**Energy Policy Starts a War**

Who would have thought that holding crude oil and natural gas hostage would start a war? I did. I told you that when oil hovers around $35 a barrel, China is happy, because they buy oil from the world markets. Russia is mildly happy, because more than half their GDP comes from oil and gas, which they sell to Germany and the rest of Europe. When oil gets cheap, prices go down, because costs go down, and profits can balance out the loss in revenue.

But, when oil gets above $65 a barrel, China and India get mad, prices go up, and OPEC and Russia make out like bandits. And, when Russia and Iran have tons of money, they build weapons. Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals have crushed the roaring twenties. The Green New Deal is the same as the old new deal, that destroyed America in 1933.

* **Renewable energy has taken center stage**in the global fight against climate change.
* The energy crisis in Europe has **highlighted some of the challenges the world is facing** in the global energy transition.
* It is becoming **increasingly clear that fossil fuels will remain a key part of the energy mix for years** to come.

In 2018, a pair of us on the MetalMiner team attended the “[premier aluminum conference in Europe](https://www.mqpltd.com/aluminium-2018-dusseldorf/)” — Aluminum 2018 Dusseldorf. Although Dusseldorf felt like a charming Ohio blue collar town with good beer, one of us left the event with a deep cough (obviously pre-Covid). Oddly enough, the weather alert app kept displaying daily ozone levels in the “high” or “extremely high” range. As a puzzled American, one of us appeared confused and the other, thankfully knowledgeable. The cough comes down to the type of energy now used in Germany, coal. MetalMiner’s European colleague quickly explained that **after the Japanese Fukushima nuclear disaster, Germany implemented a plan to shut down its entire nuclear operations no later than 2022**.

In hindsight, that decision by Germany appears**both foolish and ironic.**

Foolish because Germany has lost its negotiating power (pun intended) with Russia for which it relies.

It’s ironic because the country already had “clean energy” but now must turn back to dirty energy to avoid blackouts.

In the meantime, while the world watches the Russian invasion and also the impact of sanctions, (we’ll venture a guess that they will have minimal impact), the MetalMiner analyst team discussed Europe’s energy situation and the impact on various metals markets.



**On stability of the electric power grid in Europe**

Have you ever stood in a field and felt a constant breeze for hours with no interruption at all? Well, we haven’t either. However, if you think wind comes and goes how about relationships with other countries like Russia?  Perhaps one can conclude that renewables serve best as supplemental energy sources, certainly not primary sources. When Texas needed to fly helicopters with jet fuel derived from oil to thaw out windmills, clearly the grid did not perform as planned. This begs the question: will the move to green energy continue and will it pull up metals prices needed to support green energy initiatives? If the trend does not continue, one might expect a sharp reversal for several metals.

**Evidence that the US power grid has weakened**

Home and commercial generator manufacturer [Generac has seen a big uptick in home generator sales](https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2022/02/21/generac-sees-uptick-in-home-standby-generator-sale.html) according to this recent article. Heck, even one of our analysts recently purchased a natural gas generator from Generac to shore up a weaker local power grid. And CEO Aaron Jagdfeld confirmed rising sales in Russia and Ukraine by stating, “we’re seeing interest in Russia and Ukraine which arguably might be related to some of the security concerns short term.”

To us, this represents a sure sign that people know the grid appears unsustainable. The green narrative centers around climate change as the root cause of more severe weather but the other factor relates to the unreliability of green energy and power companies have failed to make the investments in backup energy sources needed to support wind and solar. Green energy goes down far more often than either nuclear or coal plants.

From an alternative investment standpoint, the lack of energy independence, the lack of sunshine or wind at times will help spur other energy spin-off companies such as generator companies (by the way the home generator lead time for this editor stands at 5 months). Another spin-off will include diesel vehicles produced with mobile generators to charge cars after they run out of charges on highways.

**Energy independence equals negotiation leverage**

Does energy independence create autonomy? Germany and the rest of Europe may have the opportunity to discover that answer now. Energy of course drives the overall economy literally fuels productivity. In supplier negotiations, the easiest way to control the process involves gaining leverage. And thus the easiest way a country can gain leverage involves the control of its energy. We now see this throughout Europe and to a lesser extent, the United States right now. The US placed sanctions on Russia but failed to address the oil they sell us. In this respect, the US has lost negotiation leverage. By ceding our own energy autonomy, the US becomes beholden to despots like Putin. Moreover, Russia can choose both to cripple the US as well as the timing.

**Oil prices, commodity markets and underlying metal prices**

Oil prices have no immediate cap. Prior to the invasion, rising demand already provided price support. By shutting down American production, the US gave up its control over the oil price. As a net exporter of oil, the US also supplied the world market. Thus the US had a role with both supply and demand. Second, any time oil prices surged, the US could enter the market with more supply and thus help control prices. Moreover, as the only non-OPEC producer, the US had some control over global oil prices.

Although oil prices make up some 30% of the CRB index, a rising oil price might not carry over to industrial metals. Nor does it apply to the price of individual exchange-traded metals (e.g. aluminum, copper, nickel etc). The one-two combination of rising oil prices combined with steep inflation will likely depress demand for goods and services. Ordinarily, a rising oil price tends to signal rising demand and often, a healthy economy. Today, just the opposite may occur.

**A page from 2008 – 2016**

Perhaps part of the strategy involves driving up oil prices, to help hasten the switch to green energy and technologies. And in time, perhaps that transition will occur. In the meantime, most of those technologies do not generate a strong ROI — either for the consumer or for businesses. **And with a Russian invasion of Ukraine, perhaps it’s time for a rethink.**

**Another J6 Prisoner is Dead**

Matthew Perna, a non-violent Trump supporter who was arrested after January 6 committed suicide.
He was never accused of violence or vandalism.
His government targeted him and destroyed him anyway.
In the end, it was too much.

**\*\***[**The American Gulag**](https://americangulag.org/matthew-perna/)**has more on Matthew Perna.**

**\*\*** Here is [**his complaint**](http://chrome-extension/efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Famericangulag.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2021%2F08%2Fperna_-_complaint_redacted.pdf&clen=133357&chunk=true).

His blood is on the hands of Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, Chris Wray, Liz Cheney, and the corrupt DOJ.

In December Matthew Perna, 37, [**pleaded guilty**](https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local_news/sharon-man-pleads-guilty-in-capitol-riot/article_64222ba7-9a19-5078-8fa0-10d673f6da17.html) to felony obstruction of Congress and three misdemeanor charges associated with his entry into the Capitol on Jan 6, the U.S. Attorney’s office for the District of Columbia reported Friday. He is scheduled for sentencing on March 3.

Matthew Perna was inside the US Capitol for 20 minutes.

His crime was walking into the US Capitol.

Via [**Taylor Hansen**](https://twitter.com/TaylerUSA/status/1498022802514800641?s=20&t=eRo6W-q9IyUxH-XB6N7F3Q): Last week he heard from they were going after more charges against him.  “They informed him the other day that they were pursuing additional charges. He couldn’t take another day.”

**\*\* Please keep Matthew Perna and his family in your prayers.**



Investigative reporter Tayler Hansen wrote this on Matthew’s death.

*J6th defendant, Matthew Perna has been bullied to death by the DOJ.*

*Not accused of violence or vandalism.*

*His family says:*

*“They informed him the other day that they were pursuing additional charges. He couldn’t take another day.”*

*— Tayler Hansen (@TaylerUSA)*[***February 27, 2022***](https://twitter.com/TaylerUSA/status/1498022802514800641)

*His family is heartbroken and angry at everyone responsible.*

*This is not the first time, and will not be the last. The January 6th death toll will continue to rise if nothing is done about the over-reaching tyranny of the current Regime.*

*— Tayler Hansen (@TaylerUSA)*[***February 27, 2022***](https://twitter.com/TaylerUSA/status/1498022804091858946)

*Pictured: Matthew Perna*[***@julie\_kelly2***](https://twitter.com/julie_kelly2)*will have a detailed story regarding this grave injustice from the “justice system” tomorrow.*[***pic.twitter.com/nhRvXHziCi***](https://t.co/nhRvXHziCi)

*— Tayler Hansen (@TaylerUSA)*[***February 27, 2022***](https://twitter.com/TaylerUSA/status/1498035252966666243)

**J6 victim Brandon Straka weighed in.**

*I don’t know Matthew Perna, haven’t studied his case or accusations against him. But he’s killed himself & I understand why. I had the same thoughts many times this past year. The deafening silence of Republicans &conservative media for ppl dragged through this hell is unbearable.*

**The Global Syndicate’s Establishment Party**

Democrats have no direction. Their party is in total disarray. The liberal ideology is split between a group of radical progressives and a handful of pronounced liberal moderates. A man they positioned as a puppet figurehead to assume a stolen presidency has failed abysmally.

Joe Biden’s approval ratings are some of the worst in history. The Democrats are looking for something to save their sinking ship. All they can find is a so-called “insurrection”, an over-publicized assault on the U.S. Capitol. This false narrative is like a life preserver.

With nothing else to fend off a wave of public disapproval, Democrats are playing the only hand they have. January 6, 2020, is Christmas for Democrats. The liberal left, including the corrupt mainstream media, has nothing else.

Facing a tidal wave of Republican wins during the 2022 midterm elections, Democrats are trying to milk the “Stop the Steal” protests for every ounce. Certainly, the protests did turn chaotic. There was unthinkable violence, and it shouldn’t have happened.

However, there are tons of evidence showing that outside influences, not supporters of President Trump, orchestrated the chaos and encouraged the trespassing. The whole focus of the sham January 6 commission is to harm the former president.

The left wants to try to stop him from running again in 2024. Their efforts have doubled as they’ve watched their chosen golden cow implode. But there’s an even more alarming problem surfacing in relation to the January 6 narrative.

Recently, it seems there are a growing number of weak-kneed Republicans willing to stand up against the bogus sham. Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell, the GOP leader in the Senate, kowtowed to the liberal left’s insane January 6 narrative.

Basically, by being quoted as calling January 6 a “violent insurrection”, McConnell is further spreading the left’s indefensible lies. Now, the leading Republican in the United States House of Representatives has done the same thing. Kevin McCarthy said he agrees with McConnell.

The California U.S. Congressman likewise called January 6 a “violent insurrection.” It’s beyond baffling. To do so completely ignores the amount of evidence that points to isolated incidences of violence. While there was violence, most of the violence was isolated.

There is also a growing sense that radicals who infiltrated the otherwise peaceful protesters triggered much of the chaos. A handful of suspicious acts turned the protests into a chaotic mess. Besides the strange way things unfolded, two of the deaths are shrouded in mystery.

To insist that January 6 was an “insurrection” denounces a huge amount of contradictory evidence. Most believe McCarthy will take over Nancy Pelosi’s leadership role in the U.S. House of Representatives. However, is that necessarily a good thing?

Both of the leading Republicans on Capitol Hill are now parroting the narrative of the liberal left. One cannot deny that the “Stop the Steal” protests turned into a chaotic and violent incident. Nevertheless, no one has produced a single shred of evidence to prove “insurrection”.

It wasn’t one. Calling it such is both a lie and a bogus assault on those who were peaceful. A vast majority of these otherwise peaceful protesters were swept up in the chaos. Why would the two leading members of the GOP not speak in defense of the truth? Again, it’s baffling.

The first logical explanation would be that they’re trying to protect their standing as elites. They’re interested only in covering their own butts. While they are the face of the Republican Party on Capitol Hill, they are not standing firm for conservative beliefs.

The majority of conservatives in America believe the 2020 election was stolen from President Trump. Likewise, these millions of proud supporters believe there is an underlying story behind the January 6 investigations. They are a sham designed to persecute conservatives.

As unfortunate as January 6 was, conservatives do not believe it was an insurrection. So why are the leading Republicans calling it one? Like the “RINO Republicans” who voted for the sham impeachment of President Trump over the January 6 chaos, they are turncoats to their party.

Likewise, Republicans should take note. Maybe, after November 8, 2022, McCarthy, McConnell, and other “Republicans in Name Only” (RINOs) will be looking for a new job. They’re certainly not doing the things that conservative Republicans elected them to do.

**There is Another Casualty to Biden’s War**

Just when you think humankind is going to evolve, corruption gets the better of us, and justice does not get served, and war breaks out. War is always the next phase, when justice is denied. Since corrupt politicians have been laundering billions in taxpayer money through Ukraine, the strain against justice has become unbearable. The people will cry long enough and loud enough, and then war will come and maybe justice happens and maybe it doesn’t.

The other casualty is cooperation between countries for exploration.

he head of Russia's space agency warned Thursday (Feb. 24) that new sanctions imposed on his country could have dire consequences for the [International Space Station](https://www.space.com/16748-international-space-station.html) program.

"Do you want to destroy our cooperation on the ISS?" read one of the [tweets](https://twitter.com/Rogozin/status/1496933548372209669) from Roscosmos Director-General Dimitry Rogozin, which was translated by Rob Mitchell for Ars Technica senior space editor Eric Berger, who shared Mitchell's translation [on Twitter](https://twitter.com/SciGuySpace/status/1496971544219860992). Russia and the United States are the major partners in the ISS program, which also includes Canada, Japan and multiple European nations.

Russia[invaded Ukraine on Thursday](https://www.space.com/russia-ukraine-invasion-us-space-partnership-impacts) in a series of military attacks. The action has drawn international condemnation as well as new economic sanctions, which U.S. President Joe Biden said would [degrade Russia's space program](https://www.space.com/us-russia-sanctions-space-program-impact). NASA, however, told Space.com later yesterday that civil cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in space [will continue](https://www.space.com/russia-ukraine-nasa-response-iss-operations), particularly with regard to the ISS.

But Rogozin struck a much different tone, suggesting that the new sanctions could potentially result in the ISS crashing to Earth in an uncontrolled fashion. (The Russian segment of the ISS is responsible for guidance, navigation and control for the entire complex, according to the [European Space Agency](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Human_and_Robotic_Exploration/International_Space_Station/DMS-R_ESA_s_Data_Management_System). And Russian Progress cargo craft provide periodic orbit-raising boosts for the ISS, to ensure that it doesn't sink too low into Earth's atmosphere.)

Rogozin's tweets accused the United States of already "limiting exchanges" between Russian cosmonauts and their international counterparts, and said that further activity could irrevocably break the ISS agreement.

Pointing to Russia's controlling function on the ISS, Rogozin said Biden is "out of the loop" and is unaware that it is due to the Russian systems that the space station can dodge "dangerous conjunctions with [space junk](https://www.space.com/16518-space-junk.html)."

Rogozin said the space junk comes from the United States' "talented businessmen." He didn't name names, but that's likely a reference to SpaceX founder and CEO [Elon Musk](https://www.space.com/18849-elon-musk.html), whose company is building a huge satellite-internet constellation called [Starlink](https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-satellites.html). (Rogozin apparently has complicated feelings about Musk; he once invited the billionaire entrepreneur [for tea](https://www.space.com/russia-space-chief-elon-musk-tea-party).)

[SpaceX](https://www.space.com/18853-spacex.html) has already launched more than 2,000 Starlink satellites and could eventually deliver about 40,000 of the craft to orbit.

Rogozin, however, did not mention a [November incident](https://www.space.com/russia-anti-satellite-missile-test-first-of-its-kind) in which a Russian anti-satellite test generated a cloud of orbital debris that threatened the crew of the ISS, forcing them to shelter in place. That test drew criticism from space debris watchers about the risk posed to the station and its crew, which includes Russian cosmonauts.

Rogozin also stressed that the ISS would deorbit naturally without periodic reboosts courtesy of Progress freighters.

The space station's roughly 250-mile-high (400 kilometers) orbit causes it to collide with some particles of Earth's atmosphere, which drags the complex down slowly over time. Just days ago, however, a Cygnus spacecraft built by aerospace company Northrop Grumman [arrived at the ISS](https://www.space.com/cygnus-docks-at-international-space-station) with a mandate to perform the program's first operational reboost, which may eventually transfer this capability to U.S. vehicles as well.

Nonetheless, Rogozin raised the specter of the space station going down prematurely, pointing out that its orbital inclination of 51.6 degrees does not take the complex over Russia. (The country conducts its launches from the [Baikonur Cosmodrome](https://www.space.com/33947-baikonur-cosmodrome.html) in Kazakhstan, which is under the ISS path.)

"If you block cooperation with us, who will save the ISS from an unguided deorbit to impact on the territory of the U.S. or Europe?" Rogozin wrote. "There's also the chance of impact of the 500-ton construction in India or China."

Cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov (at left) jettisons a container (floating away at lower right) after installing the docking target it once held on Russia's Prichal multi-port docking module. Shkaplerov and Pytor Dubrov readied Prichal for future visiting spacecraft during a spacewalk outside of the International Space Station on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022. (Image credit: NASA TV)

The blustery Rogozin is well known in the space community for a 2014 threat, during a different geopolitical spat also involving Ukraine, in which he suggested that American astronauts should go to space [by trampoline](https://www.space.com/elon-musk-spacex-launch-trampoline-comment-explained.html) instead of using Russia's Soyuz spacecraft. (At the time, Russia was the sole provider of crewed trips to the space station; NASA retired its [space shuttle](https://www.space.com/16726-space-shuttle.html) fleet in 2011, and U.S. commercial crew vehicles such as SpaceX's Dragon capsule were still in development.)

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His comments Thursday were similarly colorful. For example, Rogozin suggested that the people planning sanctions may be "suffering from Alzheimer's disease," that decision-makers are unaware that Russian rockets are "the most reliable ones in this world," and that the U.S. is seeking to "block our access to radiation-hardened microelectronics designed for use in space."

It's also not the first time Rogozin has spoken about sanctions in recent years. The trampoline comment was made in response to news of new sanctions, for example. And in 2021, the U.S. had a different set of restrictions planned due to what American officials described as Russian-led cyberattacks and election interference — a claim Russia denied at the time, according to media reports. At the time, Rogozin [threatened to pull](https://www.space.com/russia-threatens-leave-international-space-station-program) Russia from the ISS by 2025 unless the sanctions were revoked.

Rogozin's latest comments came mere months after Russia integrated a major expansion to the ISS, however. The long-awaited Nauka science module launched to the ISS in July, also inducing a [spacecraft emergency](https://www.space.com/nauka-module-thruster-fire-tilts-space-station) due to an unplanned thruster firing that the space station partners resolved rapidly. And in November, the[Prichal docking module](https://www.space.com/russia-prichal-space-station-module-launch-success) came to the ISS without incident, expanding the number of docking ports on the Russian side.

**The Earth’s Core**

Earth’s core is not solid nor liquid as we have long believed but something “quite abnormal,” scientists have claimed.

In fact, they believe it’s a weird mix of elements that make it a bit of both.

Or as experts have called it, a “[superionic state.](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-04361-x)“

Deep within lies a concoction of “lighter” elements, alongside superheated solid and liquid states.

These include hydrogen, oxygen and carbon molecules, swirling around in a grid-like lattice of iron.

“It is quite abnormal,” Professor He Yu, who lead the research said.

“The solidification of iron at the inner core boundary does not change the mobility of these light elements, and the convection of light elements is continuous in the inner core.”

Temperatures are thought to be well over 5,500 degrees celsius, which is around the same scorching heat you can expect on the Sun’s surface.

Scientists aren’t able to study the Earth’s core directly to make their findings.

So instead they cleverly turned to earthquake data.

Scientists found that a weird mix of elements that make the Earth’s center both solid and liquid.Getty Images

But the discovery leaves more questions than answers.

Many curious minds are now wondering, “Why is it like this?”

Not least of all, it could help our understanding of the Earth’s magnetic field.

Scientists aren’t able to study the Earth’s core directly to make their findings because of extremely high temperatures. IGCAS

“I think more studies are needed to explain other seismic features, such as seismic anisotropy, in the inner core,” Professor Yu added.

[19](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-19/)And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! [20](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-20/)But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: [21](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-21/)For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. [22](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-22/)**And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.** [23](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-23/)Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. [24](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-24/)For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. [25](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-24-25/)Behold, I have told you before.

**The Oil Weapon**

As the CEO of an electric truck company that is responsible for the first 100% electric pickup truck. Believe me, I know the oil business. Or should I say I know how the price of oil has been used as a weapon against new technology coming forward. I know how the US Executive has unilaterally increased the cost of producing a vehicle so high that only 37% of Americans can even qualify to buy a new car.

The Dept of Transportation, now run my Little Peter Buttcrack, is a strong arm of the Agency government. They write the laws, regulations, and assess the costs, fees, fines, and police actions against manufacturers who try to make affordable vehicles. What is the result of all that? The price of a vehicle has gone up 900% and vehicles are no safer than they were in 1998. That’s right. Traffic fatalities have actually been on the rise for 24 years, even though the cost of manufacturing vehicles has been tripled by the NHTSA tripled since then.

Now, the Fascists in Washington, installed and controlled by the Global Syndicate, want to continue their destruction of America by targeting its energy sector. You see, it is not so much oil that is the weapon they wield. It is the price of oil. When it gets too low, Russia suffers in poverty and China bulges with cash. When it gets too high, Russia becomes rich and unstoppable, and China gets desperate to rob other countries to feed its unspeakable debt. It sits right now that 324% of its GDP in debt. If not for the fact that they have no free markets, they would have undergone a depression 14 years ago.

Now, oil is topping $100 a barrel. China needs to rob Taiwan like they robbed trillions from Hong Kong. Yes, it’s true. Hong Kong used to have more billionaires per capita than anywhere in the world. Not anymore. All that wealth now belongs to the CCP. But it is not enough. They need the trillions sitting in Taiwan and their electronics miniaturization industry, and their space technology, and their quantum computer technology.

So, what are our elected officials doing? Helping them. Thursday, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) told MSNBC host Joy Reid there were options for the federal government to prevent what Reid deemed to be “further price-gouging” by oil companies, which she suggested was really to blame for rising gas prices, not inflation. How do functionally illiterate people get reelected to Congress? Well, that is a whole hour in itself. Lee, not to be confused with the famous Confederate general, is a stooge for the Global Syndicate.

She announced on Reid’s psychotic friend’s network that Biden is to use the “his bully pulpit” but also said legislation was an option to “penalize” oil companies for alleged price-gouging.

“Well, we can do it together with the executive,” she said. “First of all, we already know that the price of oil per barrel is now upwards of $100. It probably will go up. The American people are going to feel the basic impact. But I think the president can use his bully pulpit. And, yes, we can actually write legislation to penalize those who would gouge. That has happened in times of hurricanes. It was happening in the pandemic if you realize it.”

I can’t tell you what else she said, but my computer will not write such doublespeak, but here is the core thought. Like any criminal operation, free enterprise is not free. You must pay a certain portion for the right to operate in our city. The Syndicate is furious that the oil companies are making a profit, because it damned sure doesn’t cost any more today to pump crude oil out of the ground than it did two years ago, when oil was $36 a barrel. The price at the pump goes up within minutes that two trash can lids are banged together in the straits of Hormuz or camo vehicles roll into Ukraine. If there is a cost increase, it wouldn’t be realized for a year at the pump, and yet prices go up 20-30% at a time within the same hour, everywhere.

Lee just wants her cut of that criminal operation. The truth is that we control the price of oil, not them. We could easily bring the price at the pump down to fair levels any time we wish. I outline during the Obama reign the alphabet boycott. It is simple and effective. I promise it will work like hammer on a nail.

Americans do not need to change their driving habits at all. The boycott says that for 30 days, we do not buy gas from any company beginning with the letter A. Amoco, Arco, etc. They don’t sell a drop of oil products anywhere in the country. You simply move to BP, or Citgo, or Sinclair, or Valero. The next month, BP doesn’t sell a thing. The next month all the stations beginning with the letter C get ignored.

I promise you that within 90 days, prices will come down by as much as 50%. Supply does not determine price. It never does in a free market society. Demand determines price. Need an example? One word. Pelotron. See? Demand sets the price, not supply.

So, who is in charge of the demand department in America? You are. Not Ms. Lee. Not Joy Reid. And certainly not Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals. Want to get started? March starts in a few days. How about March first, we stop buying oil products from all companies beginning with the letter A. Just buy somewhere else. Not so much as a quart of oil. Hot dogs, smokes, beer, sure. We support all small business owners, but no oil, no gas, no diesel.

They will be screaming for mercy after 2 weeks. Trust me. We set the price. You want it at $2.00 at the pump? Make it so.

**The Green Tyrant**

From the start of the Biden presidency, **tensions in Washington** were higher than at a family reunion. Everyone knew that China was an essential ingredient for any global deal on the environment. They are the biggest polluters in the world, and they are the largest supplier of solar panels and electric car batteries. They burn cheap, dirty fuel and make massive profits off of green new deal supplies for the rest of the world.

Chinese expansionism is the biggest threat to the interests of the United States, but Virtual Joe’s anti-fossil-fuel policies will progressively degrade America’s capacity to prevail against its geopolitical adversaries. It is a recipe for suicide. National suicide.

**Expanded pipeline infrastructure is critical to American energy security.**One of the Virtual Joe’s first actions was signing the cancelation the license for the Keystone XL pipeline. He didn’t draft that EO. Syndicate think tanks drafted that EO. Biden merely signed it. Of course, the construction company didn’t have to abide by it. They could have kept right on laying pipe, because the States approved it. Those States are all suing the federal government, and they will win, but it will take a decade to make it to court. The owners of the construction company are woke. They are green tyrants too.

 Thanks to inadequate infrastructure connecting New England to the rest of the country and the century-old Jones Act – requiring that all goods moving by water between American ports travel on ships built, owned, and manned by Americans – the winter of 2018 saw [Russian liquefied natural gas](https://www.wsj.com/articles/why-is-russian-gas-in-boston-harbor-1520897637) being brought ashore in Boston Harbor. No ships flying Panamanian flags allowed.

Currently, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is mulling a [climate disclosure rule](https://www.wsj.com/articles/climate-disclosure-poses-thorny-questions-for-sec-as-rules-weighed-11645180200). The intent is to strengthen the hand of Wall Street and woke institutional investors to impose, in effect, an embargo on investment in domestic oil and gas production. They also place an embargo against all American startups. We are currently at the lowest level since the nation’s founding.

The logic appears to be that domestically produced oil and gas incurs climate risk, whereas imported energy from Iran and yes, even Russia, does not. And just last month, the Pentagon released a [net- zero plan](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2022/02/09/pentagon_announces_plan_to_cut_carbon_emissions_by_50_by_2030_net_zero_by_2050.html#!) for the army, which would see it relying on an all-electric, non-tactical vehicle fleet by 2035. Can you imagine an electric army? Sounds like a video game, it is so ridiculous. By the way, we tried for 10 years to sell our electric trucks to the Army. The GSA wouldn’t approve the sales. We refused to donate grant money to Democrat politicians. You don’t know this, but the DOE application process for a grant requires a million in cash up front with zero guarantee of an award. I hate to tell you this, but no small business in America has that kind of money to waste.

If AOC had her way, and no I don’t want to date her, we would all be taking public transportation to work, while she flies wherever she wants, because she is a green tyrant. Thanks to the Global Syndicate, the European Union is a paper empire. Its power is bureaucratic, deriving from rules and regulations. It is institutionally incapable of thinking and acting geopolitically because the EU is meant to be the exemplar of a post-geopolitical world, in which national sovereignty is dissolved on the floor at the feet of the tyrants in Davos.

Net-zero and the UN climate process represent EU-style supranationalism at a global level. “Climate neutrality is our European destiny,” European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen [said](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/statement_20_381/STATEMENT_20_381_EN.pdf) two years ago when she announced the European Climate Law setting a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The push for wind and solar power, which started in Germany with the Renewable Energy Act of 2000, **means greater reliance on supplies of Russian natural gas to keep the lights on. Europe’s dependence on Russian gas is stark**. By the way, Angela Merkel bailed out, because she could see the bloodbath coming. She did her job. At an EU meeting last week to discuss possible sanctions against Moscow, Italy’s prime minister, Mario Draghi, [pleaded](https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/any-eu-sanctions-russia-should-not-hit-energy-draghi-2022-02-18/) that any measures “should be concentrated on narrow sectors without including energy.”

This applies to Britain, too. When it comes to climate and energy, Britain (despite Brexit) remains functionally part of the EU, regardless of cost and the geostrategic consequences. In late 2019, Boris Johnson banned commercial fracking. Earlier this month, the British government [ordered](https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/386868/fracking-shale-wells/) that concrete be poured into the country’s two exploratory shale wells and for them to be abandoned. The move was blasted by Cuadrilla Resources CEO Francis Egan, who pointed out that fracking the Bowland shale formation could supply 50 years of current U.K. gas demand. “The value of just 10% of the in-place British resource would be approximately £3.3 trillion ($4.5 tn),” Egan [wrote](https://twitter.com/MorrisseyHelena/status/1495074952843833349?s=20&t=sFMq2azP9eT5IOYMi-Cg9Q).

The Soviet Union began supplying gas to western Europe in the 1960s. West German chancellor Willy Brandt quickly saw a political opportunity to do business with Moscow based on his belief that Moscow held the key to German reunification. (For the same reason, the East German communist regime strongly opposed the burgeoning Soviet-West German gas trade.)

Not once during the Cold War did Moscow renege on a gas contract. They supplied, and Germany bought. Every day for 60 years. In this respect, Putin, who has a deep understanding of the gas industry, is different from his Soviet predecessors. As a result of the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia ended up with the gas and Ukraine the pipeline and transit fees – a source of intense frustration to Putin. The corruption in Ukraine is deeply crossbred with Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals who subsidize them with American taxpayer’s hard earned cash, in exchange for a cut of the action.

In 2009, the Russian gas company Gazprom temporarily cut off exports to Europe. The Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, like Nord Stream 1, takes the most direct route from Siberia to Europe, bypassing Ukraine. Credit the Biden administration for helping German chancellor Olaf Scholz over the line in suspending Nord Stream 2 – but if Moscow controls Ukraine, Putin will have solved his Ukrainian transit problem by extinguishing Ukrainian independence.

On the other hand, **Germany’s and the EU’s net-zero policies will further deepen their dependence on Russia as they increase their exposure to unreliable wind and solar, phase out coal, and – in the case of Germany and Belgium – prematurely close their nuclear power stations.**

Putin has already won, before he lost even one soldier.

Would you like to hear the transcript of the recent call between Putin and Biden?

Biden: Good evening, Mr. President

Putin: Good evening.

Biden: Listen - (inaudible) I'd like to speak to you regarding respective positions on Ukraine. Now, I know you've

Putin: Pardon me, but I have nothing to disclose [sic).

Biden: Wait a minute. There are lives at stake here, and ah to say that we

Putin: Sir. (inaudible) respect - you are not the one to make decisions.

Biden: That's- now look here: I am the sitting President of the United States of America, and I am most certainly in the position of influence of our military and intelligence department. What we have to do, ah, now that, escalations have

Putin: Sir, not to disappoint [sic). but you are sitting President of nothing, and in no positions [sic] to influence our world or its doings [sicl.

Biden: Now, that's not (inaudible) - regarding influence, ah, we think it has to stop here. Now, ah, if all of us could just. There is none (sic), so that, better way to say than to stand down immediately.

Putin: Our Conservation now concludes

**Geopolitical realism requires energy realism.** It also demands realism about the prospects for net-zero. Last week, Alok Sharma, the British president of the UN COP 26 climate conference, [maintained](https://www.ft.com/content/7e291e43-3741-42f3-9a32-fb455bb33a08) that net-zero “remains alive,” but admitted, “the pulse is weak.” Achieving this barely-alive objective requires global emissions to be cut in half by the end of this decade. That’s not going to happen. Asia and India won’t even get close to the environmental cleanliness of the West for 20 years. They are building coal power as fast as the concrete can cure. They will be fully energized, while the rest of the world chokes on their sewage.

Putin’s actions in Ukraine to wipe out the Nazis that the Global Syndicate has been financing and arming ever since McCain burned Kiev and ousted president Yanukovych, are twisted by their global media empire. The truth is that the Nazis will fight to the death, because they know they will be in prison forever, if they are captured. Donbass and Lugansk will be free within a week or so. Ukraine won’t like it, because these are two coal-rich regions that have been owned by oligarchs since before the second world war.

Face it, Earth Explorers. War is justice denied.

**The Syndicate’s Money Trap**

It is too easy to blame a country or a leader for the world’s woes. As soon as you begin that conversation with 3 people, the yelling starts and four strongly held opinions get nowhere close to an agreement of the truth.

* **[Elite capture] is a crucial tool of the Global Syndicate’s success. The idea is simple enough. Inject your enemy’s elite leadership with money, access and favors, you move them to see their interests as mutually beneficial.**
* The government officials vociferously deny their role in helping China gain access to American capital markets, American military and surveillance technology, or American policy making. Each will say they are merely pursuing business opportunities that the Chinese market has offered them, as any good capitalist should. They may argue we live in a global society. They make excuses based on delivery schedules and the high cost of buying American.
* Ray Dalio, who wrote in his 2017 book, which bears the title *Principles*, of his "personal hero," Wang Qishan. "Every time I speak with Wang," Dalio swooned, "I feel like I get closer to cracking the unifying code that unlocks the laws of the universe." Wang is the second most powerful man in the Chinese Communist Party and known as Xi's enforcer. *The Economist* called him "the most feared man in China." But not to Dalio. Readers learn, on the very next page of that book that at the same time Dalio was trying to start a new hedge fund in China.
* Almost everything [Apple] sells is manufactured in China, and the iPhone has more than 23 percent of the market for phones in China. Apple has repeatedly been accused of benefiting from the forced labor of Chinese Uyghurs, which the company denies.
* The novelist Upton Sinclair wrote,***"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."***

While researching how Americans having been getting rich by helping the Chinese Communist Party achieve its [outspoken aim](https://abcnews.go.com/International/china-replace-us-top-superpower/story?id=9986355) of replacing the US as the "[world's No.1 power](https://abcnews.go.com/International/china-replace-us-top-superpower/story?id=9986355)," I came across the phrase "elite capture" -- their term to describe the actions of influential people in the US towards China.



The Chinese are not subtle about this, and they barely try to hide it. They practice it around the world, most notably in Africa in pursuit of their Belt and Road Initiative. But elites in Western democracies have proved to be a soft touch, particularly among non-governmental elites.

The Global Media Empire is more powerful than they have ever been. In Roman days, they handled the bread and games to keep the people docile. In modern times they are apologists for China's deplorable human rights record, industrial and military espionage, and increasingly aggressive behavior. They teach CRT and gender dysphoria and use celebrities to attack anyone who dares to oppose their propaganda. They choose YouTube and TicTok stars and pump their sex into every single device in America.

What separates this from ordinary diplomacy or even the time-honored business slogan that "the customer is always right" is the power wielded by those who accept the cash and enter the gateway of hell for a life of luxury and pleasure. Who doesn’t like yachts, and teenage nubiles and the best drugs money can buy?

The most powerful people in the US. From the world all got there by way of molestation of children and bribery and blackmail. Harvard and Yale universities are the spawning ground for demons in the flesh. They are not institutions of merit and achievement. They are the affirmative action cesspools of Marxism and radicals and tyrants. The latest Supreme Court Nominee is a perfect example of this grooming process. Harvard graduation is now synonymous with corruption and tryanny.

China has co-opted all these people and institutions – and others besides – is alarmingly similar, straightforward, and not hard to piece together. These well-trained lawyers constructed layers of shell corporations, intermediaries, bank records and tax filings to hide these incestuous connections. Yes, the wallpaper is lined with death certificates of babies and children and women who have been killed, enslaved, traded and shorn like sheep by the hundreds of thousands each year.

The connections between the people and institutions are trails of bloody footprints. Bribery, blackmail, money laundering, drugs, counterfeiting, and even bioweapons of unspeakable power are in the hands of the Global Syndicate and their soldiers who will happily die on command for Lucifer. No, it is not a book or a movie. It is real.

Publicly, they deny their role in helping China gain access to American capital markets, American military and surveillance technology, or American policy making. Each will say they are merely pursuing business opportunities that the Chinese market has offered them, as any goods capitalist should. They may argue the companies they run are truly *international* corporations and, as such, obligated to take as neutral a stance on American foreign policy as possible.

And they are not fully wrong about that.

Not all of them are as brazen about it as the Sri Lanka-born Chamath Palihapitiya, a billionaire venture capitalist and investor who in an interview last week waved away the issue of China's genocide against its own Uyghur citizens with the dismissive "[nobody cares](https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/01/silicon-valley-wont-own-up-to-its-china-problem?utm_source=nl)."

There is a common phrase in Mandarin that roughly translates: "A lot of help, with a little badmouth." The phrase captures that the practical Chinese know their friends will have to criticize China's actions from time to time. But so long as those friends are advancing China's interests on the important things, they will deign to overlook that.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was a harsh critic of China's human rights abuses. In her first term in Congress, she found herself in Tiananmen Square in 1991 and bravely unfurled a banner inscribed, "To those who died for Democracy in China." Furious Chinese police seized the banner. "I started running," Pelosi recalled. "And my colleagues, some of them, got a little roughed up. The press got treated worse because they had cameras, and they were detained."

Since those days, Nancy’s husband, Paul, has since made millions of dollars in deals with China as a partner investor in Matthews International Capital Management, a pioneer in the Chinese investment market. She has, for two years now, blocked efforts by Congress to investigate the origins of the COVID virus. With much of the evidence pointing to the Wuhan as the source, Pelosi ordered the Democrats in Congress not to cooperate with any efforts to investigate the matter. Not one Democrat has defied the order.

**That Was Easy**

People who have looked their mortality in the face often [describe](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-540-92276-6_85) their near-death experiences in surprisingly similar terms – vivid recollection of memories, a sense of standing outside of their body, bright lights, or a feeling of tranquility. When I was killed in 2012, I didn’t see any bright lights, but I did feel a total sense of tranquility. When I came back, lying on Rocky Hill Church road on my back while a cop finished CPR and carefully removed my helmet, he said, “Welcome back.”

“That was easy,” I replied.

While there is plenty of anecdotal evidence from people who have had near-death experiences (NDEs), scientists have little to no data on what happens in the brain as people transition into death. However, under tragic circumstances, scientists have collected the first continuous data on the neural dynamics of the brain during death.

When an 87-year-old patient developed seizures after receiving surgery due to a fall, doctors used electroencephalography (EEG) to monitor his condition; unfortunately, the patient deteriorated and sadly passed away while these recordings were taking place.

Due to the do-not-resuscitate status of the patient, and with the family's consent, the unexpected event allowed scientists to record the electrical activity of a dying human brain. While simplified EEG recordings have been captured [from patients withdrawn from life support before](https://www.sciencealert.com/brain-activity-recorded-as-much-as-10-minutes-after-death-human-science), the full placement of recording equipment in this case made for an unprecedented level of detail.

"We measured 900 seconds of brain activity around the time of death and set a specific focus to investigate what happened in the 30 seconds before and after the heart stopped beating," [says Ajmal Zemmar](https://blog.frontiersin.org/2022/02/22/what-happens-in-our-brain-when-we-die/), a neurosurgeon at the University of Louisville, US.

"Just before and after the heart stopped working, we saw changes in a specific band of neural oscillations, so-called gamma oscillations, but also in others such as delta, theta, alpha and beta oscillations."

Neural oscillations are the collective electrical activity of neurons firing in the brain, and are more commonly known as brain waves. These waves of electrical activity happen at different frequencies, and various frequency bands [have been linked](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19400723/) to different conscious states.

Thus, neuroscientists have managed to associate different frequencies of brain waves with specific functions like information processing, perception, [consciousness](https://www.sciencealert.com/consciousness) and memory during wakefulness, and states of dreaming and meditation.

Just after the patient suffered the cardiac arrest that led to his death, his brain activity revealed a relative spike in gamma band power that was interacting the most with alpha waves – a pattern not dissimilar to memory recall.

"Given that cross-coupling between alpha and gamma activity is involved in cognitive processes and memory recall in healthy subjects, it is intriguing to speculate that such activity could support a last 'recall of life' that may take place in the near-death state," [the team writes](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnagi.2022.813531/full).

The authors do note several caveats. Firstly, the patient's brain was in a post-traumatic state that had suffered from bleeding, swelling, and seizures. Additionally, the patient had received large doses of anti-seizure drugs, which might also affect neural oscillatory behavior.

There were also no baseline, 'normal' brain scans of this patient to compare the brain activity to. However, by definition we can't have access to such data in healthy patients whose deaths are impossible to anticipate. Therefore, obtaining recordings of the near-death phase could only come from an already ill patient.

Despite these limitations, the team's findings do point to a potential link between brain waves observed during death with the phenomenological experiences of NDEs, where participants describe their life flashing before their eyes.

What we know about brain waves during memory retrieval points to evidence that the brain may go through a stereotyped activity pattern during death. The authors also note the findings are similar to alterations in neuronal activity that have been [observed](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3761619/) in rodents during death.

Fascinatingly, the results are consistent with the notion that the brain organizes and executes a biological response to death that may be conserved across species with tied evolutionary lineage and broadly similar neuronal structures.

Although researching what happens to the brain during death can be difficult, especially when patients leave behind distraught family members, Zemmar takes some comfort in the idea that our brains may immerse us in our most beloved memories while we leave the world.

"Something we may learn from this research is: although our loved ones have their eyes closed and are ready to leave us to rest, their brains may be replaying some of the nicest moments they experienced in their lives."

**Child Sacrifice**

Lucifer has always blessed those who worship him, but he reserves his best for those who sacrifice to him. In that action, he feels most like God, who sacrificed His own Son. For millennia, people have sacrificed babies to Baal or Moloch or Lucifer himself in exchange for blessings of wealth, power, pleasure and immunity from the law. Well, the Establishment party has taken this process to levels never imagined by the Devil himself.

America kills more than a million babies each year before they are even born. The babies die by being ripped apart limb from limb while they are alive. The mothers die a thousand times and take drugs to suppress the nightmarish cries of their babies in their dreams. What is worse, is that the black community is targeted, and then commanded to vote for support of the very genocide that is killing more than half the babies conceived. Do you understand that? More babies are sacrificed and sold for body parts than are born alive.

In a [hearing last week](https://twitter.com/AZHouseGOP/status/1494460147246067720) about racism in public school curriculum, Arizona state Rep. Walt Blackman said any “honest conversation” about America’s past of slavery and discrimination must also acknowledge the genocide of our present age: abortion.

“There are more black babies aborted than born every day,” he said.

White leftist activists constantly talk about racism, but they conveniently ignore that their sacred cow of abortion is racist to its core. Planned Parenthood receives $500 million a year from the Democrats in Congress. They then write a check for $50 million each year back the DNC. Zero for Republicans. It is the bloodiest money laundering in the world. It is only the tip of the iceberg.

Democrat politician and activist Jesse Jackson is a good example of someone who sees through the genocid. Even he was powerless to stop it. In 1975, he [compared](https://groups.csail.mit.edu/mac/users/rauch/nvp/consistent/jackson.html) the *Roe v. Wade*decision to slavery: “There are those who argue that the right to privacy is of a higher order than the right to life … That was the premise of slavery.” But after Jackson ran for the Democrat presidential nomination in 1988, he conformed to the pro-choice party line. He had to. There was no money for campaign if he did not.

Since then, a tragic cognitive dissonance has ensued in the black community over party affiliation and abortion. While [most black Americans](https://news.gallup.com/opinion/polling-matters/318932/black-americans-abortion.aspx) (54 percent) think abortion is morally unacceptable, they are still more closely associated with the Democratic Party and its abortion-friendly platform. Many black voters find themselves out of step with Democrat candidates seeking their votes, especially on social issues, similar to [blue-collar voters](https://www.city-journal.org/twilight-of-the-blue-collar-democrat) who feel Democrat policies have left them behind.

Democrats actually hate their voter base. They smile for their votes, and laugh when their babies are killed and sold for a profit. The black community does not listen to the facts. They don’t care.

A recently released [report](https://curepolicy.org/report/the-impact-of-abortion-on-the-black-community/) from the Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE), shows the devastating effects of abortion on generations of black Americans. Entire cities of new black minds are killed every year. The report details the abortion industry’s predatory practices — how abortion providers seek out minority women, advertise directly to them, and sometimes perform illegal procedures, like the infamous late-term abortionist [Kermit Gosnell](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/04/15/the-gosnell-case-heres-what-you-need-to-know/). This multi-billion dollar butchery isn’t trying to protect anyone’s rights; it’s trying to profit off desperate black women.

In 2012, the Life Issues Institute [reported](https://www.lifeissues.org/2012/10/new-research-shows-planned-parenthood-targets-minority-neighborhoods) that “79% of Planned Parenthood’s surgical abortion facilities are strategically located within walking distance of African-American and/or Hispanic communities.” In 2017, they updated these numbers to include 25 new abortion mega centers, [100 percent of which](https://www.lifeissues.org/2017/06/planned-parenthood-minority-targeting-goes-overdrive) were within walking distance of minority neighborhoods. With each abortion bringing in [hundreds or even thousands of dollars](https://www.abort73.com/abortion/abortion_for_profit/), depending on whether they are early- or late-term abortions, it’s clear that abortion providers are engaging in a grisly sort of supply-side economics.

Worse still, abortion has always been a tool of racial eugenics, the ideology that seeks to limit “undesirable” black births. Star Parker, the founder of CURE and author of the report, argues that “From its inception, the abortion industry has sought to control and hinder the growth of the Black population, a core objective of the movement’s founders.”

This is a historical fact. Margaret Sanger, the founder of abortion giant Planned Parenthood, was a racial eugenicist who was [concerned](https://sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/articles/bc_or_race_control/) that “the mass of Negroes … still breed carelessly and disastrously,” and hired [black pastors](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwji39-S3bL1AhWHUt8KHWHuB_8QFnoECAIQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Flibex.smith.edu%2Fomeka%2Ffiles%2Foriginal%2Fd6358bc3053c93183295bf2df1c0c931.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2tUYqJa8ujpoHhnZYxhTJO) lest “word go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population.” Many other early abortion activists, such as [Hugh Moore](https://www.proquest.com/openview/c0cef25c992c760c075802bcaf77ddb8/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750) and [Edward Ross](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/000271620101800104), sought to expand abortion to prevent non-white population growth. Today, there are still [abortion activists who behave](https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/black-women-maternal-health-abortion-20190118.html) like the black community needs more abortions.

The politicization of abortion — an issue that is moral to its core — is a wound in our national fabric that we feel deeply and personally. One of us was born to a single mother and later adopted, but many others in the exact same situation were aborted. We work with CURE to support policies that help mothers with unplanned pregnancies avoid the grievous act of abortion. Black mothers especially face intense manipulation and pressure because of the politics of abortion.

We must restore bipartisan moral common sense and offer hope to these women. There is no hope without justice, and there’s no justice without truth. We can’t talk about racism without talking about the dark stain on our society that abortion represents. Black Americans, who suffer disproportionately from abortion, deserve equal rights, including the right to life. The unborn deserve racial justice too.

**My Resolution was Vetoed**

**CABARRUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION ON COVID-19 AND RELATED MASK AND VACCINE REQUIREMENTS**

 WHEREAS, Cabarrus County Board of Education (CCBOE) is ranked higher than 60% of school districts in safety in the State of North Carolina currently serving approximately 33,658 students over 39 schools; and

WHEREAS, all CCBOE employees, including teachers, other school personnel, and nonemployee groups such as substitute teachers, are eligible and were offered COVID vaccines at special clinics for CCBOE employees; and

WHEREAS, according the CDC policy, School Board decisions should be based on the school population, families and students served, as well as their communities; and

WHEREAS, infection and mortality rates for children have shown to be nearly non-existent for COVID-19 compared to the infection and mortality rates for adults over the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, analysis has shown that staff-to-student and student-to-student is not the primary means of transmission; and

WHEREAS, some nonpublic schools in Cabarrus County and North Carolina have operated safely without masks on children since fall 2020; and

WHEREAS, CDC policy recommends local School Boards should not exclude students from in-person education based on vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, with deaths from COVID-19 and COVID-19 case numbers are the lowest since the onset of the pandemic, decision making powers have been returned to local School Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the parents of students and the voters of Cabarrus County request:

1. That Cabarrus County Board of Education allow all students to attend class in school without being required to wear masks.

2. That Cabarrus County Board of Education allow all students to attend class in school without requiring COVID vaccinations.

3. That Cabarrus County Board of Education allow all students to attend class in school without segregating students in any manner other than grade.

4. That Cabarrus County Board of Education be required to bring all school policy changes before regular or special Board meetings with parents and voters present.

It went all the way to the NC State House and became known as the Free the Smiles Act.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed [Senate Bill 173](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2021/Sb%20173), the Free the Smiles Act, on Thursday after the General Assembly passed the bill last week.

"I have encouraged local boards to lift mask mandates and they are doing it across the state with the advice of health officials who see that COVID metrics are declining and vaccinations are increasing," Cooper said in a statement. "The bipartisan law the legislature passed and I signed last year allows local boards to make these decisions for their own communities and that is still the right course.

"Passing laws for political purposes that encourage people to pick and choose which health rules they want to follow is dangerous and could tie the hands of public health officials in the future."

Sen. Deanna Ballard, R-Watauga, said Cooper is ignoring science with his veto.

"It's past time to return the decision-making power to parents who can best evaluate their family’s needs," Ballard said in a statement. "Gov. Cooper continues to work against parents and ignore the science that shows children are at a lower risk for developing severe illness but are having development setbacks because of masking. That science hasn’t changed for months. The only thing that has changed is the political science, and Gov. Cooper knows that."

The state does not have a mask mandate at schools, and the policy is left up to local school districts.

“Actions speak louder than words, and the governor should do more than ‘encourage’ schools to lift their mask mandates," House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, said in a statement. "Return this decision back to parents.”