

A WAR ON COAL?

Mitt Romney, who opposed coal power as Governor of Massachusetts, is accusing President Obama of waging a “war on coal.” But the facts tell a different story.

- Most of the rules that have negatively affected coal-fired plants are a result of legislation passed and signed into law by Republican administrations [The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (2012), available at http://epa.gov/oar/caa/caaa_overview.html]
- Most coal shutdowns are due to the low cost of natural gas, and many of these closures wouldn't be reversed even if EPA regulations were eliminated [Christopher Van Atten, Bloomberg.com, “Is Obama Really Waging a War on Coal?”]
- 70% of projected coal plant retirements are not due to EPA regulations [Bipartisan Policy Center, Projected Impact of Changing Conditions on the Power Sector]
- The Obama administration invested substantially in clean coal technology, including 22 major research projects that will save coal jobs while helping preserve the environment [2009 Recovery Act]
- President Obama defended clean coal, telling an anti-coal activist that “we are not going to get all our energy from wind and solar in the next 20 years.” [Treehugger.com, 2/15/2010]
- Mitt Romney supported a crackdown on coal, saying “I will not create jobs that kill people,” while standing in front of the Salem coal plant [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BpgLYryl8g>]



**WHO'S WAGING A WAR ON
COAL? YOU DECIDE.**

VOTE YOUR FUTURE

VOTE NOVEMBER 6

TWO VISIONS FOR AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS

OBAMA



vs.

ROMNEY



Unions

- Supports collective bargaining rights (Speech, 9/5/11)

- Pledged to attack workers' collective bargaining rights (Detroit News, 2/16/12)
- Stated his support for a national right-to-work law (Speech at ABC, 2/23/12)

Medicare

- Wants to fix Medicare, not end it (Washington Post, 9/19/11)

- Supports the Ryan budget plan that would end Medicare, replace it with a voucher system, raise the eligibility age, and force seniors to pay twice as much than under their current Medicare coverage (Candidate release and Kaiser Family Foundation)

Minimum Wage

- Supported proposals to raise minimum wage to \$9.50/hr (BCTD Convention, 4/30/12)

- Vetoed a bill in Massachusetts that would have raised the state's minimum wage to \$8/hr (Boston Globe, 7/22/06)

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Championed aid to transit systems to avoid service and job cuts (Supplemental Appropriations Act for 2009)
- Enforced the most aggressive transportation "buy American" requirements in history (Obama SAP, 9/8/11)
- Committed \$745 million in rail funding for upgrades and construction along the Northeast Corridor (DOT release, 8/22/11)
- Included \$48 billion in new transportation projects in stimulus legislation (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)

- Supported slashing federal transportation funding by 46% (House Budget Committee, Democrats, 3/23/12)
- Backed cutting at least half a million transportation jobs in his first year in office (Center for American Progress, 3/20/12)
- As head of Bain Capital, ran an illegal anti-union campaign to squash a pilots' organizing campaign at Key Airlines then sold the airline two months later for a large profit (Financial Times, 8/16/12)

Safety

- Appointed Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis under whose Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed a campaign to reduce deadly falls in the construction industry and other initiatives. Under Obama, on-the-job fatalities have dropped to historic lows, down an average of 18% from the Bush administration's levels (Department of Labor Statistics)

- Supports GOP-sponsored House bill barring federal regulations that could positively affect workplace safety until the jobless rate drops below 6 percent (AFL-CIO report)
- Supports Ryan budget plan to decrease OSHA funding below 2008 levels (National Safety Council)

WHICH CANDIDATE SUPPORTS YOU?

VOTE YOUR FUTURE

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