Debunking BAAJA Myths

Proponents claim BAAJA will deliver affordability, certainty, and climate progress. Their own modeling and Donald Trump's statements prove otherwise.

Claim #1: BAAJA will make energy more affordable.

Fact: Rhodium Group, which was provided early access to the text of BAAJA, projects savings of just $50-78 per year by 2040. That is roughly $4-6 a month. Households currently pay a median of $4,361 a year in utility bills and BAAJA provides no meaningful relief for over a decade.

Claim #2: BAAJA will reduce emissions by 1.5-1.8 Gigatons.

Fact: Rhodium projects just 0–3.8% emissions reductions by 2040 under a best-case scenario, while no other models project reductions exceeding 1–2%. These estimates predate the Manager's Amendment changes which weakened transmission provisions addressing utility monopolies. None of the models account for emissions from the "project certainty" provisions and expanded fossil fuel exports.

Claim #3: The Trump Administration will cease its attacks on renewable energy.

Fact: On November 9th, President Trump stated, "I will not approve wind turbines. Wind is a loser." Last month, Trump issued a presidential memorandum threatening tariffs on important wind turbine components.

Claim #4: There will be no data centers on public lands.

Fact: BAAJA contains no protections against data center development on public lands, contradicting Sen. Heinrich's November 6th statement that there will be "No data centers on public land. Period." At least 17 applications are already pending, and BAAJA's changes to NEPA, NHPA, CWA, and judicial review could make these projects extremely difficult to stop.

Claim #5: BAAJA's transmission provisions justify its broader concessions.

Fact: The Manager's Amendment gutted the transmission provisions by eliminating simultaneous state and federal review of major transmission lines, excluding the Southeast and other regions without regional transmission organizations from regional planning, and retaining barriers to distributed clean energy in wholesale markets. These changes stripped away the bill's strongest argument.

Claim #6: Renewable energy will dominate post BAAJA**.**

Fact: The real winners are Big Tech and fossil fuel companies. Vice President Al Gore called on sponsors to reconsider BAAJA because it would "give the Trump administration freer rein to double down on fossil fuels — which is what President Trump would surely do." Trump has proven him right, endorsing the bill because it would ensure we build "Pipelines, Mines, and Power Plants faster than ever before."

Claim #7: The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) will preserve courts' ability to vacate unlawful NEPA and NHPA decisions.

Fact: BAAJA's specific limits on judicial remedies override the APA's general provisions, eliminating vacatur for NEPA and NHPA violations. These specific limits take precedence over the APA's general remedies, allowing projects to proceed despite unlawful environmental reviews.

BOTTOM LINE: A bill that saves families only $50 a year, locks in fossil and data center buildout, and strips away courts' and communities' power to stop bad projects is not what Americans voted for. Vote NO on BAAJA.