatedly stiff-armed, both at home and abroad. Congress [++defies him at no cost++](#). <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/06/obama-second-term-doldrums-93295.html> Try as he may, Obama cannot even get a gun bill out of the Democratic controlled Senate, let alone the House. The Supreme Court hands the government's lawyers [repeated defeats](#), and Russia and China openly mock him.

A fugitive Snowden was allowed to leave Hong Kong and fly freely to Russia. Adding insult to irony, Vladimir Putin has ruled out his extradition. If the Cold War is back, then as Michael Goodwin of the New York Post [wrote++](#), "My money is on Putin."

So here Obama is, craving security and adulation, but being denied both. He speaks aloud, but is frequently ignored. With more than two years left in his term, the President is more a creature

of history than a driver of reality. As he is learning the hard way, standing in front of ersatz Greek columns doesn't make you a deity, and Capitol Hill isn't Mt. Olympus.

## Right Turn

### [Putin slaps down Obama, again](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

You have to hand it to Vladimir Putin. He manages to humiliate the United States and gain access to the treasure trove of secrets that Edward Snowden is lugging around, all while expressing his concern for his American "partners."

#### [The Post reports:](#)

President Vladimir Putin, speaking to reporters and sounding as if he were opening the way for asylum without appearing too provocative, made a surprising statement.

Putin said that if Snowden, a former National Security Agency contractor, sought refuge in Russia, he could stay — as long as he avoided making harmful disclosures about the United States from Russian territory.

"If he wants to stay here," Putin said, "there is one condition: He has to stop his work undermining our U.S. partners, as odd as it may sound coming from me."

It is not odd at all. Having Snowden and his secrets to himself, Putin gains nothing by letting everyone else in on U.S. secrets. In any case, Snowden is not going back to the United States, Putin vows. ("Russia never extradites anyone anywhere and is not going to extradite anyone.")

[Another Russian official](#) was even more biting and contemptuous of President Obama: "I join the opinion that we by no means should expel him. I think Snowden is a great pacifist. This man has done no less to get the Nobel Peace Prize than U.S. President Barack Obama." He shouldn't give extreme libertarians in the United States any ideas.

This was an entirely foreseeable response to the president's shrug of the shoulders last week, when he defensively told reporters that he shouldn't have to call Putin about the issue and that he's "not going to be scrambling jets to get a 29-year-old hacker." Perhaps Putin would have thought twice about his gamesmanship if the administration communicated that the United States has lots of ways other than "scrambling jets" to make its displeasure known and that Putin will put September's G-8 meeting in St. Petersburg at risk if he continues this behavior.

Obama has an uncanny knack of simultaneously demonstrating a lack of spine and a lack of tact. In this case, that knack has proved doubly embarrassing. It is in this light that we should evaluate his recent pledge to cut our nuclear arsenal in hopes that Russia will follow suit. It was daft when he said it and it's more so now that we see vividly how Putin operates.

In the future, it may be good for a president to avoid going on bended knee to the Russian autocrats to bail the United States of a geopolitical loss (as Obama did on Syria), entering into arms agreements the Russians have no intention of abiding by, slashing our armed forces and

promising to cut unilaterally our nuclear arsenal. Russian leaders tend to regard such behavior as unserious or downright foolish, which is precisely how Putin now sees Obama.

**WSJ**

### **Cover the IRS, Don't Cover for It**

***Apologists in the media and elsewhere falsely claim the scandal was just a bungle.***

by Peggy Noonan

'Documents Show Liberals in I.R.S. Dragnet,' read the New York Times headline. "Dem: 'Progressive' Groups Were Also Targeted by IRS," said U.S. News. The scandal has "evaporated into thin air," bayed the excitable Andrew Sullivan. A breathlessly exonerative narrative swept the news media this week: that liberal groups had been singled out and, by implication, abused by the IRS, just as conservative groups had been. Therefore, the scandal wasn't a scandal but a mere bungle—a nonpolitical series of unhelpful but innocent mistakes.

The problem with this story is that liberals were not caught in the IRS dragnet. Progressive groups were not targeted.

The claim that they had been rested mostly on an unclear, undated, highly redacted and not at all dispositive few pages from a "historical" BOLO ("be on the lookout") list that apparently wasn't even in use between May 2010 and May 2012, when most of the IRS harassment of conservative groups occurred.

The case isn't closed, no matter how many people try to slam it shut.

On Wednesday Russell George, the Treasury inspector general whose original audit broke open the scandal, answered Rep. [Sander Levin](#)'s charge that the audit had ignored the targeting of progressives. In a letter released Thursday, Mr. George couldn't have been clearer: The evidence showed conservative groups were singled out for abuse by the IRS, not liberal groups. While some liberal groups might have wound up on a BOLO list, the IRS did not target them. "We did not find evidence that the criteria you identified, labeled 'Progressives,' were used by the IRS to select potential political cases during the 2010 to 2012 timeframe we audited." One hundred percent of the groups with "Tea Party," "Patriot" or "9/12" in their names were given extra scrutiny. "While we have multiple sources of information corroborating the use of Tea Party and other related criteria . . . including employee interviews, e-mails, and other documents, we found no indication in any of these other materials that 'progressives' was a term used to refer cases for scrutiny for political campaign intervention."

According to a House Ways and Means Committee source, only seven of the 298 cases flagged by the IRS for extra scrutiny appeared to represent progressive causes. Not one of the seven was subject to harassment or abuse. Of the seven, only two were even sent follow-up questionnaires after their applications for tax exempt status were received. Neither of those two was asked inappropriate or invasive questions. And all seven saw their applications approved.

Conservative groups were treated differently, sent to a secondary review group after being flagged for scrutiny. They were subject to undue burdens and harassment—lengthy and

invasive questions about donors and even prayer habits. There, in the secondary offices, some of them languished for years. "Some of them are still languishing," said the source.

Danny Werfel, the acting head of the IRS, who manages at the same time to seem utterly well-meaning and highly evasive, further muddied the waters this week with a report on how the IRS is dealing with the aftermath of the inspector general's audit. The report seemed to exonerate—"we have not found evidence of intentional wrongdoing at this time"—while admitting, further in: "We are digging deeper . . . to determine if there are instances of wrongdoing." Which is it?

The report claims that part of the problem is that those who were targeted and abused didn't "leverage" the Office of Taxpayer Advocate. But when Sen. John Cornyn contacted the local advocate's office on behalf of the targeted Texas group True the Vote, his letter went unanswered for 11 months, and the eventual reply didn't answer his questions. Forget how they'd treat an average citizen—that's how they treat someone who has power.

The Werfel report makes no mention of the agency's disclosure of confidential tax information—the leaking of confidential tax and donor information of the National Organization for Marriage to the liberal Human Rights Campaign, and the leaking of the applications of conservative groups to a liberal news outfit.

More than 10 pages of the 53-page report are devoted to explaining how important the IRS is, and how excellent its workforce, in spite of lower budgets. There will be "negative repercussions" in future years, it darkly warns, "if our funding is inadequate." That would have been a good place to mention the bonuses the IRS has been giving itself—almost a quarter-billion dollars the past few years. But no word of that.

There is a muted mention of IRS boondoggles—the conferences, the suites, the "Star Trek" and "Gilligan's Island" parody videos: There were "management lapses" that led to "wasteful spending." "Many of these failures reflected a lack of judgment that, unfortunately, was not uncommon across the Federal Government in the years leading up to 2010." Ah, that explains it.

The report is written in a way that is beyond bureaucratic. It is aggressively impenetrable and requires constant translation. "Information . . . shared with Congress was insufficient." That means that when Congress asked IRS leadership if there was targeting going on, they lied and said no.

The report's weaknesses were played out in person during Thursday's Ways and Means questioning of Mr. Werfel. Chairman Dave Camp said the report fails to address central issues. "Where is the internal oversight?"

Under questioning, Mr. Werfel admitted he had not interviewed his predecessors, who led the IRS in the scandal years, nor exemptions unit chief Lois Lerner.

Did Ms. Lerner attempt to cover up the targeting? "I don't know the answer. . . . There's no evidence on the record."

Who was the person responsible for the Cincinnati office's targeting of tea-party groups? "We are looking into the facts and circumstances that arose."



Who in Washington told IRS workers to hold up the applications? "I don't know the answer to that question."

How do you know the circumstances within the tax-exempt unit aren't more widespread within the IRS? "I've asked them to look for evidence of problems."

He did, however, agree that it appears tea-party groups were sent on for extra scrutiny. "We did not find evidence . . . we found no indication . . . that progressives was a term" used to alert screeners. So there's that.

Who initiated the targeting of donors to apply gift taxes to their donations? This is "subject to further investigation."

Who leaked the donor lists? "I do not have that information"

Who at the IRS was involved in covering up the patterns of abuse? That's being investigated, too.

In fairness to Mr. Werfel, there are a lot of people he can't talk to because they are talking to investigators. But if that's the case, he can't declare there's no evidence of intentional wrongdoing by individuals at the IRS. How would he know?

Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas zeroed in at the end: "This report is a sham."

No one has gotten near the bottom of this scandal. Journalists shouldn't be trying to make the story disappear. The revenue-gathering arm of the federal government appears to be politically biased, corrupt in its actions, and unable to reform itself.

The only way to make that story go away is to get to the bottom of it and fully reveal it. It's not a bungle, it's a scandal.

## Hot Air

### [IRS inspector general: No, liberal groups weren't "targeted" the way tea-party groups were](#)

by Allahpundit

Righties on Twitter are citing this as proof that, contra desperate liberal claims, the scandal's not over yet. Isn't the real significance of this that it makes the scandal *worse*? Three days ago, the IRS's new acting director hinted that the agency had been [targeting progressives too](#), a claim supposedly confirmed by the IRS's latest report to Congress. Lefties naturally took that to be a smoking gun that there was never any political bias. Now here comes IG Russell George to say that, according to his audit, it's [all basically a lie](#):

"Our audit did not find evidence that the IRS used the 'progressives' identifier as selection criteria for potential political cases between May 2010 and May 2012," George wrote in the letter obtained by The Hill.

The inspector general also stressed that 100 percent of the groups with “Tea Party,” “patriots” and “9/12” in their name were flagged for extra attention.

“While we have multiple sources of information corroborating the use of Tea Party and other related criteria we described in our report, including employee interviews, e-mails and other documents, we found no indication in any of these other materials that ‘progressives’ was a term used to refer cases for scrutiny for political campaign intervention,” George wrote to Levin, the top Democrat on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee...

George’s letter says that the “progressive” identifier on BOLO lists was not in a section used for selecting potential political cases, and that the IRS had developed inappropriate criteria to flag Tea Party applicants as potentially political.

According to George, six of the 20 progressive groups that applied for tax-exemption between 2010 and 2012 received close scrutiny. Of the 292 tea-party groups that applied, ... [all 292 did](#). In fact, didn’t the IRS claim that it started flagging tea-party applications systematically in 2010 because the movement was exploding and groups’ applications for exemption were piling up? (That was [a lie too](#), but that was their story.) That’s the supposed “nonpolitical” explanation for all this — the tea-party movement was unique in how quickly it rose and how widely it spread and therefore the agency had to look closely to make sure groups weren’t violating 501(c)(4) all over the country by meddling in campaigns. If that’s the left’s preferred narrative for what happened, then why would they think progressive groups were targeted equally or at all? There was, and is, no lefty equivalent of the movement. You can believe that institutional bias against conservatives was at work here or you can believe that tea partiers, due to the movement’s size and its interest in primaries, deserved extra scrutiny under the rules against campaigning by “social welfare” groups. The “progressives were targeted too” theory doesn’t fit with either. Especially when you remember that the president’s own political shop, Organizing for Action, somehow remains a 501(c)(4) in good standing.

[Eliana Johnson](#) explained two days ago what the new IRS report really said about progressives being “targeted”:

The term “progressive” was flagged in a general warning to agency screeners — one that remained on the list throughout the time in question — that the applications of progressive organizations may not merit 501(c)(3) designation, which prohibits groups from engaging in political activity. That warning, according to an IRS source familiar with the review process, did not prevent first-line screeners from recommending an application be approved.

The same lists, between August 2010 and February 2012, directed screeners by default to send tea-party applications to a special group for further review and for coordination with lawyers in Washington, D.C. “They are different,” says the agency source of the designations made for progressive and tea-party groups.

Also, she notes, don’t forget that tea partiers weren’t flagged exclusively through the term “tea party.” The IRS’s be-on-the-lookout list metamorphosed to include issues of concern to tea partiers, like paying down the national debt. If the political scrutiny was impartial and evenhanded, where are the BOLOs for groups that, say, oppose entitlement reform or want to raise taxes?

But back to my question up top. Why was Danny Werfel, the new IRS director and [Obama political ally](#), out there on Monday nudging the media to believe that progressives somehow were put through the wringer too? You know why: Because, with politics momentarily consumed with Snowdenmania and Supreme Court rulings, the time is ripe to try to put this scandal to bed. I'm not sold on the idea of a special prosecutor, but if they're going to stoop to this level of obfuscation even now, after they've ~~cleaned house~~ lightly dusted, maybe that's [the only way forward](#).

## Politico

### [White House Chief of Staff McDonough should be fired over IRS scandal](#)

by Rick Manning

I hate it when timelines don't work.

Here is the latest timeline on the IRS conservative targeting scandal that initially supplanted the Benghazi scandal and has since been pushed from the news by the NSA-spying-on-all-of-us scandal.

On April 24, the White House chief counsel was [notified](#) of the targeting by the IRS. According to the last updated timeline released by the administration, the chief counsel then notified both the White House deputy chief of staff and the chief of staff of the impending Treasury inspector general report. It was initially reported by the media that the deputy White House chief of staff met with Lois Lerner of the IRS twice to prepare a communication strategy, but the administration has subsequently denied that these meetings occurred.

On May 10, the now-infamous Lerner casually announced in response to an orchestrated question at an American Bar Association speech that the IRS had indeed targeted conservative groups' tax exempt applications.

Then, in spite of the Friday release strategy, all hell broke loose, and the Obama administration was scrambling for cover.

Now that some of the smoke is clearing, we have learned that for [two weeks](#) after the Lerner bombshell and more than four weeks after the White House became aware of the targeting, the IRS was still engaged in political targeting.

Somehow, with the White House in a full projectile sweat about the political ramifications of the IRS abuses at least a month earlier, no one at the IRS got the word to cease and desist from the activity?

This leads a reasonable person to conclude that either the orders from the White House demanding that the targeting be discontinued were never issued, or the orders were ignored by those in charge of the IRS operation in spite of the extensive public scrutiny.

Neither conclusion is good.

One indicates that the White House's concern was merely about political backlash and not about the activity itself. This wink-and-nod approach to the IRS abuse scandal gives them ownership of it, something that would not be surprising given the public calls for this exact political targeting in 2010 by [Sen. Max Baucus](#) (Mont.) and other Democrats.

If no one at the White House demanded that the action stop, in spite of admitted knowledge about the scandal by the [White House chief of staff](#), it shows either a stunning complicity or an equally stunning incompetence.

The other possible, but much less likely scenario, paints a picture of an out-of-control bureaucracy immune from a White House demand that it stop illegal activity and unwilling to bend to public outrage over its actions.

While Edward Snowden's excellent adventures, Hillary's State Department escort services and Obama's \$60 million to \$100 million African vacation (er, state visits) have taken some of the spotlight off of the IRS, the pesky timeline of events make it unlikely to go away completely.

If, as appears to be the case, the White House never told the IRS to stop its policy of political targeting, heads need to roll, starting with Chief of Staff Dennis McDonough, who, if Jay Carney is to be believed, never even bothered to tell the president about it.

**Tory Aardvark**

[14000 Abandoned Wind Turbines In The USA](#)



*Abandoned wind farm at South Point Hawaii*

There are many [hidden truths](#) about the world of wind turbines from the pollution and environmental damage caused in China by manufacturing bird choppers, the [blight on people's lives](#) of noise and the flicker factor and the [countless numbers of birds that are killed](#) each year by these blots on the landscape.

The symbol of Green renewable energy, our saviour from the non-existent problem of Global Warming, abandoned wind farms are starting to litter the planet as globally governments cut the taxes that consumers pay for the privilege of having a very expensive power source that does not work every day for various reasons like it's too cold or the wind speed is too high.

The US experience with wind farms has left over 14,000 wind turbines abandoned and slowly decaying, in most instances the turbines are just left as symbols of a dying Climate Religion, nowhere have the Green Environmentalists appeared to clear up their mess or even complain about the abandoned wind farms.

The US has had wind farms since 1981:

*“Some say that Ka Le is haunted—and it is. But it’s haunted not by Hawaii’s legendary night marchers. The mysterious sounds are “Na leo o Kamaoa”—the disembodied voices of 37 skeletal wind turbines abandoned to rust on the hundred-acre site of the former Kamaoa Wind Farm...*

The ghosts of Kamaoa are not alone in warning us. Five other abandoned wind sites dot the Hawaiian Isles—but it is in California where the impact of past mandates and subsidies is felt most strongly. Thousands of abandoned wind turbines littered the landscape of wind energy’s California “big three” locations—Altamont Pass, Tehachapin (above), and San Geronio—considered among the world’s best wind sites...

California’s wind farms—comprising about 80% of the world’s wind generation capacity—ceased to generate much more quickly than Kamaoa. In the best wind spots on earth, over 14,000 turbines were simply abandoned. Spinning, post-industrial junk which generates nothing but bird kills...”

The problem with wind farms when they are abandoned is getting the turbines removed, as usual there are non Green environmentalists to be seen:

*The City of Palm Springs was forced to enact an ordinance requiring their removal from San Geronio. But California’s Kern County, encompassing the Tehachapi area, has no such law*

Imagine the outraged Green chorus if those turbines were abandoned oil drilling rigs.

*It took nearly a decade from the time the first flimsy wind turbines were installed before the performance of California wind projects could dispel the widespread belief among the public and investors that wind energy was just a tax scam.*

Ben Lieberman, a senior policy analyst focusing on energy and environmental issues for the Heritage Foundation, is not surprised. He asks:

“If wind power made sense, why would it need a government subsidy in the first place? It’s a bubble which bursts as soon as the government subsidies end.”

*“It’s a bubble which bursts as soon as the government subsidies end”* therein lies a lesson that is going to be learnt by those that sought to make fortunes out of tax payer subsidies, the whole renewables industry of solar, wind and biomass is just an artificial bubble incapable of surviving without subsidies from governments and tax payers which many businesses and NGO’s like

WWF, FoE and Greenpeace now think is [their god given right](#), as the money is going on Green Climate Religion approved clean energy.

The Green evangelists who push so hard for these wind farms, as usual have not thought the whole idea through, no surprises for a left agenda like Climate Change, which like all things Green and socialist is just a knee jerk reaction:

*Altamont's turbines have since 2008 been tethered four months of every year in an effort to protect migrating birds after environmentalists filed suit. According to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 75 to 110 Golden Eagles, 380 Burrowing Owls, 300 Red-tailed Hawks, and 333 American Kestrels (falcons) are killed by Altamont turbines annually. A July, 2008 study by the Alameda County Community Development Agency points to 10,000 annual bird deaths from Altamont Pass wind turbines. Audubon calls Altamont, "probably the worst site ever chosen for a wind energy project."*

The same areas that are good for siting wind farms are also good for birds of prey and migrating birds to pass through, shame for the birds that none of the Green mental midgets who care so much about everything in nature, thought that one through when pushing their anti fossil fuel agenda.

*After the debacle of the First California Wind Rush, the European Union had moved ahead of the US on efforts to subsidize "renewable" energy—including a ["Feed in Tariff" even more lucrative than the ISO4 contracts.](#)*

The tax payers who paid for the subsidies to build the wind farms, then paid over the odds for an unreliable source of power generation will, ultimately be left to pick up the bill for clearing up the Green eco mess in the post man made Global Warming world.

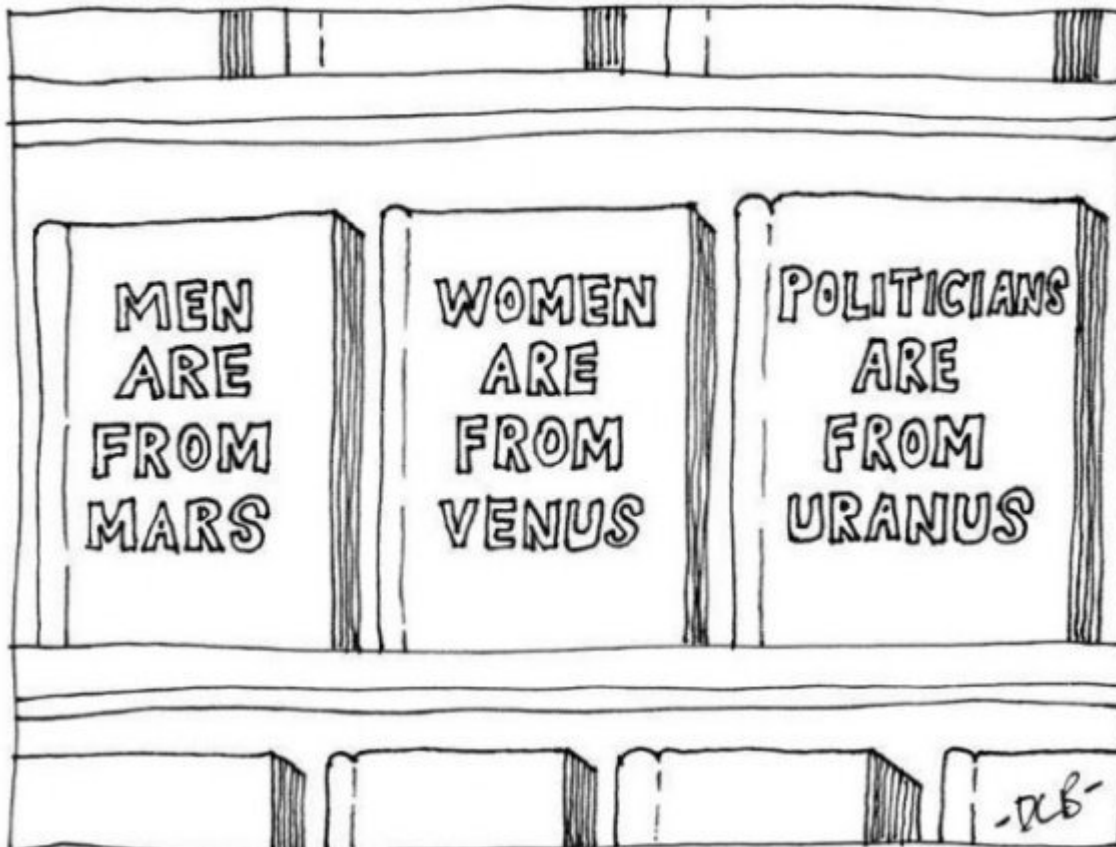
In answer to several allegations that the number of abandoned wind turbines was made up, the following quote from the article and link will confirm this figure to be true:

*California's wind farms — then comprising about 80% of the world's wind generation capacity — ceased to generate much more quickly than Kamaoa. In the best wind spots on earth, [over 14,000 turbines were simply abandoned](#). Spinning, post-industrial junk which generates nothing but bird kills.*

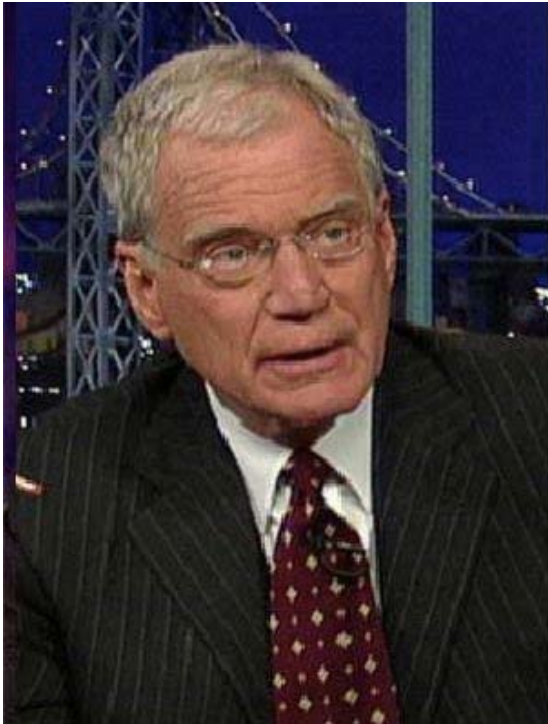


## The Last Laugh

By Derek Brettle







The president is in so much trouble politically, he's thinking about killing bin Laden again.



Q: WHICH ONE *actually* PRODUCES ENERGY and JOBS?



A. COAL



B. HOT AIR.

SOMEONE HAS TO LEAD...





OBAMA'S CLIMATE CONTROL PLAN IS ANTI-COAL