



Made in America Panel Maintains that a Revitalized Infrastructure Program Requires the Federal Government to Get Out of the Way

We need to get the nation back to work; the \$600 stipend is disincentivizing people to return to their jobs—when the money stops we will get a better feel for the unemployment numbers; the planned infrastructure program has been short circuited by a wave of environmental regulations and a broken approval process; the permitting process must be reformed so that projects can begin and people are hired; Virginia has introduced a worker-corporate partnership that is retraining workers and getting them hired; the infamous Green New Deal is still alive and is being rebranded to get it approved by a Joe Biden, who is a blank canvas; the Green New Deal will bankrupt America; Joe Biden is moving from a centrist to a socialist spurred by AOC, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, were among the topics discussed by Neal Asbury and Dr. Rich Roffman on the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates and globally on the Armed Forces Network).

Neal began the show with his fervent wish that Americans can get back to work, but noting that the \$600 stipend paid to unemployed workers actually keeps them at home rather than return to work because they are making more money than they would on the job.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that the \$600 stipend is disincentivizing workers to get back to work. "But once the stipend ends, we will get a better look at the real unemployment figures."

The first guest on Made in America was Mario Loyola, former White House speechwriter and environmental adviser, and now a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

"President Trump accomplished one of his most important goals: to reform the broken system of federal approvals for major infrastructure projects such as highways, pipelines, and ecological restorations. Once fully implemented, his reforms could spark a historic modernization of America's inadequate and aging infrastructure," according to Loyola.

For this to come to fruition, Loyola maintained that the system of permits and environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, requires such extensive paperwork and technical study that the cost of obtaining permits can easily exceed those of construction. Its delays, burdens, and uncertainties cost the United States a significant fraction of its entire economic output every year—in the trillions every decade.

Neal and Dr. Roffman described the permitting process as broken, requiring companies

to spend millions of dollars to meet questionable permitting standards and unsure whether the project will be approved until it comes before a judge.

Loyola proposed that there is a new wave of infrastructure projects ready to kick in if the private companies funding the project get the approvals and tax credits they need to complete their projects. He suggests that it is up to Congress to get this process reformed.

"Even renewable energy projects aren't getting approved. There's a psychotic system in place for approvals. The best thing that can happen is for the federal government to get out of the way.

The next guest on Made in America was Caren Merrick, who founded the Virginia Ready Initiative (VA Ready), a newly established nonprofit organization formed in response to the economic hardships created by COVID-19. VA Ready is a dynamic partnership with 20 of the Commonwealth's leading businesses and the Virginia Community College System's 23 community colleges, to retrain and equip out of work Virginians who want to gain the required skills for in-demand jobs in high-growth sectors.

"VA Ready provides incentives for motivated, out-of-work Virginians to reskill for in-demand jobs in high-growth sectors. Upon achieving their new credential in one of approximately 30 selected training programs, "VA Ready Scholars" receive a \$1,000 Credential Achievement Award and will be offered opportunities to interview at many of Virginia's best companies," revealed Merrick, who noted that best opportunities are in healthcare, cyber security, and in manufacturing. For more information visit www.vaready.org.

The final guest on made in America was Justin Haskins, the Editorial Director and a Research Fellow at The Heartland Institute.

Haskins maintained that part of Joe Biden's "Build Back Better" agenda, is nothing more than a rebranded Green New Deal. "If you set aside the most attention-grabbing left-wing programs included in New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's 2019 Green New Deal resolution, like Medicare for All and a federal job guarantee, Biden's plans broadly align with an approach advocated by the left-wing of the Democratic party. Firstly, like the Green New Deal, Biden's plans reframe climate action as a jobs, infrastructure and clean energy stimulus."

Dr. Roffman described Biden as the character Chauncey Gardener from the book and movie

"Being There." Gardener was a man who parroted back everything that people said to him, the way Biden parrots back everything the left wing of the Democratic Party tells him.

"If the left wing of the Party carries out its promise to end all fossil fuels for electricity generation, and replace it with wind and solar by 2035, the U.S. will no longer have the electric energy it needs and the nation will be bankrupt. Their dream to replace all gasoline-powered school buses with ones run on electricity will cost \$200,000 per bus. Don't think that's going to happen," opined Haskins.

Neal and Dr. Roffman returned to a discussion about Joe Biden being a "blank canvas," ready to absorb whatever his party throws his way.

"Biden can't hide forever. He can't just keep answering softball questions and not take any questions from reporters. I'm waiting for the debates, where Biden will have to answer some questions and debate against Trump," suggested Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that while he's being portrayed as an elderly, kindly statesman, he's being manipulated by AOC, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren. "He can't make a decision to save his life. He's considering Kamala Harris as his VP. You may recall that she made him look like a fool during the Democratic debates."

Each week Neal Asbury's Made in America provides Neal's insights into the week's top news stories and their impact on the worlds of entrepreneurship, small business ownership and the overall economy. Neal's analysis, together with co-host Dr. Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience, takes a non-biased approach based on real life experience in business as an American manufacturer and exporter. Made in America airs nationally each Saturday from 7-8:00 PM on Radio America. Made in America at <http://www.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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