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## Made in America Panel Proposes Obama's War on Energy Will Have Big Ramifications for the November Election

Neal Asbury began his nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America by noting that energy costs are going to play an important role in the November election as voters begin to realize that President Obama's War on Coal is killing jobs and will send electricity costs soaring. Electricity costs in the Eastern U.S. are rising, and even energy costs in the Midwest are taking off.

"Everything in our daily lives is touched by energy. Excessive regulations on energy programs aren't good for you and me, and are not good for our economy," said Asbury. Joining the show was first-time guest Phil Kerpen, one of the most effective and influential free-market advocates in Washington. Kerpen heads [AmericanCommitment.org](http://AmericanCommitment.org), which is dedicated to restoring and protecting the American Commitment to free markets, economic growth, Constitutionally-limited government, property rights, and individual freedom.

Kerpen is concerned that a June 20 Senate vote on a resolution from Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) entitled Senate Joint Resolution 37 that would overturn the Utility MACT rule, may fall short.

"The lynchpin of the Obama's War on Coal is the so-called Utility Maximum

Achievable Control Technology (Utility MACT) rule, also known as "Mercury and Air Toxics Standards" or "MATS." The rule requires expensive retrofits at coal-fired power plants, raising electricity prices nearly 20 percent with no environmental benefit. In more than 22 years of study, there has been no evidence of any link between mercury and neonatal complications," said Kerpen.

Kerpen is especially upset that some Republican Party politicians, particularly Lamar Alexander, support the Utility MACT rule and will vote against the Inhofe resolution.

"By voting against the Inhofe resolution, Senator Alexander will have to explain to his constituents why their energy rates will be going up 14 percent," said Kerpen.

During the next part of the show, Neal Asbury and co-host Dr. Rich Roffman discussed the role of unions in American business.

"It is my contention that when unions lose, America wins. Governor Walker's ability to withstand the Wisconsin recall vote indicates that the American people won't abide cheating by unions, and that America works best when there is a sense of fairness," said Asbury.

Asbury pointed to the fact that on average, a teacher in Wisconsin pays more than \$1,000 per year to the union (from an average salary of \$51,264). A great portion of this money goes toward political activities, including paying for ad campaigns and TV time supporting Democrat politicians for which they do not favor. And worse, they have no say when the money is deducted directly from their paychecks.

"If you want a real indication of how much support unions received in Wisconsin, 40 percent of union employees voted for Walker, and Afscome membership dropped 45 percent after Governor Walker made union membership optional," added Asbury.

Dr. Roffman believes that most people were impressed with Governor Walker's fierce defense of his fiscal policies

"He did everything he said he'd do. He didn't raise taxes, reduced spending and took a \$3 billion budget shortfall to a \$187 million surplus. That's the model for how this government should be run," said Dr. Roffman.

Joining the show was Andrea Bozek, Deputy Communications Director, National Republican Congressional



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Committee (NRCC), a political committee devoted to maintaining and increasing the 242-member Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bozek maintained that Independents are turned off by President Obama's policies, particularly his energy policy, which only has the support of 38 percent of Independents.

"They are frustrated by this President's energy policies, and his economic policies. To say that the private sector is doing just fine is delusional. He's out of touch with this country. That's why the unemployment rate is at 8.2 percent, although most people think it's much higher," said Bozek, who added, "Independents want to see this country get back on course and like most of the country, do not want the federal government to take over health-care."

Made in America's final returning guest was Richard S. Bernstein, CEO and Founder of Richard S. Bernstein & Associates Inc., a national leader in the health care and life insurance industry.

"It's amazing people think that small businesses, our job creators, are not paying their fair share of taxes. That's nonsense. In January of 2013, thanks to the decision to end the Bush tax cuts, the tax rate for small

businesses is going up to 43 percent. That's going to have major impact on job hiring," said Bernstein.

He noted that most people don't understand small business and private enterprise. While people look at the Buffett Rule, whereby his secretary pays higher taxes than he does, the reality is that Buffett, like most business leaders, are paying taxes on their capital gains, not on their "regular" income.

Once again, Asbury and co-host Dr. Rich Roffman introduced their "Cronyism Report," an ongoing look at how federal funding payouts are wasting taxpayer dollars.

Dr. Roffman contended that there is a long list of Democratic "bundlers" who raised money for the Obama administration and were rewarded with lucrative jobs and even stimulus money.

"Look at Dan Gibbs. He raised \$500,000 for Obama and wound up getting \$13.5 million in stimulus money and an appointment to an administrative position. There's a recurring pattern of donors getting big rewards," said Dr. Roffman.

Neal Asbury noted that there is a history of big donors for both parties receiving favors, such as ambassadorships. But he has not seen such blatant financial rewards for political dona-

tions -- this from a President who vowed to run the most transparent administration in history.

"There are some Obama supporters who have visited the White House more than 40 times and some Republicans want an investigation. This is pure cronyism, which destroys the concept of fairness," said Dr. Roffman.

**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. Link to Made in America at <http://www.nealasburys-madeinamerica.com>.**



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