

In Episode 57DA 1 Introduction **RAWSEP View** 2 United States Washington DC University research indirect funds restricted by Trump directive A Trump policy change will restrict billions in funding for medical research programs at universities The National Institutes of Health announced a new policy Friday to cap a type of funding that supports medical research at universities a decision that most likely will leave many with a large budget gap 3 A move to freeze funding for electric vehicle charging stations confounds the states that are building them 4 Firefighter hiring stalls at federal agencies after the freeze of Donald Trump 5 California Newsom signs bills to fight Trump in California Gov Gavin Newsom has treaded more cautiously in recent weeks in dealing with Trump after the he threatened to withhold disaster aid from California 6 The right wing crusade against USAID has been fueled by falsehoods including a false video Main Content 1 Introduction **RAWSEP View** The United States government was on track in the Biden Administration to reduce the prices for both clean energy Heat Pumps and clean energy Electric Cars Trump tariffs are expected to upset those plans to prevent future air pollution and prevent climate change The United States Government should instead of certifying wood stoves as safe when they are not safe go forward with regulations that ban wood stove use and direct government money for use of forest refuse only for home building and furniture building for just a few examples of use of forest products for non burning uses It is well known from scientific and medical research that wood burning is a substantial source of PM2.5 emissions Yet the wood burning industry uses the scientifically debunked theory named Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning to argue that wood burning replacing coal burning in industry and in a trickle down argument that wood burning should continue for home heating should continue presumably because it is called renewable Wood may be renewable in the sense that a tree can be planted in the place of a cut down burned tree but it takes centuries or decades for the newly planted tree to attain the stature of the cut down burned tree During those centuries or decades photosynthesis which converts CO2 to oxygen and so sequesters some carbon will not take place at the same rate as photosynthesis was performed previously And wood burning emits both CO2 and PM2.5 and PM2.5 is not absorbed by trees so PM2.5 is not diminished by planting a tree in the place of a cut down and burned tree In fact a living tree closes its pores against the presence of PM2.5 from nearby wood burning just as humans hold their breath in the presence of PM2.5 from nearby wood burning and when a tree closes its pores the level of photosynthesis that absorbs CO2 pollution goes down Wood burning emits 90% PM2.5 particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths Contrary to many beliefs wood burning emits 2.8 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel coal burning and wood burning emits 450 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel natural gas burning Replacing coal burning with wood burning creates more air pollution in the form of CO2 and PM2.5 than coal burning This emission data comes from testing the cleanest burning wood stove in the United Kingdom the EcoDesign wood stove An international convention based on the scientifically debunked theory named Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning The emissions from wood burning are erased from all countries around the world when calculating if each country has met its Climate Goals This non counting or erasure of wood burning emissions data from Climate Goals does not mean wood burning emissions do not exist Burning wood instead of coal increases the adverse health effects of PM2.5 air pollution and hastens climate change Stopping burning wood for residential home heating is an easy incremental way to be kind to your neighbor and to the planet Choosing to burn wood when burning wood when it is more expensive than heating your home with a Heat Pump that is less



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We have had major, toxic wood smoke pollution here for over ten years. Not a day has gone by without smoke since 2012. In short, it sucks the life out of me.

Caroline A, Cardiff

Mums for Lungs
Yesterday at 1:00 PM · 🌐

Caroline in Cardiff has suffered from the air pollution and health effects from wood burning for many years now. This is her experience - it explains why we need the Government to tackle this issue properly.

"We have had major, toxic wood smoke pollution here for over ten years. Not a day has gone by without smoke since 2012. This has been hellish for me. I've developed eye disease and fibromyalgia and, on a particularly polluted day, had a very frightening trip to A&E with what turned out to be bleeding sinuses. I get regular headaches. In short, it sucks the life out of me. It's probably a matter of time until I find out what other damage it's caused me.

The house has black soot around window frames, no matter how much I clean. The laundry has stunk of smoke for the duration. I often sleep with the duvet over my face as we have overnight smoke too.

I'm an animal lover but feel it would be unfair to have more pets in these conditions. (I think it contributed to/caused the death of my two last pets.)

I feel very let down by the Governments that have allowed this terrible situation."

expensive when you use the United States Heat Pump Rebates available in 2025 in many states is like choosing a gas powered car above an electric car when both are of equal price Many of the Trump tariffs will result in less manufacture of clean electric vehicles in the United States and less price reduction to customers on existing electric vehicles 2 United States Washington DC University research indirect funds restricted by Trump directive A Trump policy change will restrict billions in funding for medical research programs at universities The National Institutes of Health announced a new policy Friday to cap a type of funding that supports medical research at universities a decision that most likely will leave many with a large budget gap **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times February 7 2025 The policy targets \$9 billion in so called indirect funds that the NIH sends along with direct funds to support research into basic science and treatments for diseases ranging from cancer to Alzheimers to diabetes Currently some universities get 50 percent or more of the amount of a grant in indirect funds meaning a \$1 million research award would come with \$500000 to maintain facilities and equipment and pay support staff The new policy would cap those indirect funds at 15 percent I think it is going to destroy research universities in the short term and I do not know after that They rely on the money They budget for the money The universities were making decisions expecting the money to be there the policy change would force his university to make cuts to support staff and overhead The Trump administration has been sharply critical of what it derides as woke policies and cultures at universities which have been bracing for a hit to their budgets Project 2025 a set of conservative policy proposals called for capping these related research funds Project 2025 authors said An NIH social media post said the change could save the federal government as much as \$4 billion and sharply cut payments to Harvard Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities which have overhead rates above 60 percent of their grant sums Senator Patty Murray a Democrat of Washington said in a statement late Friday that the move could dismantle the biomedical research system stifle the development of new cures for disease and rip treatments away from patients in need She said the change could shut down some clinical trials at institutions in her state such as the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and University of Washington The NIH spent about \$35 billion in 2023 on about 50000 competitive grants to about 300000 researchers at 2500 universities medical schools and other research institutions nationwide according to the new policy Of that about \$26 billion directly funded research and \$9 billion covered indirect costs The policy is set to take effect Monday 3 United States Washington DC A move to freeze funding for electric vehicle charging stations confounds the states that are building them **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** A new federal order that freezes a Biden era program to build a national network of electric vehicle charging stations has confounded states which had been allocated billions of dollars by Congress for the program In interviews on Friday some state officials said that as a result of the memo from the Trump administration they had stopped work on the charging stations Others said they intended to keep going In Ohio Gov Mike DeWine a Republican has welcomed federal money to build 19 EV charging stations The Feb 6 memo signed by Emily Biondi an associate administrator at the US Transportation Department said that the administration was suspending approval of state electric vehicle infrastructure deployment plans The memo singled out the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure or NEVI program which was authorized under the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law A national network of fast charging stations was part of the effort of President Joseph R Biden Junior to combat climate change by accelerating the



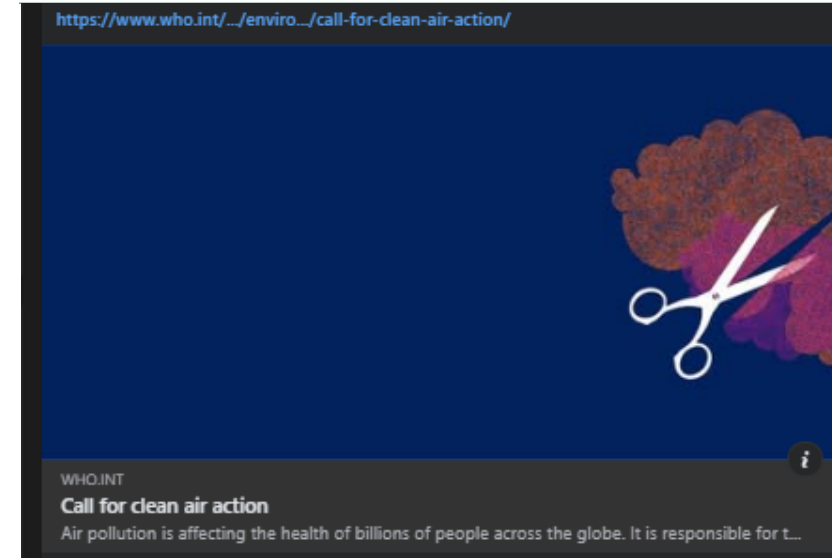
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transition of the nation to electric vehicles Under the program states were to receive \$5 billion to build 500000 charging stations by 2030 To date about \$33 billion has been allocated to states Of that \$511 million has been awarded in contracts but only \$40 million has been spent Clarification has been requested as to whether the freeze applied to money that has been allocated but not awarded by states to contractors Trump is opposed to federal support for electric vehicles He has promised to revoke pollution limits on automobiles that were designed to increase sales of zero emissions cars and to end federal tax credits of up to \$7500 to buyers of electric vehicles Vermont which has built four charging ports at one location with the federal funds will halt work on its program said the policy director at the Vermont Agency of Transportation In December the state awarded 11 new projects to add 60 charging ports across the state Some state officials said the directive of the federal government would not substantially change their plans The Maryland Department of Transportation said in a statement that it was moving forward with its obligated NEVI funding Maryland is committed to pressing forward with our strategy to deliver charging infrastructure for clean cars to drivers across the state Officials at the Tennessee Department of Transportation said the state would continue to finalize contracts with companies during the pause Tennessee has not yet opened a charging station with the federal funding although it has selected 30 sites If plans for the federally funded charging stations are canceled it could harm companies in regions and industries that are typically aligned with Trump One of the largest recipients of the state EV charging money is Loves an Oklahoma based truck stop company with more than 600 gasoline and diesel stations and convenience stores Several states used their NEVI funding to sign contracts with the company to build EV charging stations The chief analyst at Paren an EV analytics company said the pause of the program would be most felt in rural areas where companies have less reason to build chargers without federal subsidies The whole role and value of the program is putting those charging stations out in upstate New York or rural Alabama 4 United States Washington DC Firefighter hiring stalls at federal agencies after the freeze of Donald Trump **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The hiring of thousands of federal firefighters has stalled amid a governmentwide freeze ordered by Trump just as agencies were beginning to ramp up staffing for the summer wildfire season according to a union of firefighters The executive order issued by Trump hours after his inauguration stated that the freeze exempted public safety positions Yet federal firefighters in recent weeks have had their job offers rescinded or had their start dates pushed back as a handful of agencies worked to clear up confusion about the freeze or secure exemptions from it said a spokesman and member of the National Federation of Federal Employees a union that represents roughly 15000 federal firefighters Federal agencies that hire firefighters include the US Forest Service the Bureau of Land Management the National Park Service and the US Department of Fish and Wildlife Human resources workers at the Forest Service had told firefighter job candidates that their exemptions to the executive order had not yet been approved so on boarding would be delayed The Forest Service employs the majority of federal firefighters with more than 11000 on staff as of July 2024 A spokesperson for the Forest Service said it had been actively working with the Office of Personnel Management OPM on its wildland firefighting positions A spokesperson for the Department of the Interior which oversees the Bureau of Land Management the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service said the agency was implementing the order of Donald Trump and working with OPM and that the executive order allowed for exemptions for certain positions including those related to public safety Federal firefighters helped battle



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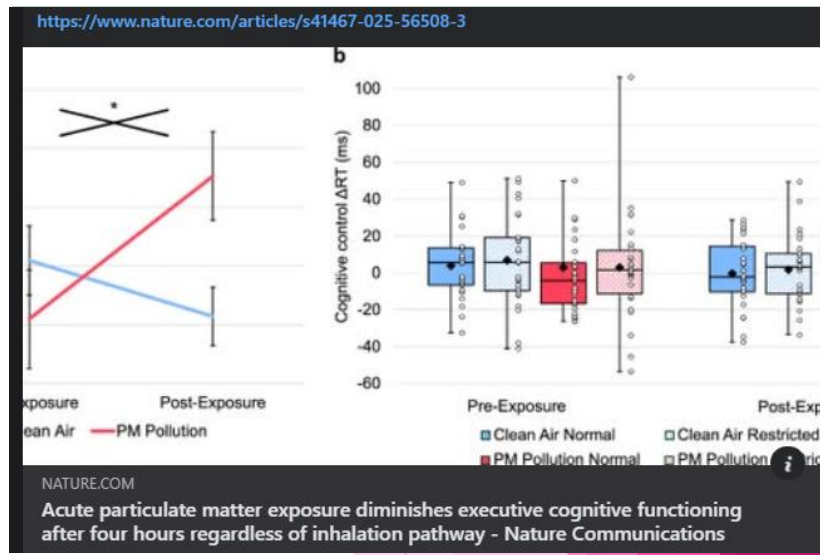
blazes that devastated parts of Los Angeles last month during the Palisades and Eaton fires both of which destroyed thousands of homes businesses and other structures Cal Fire the firefighting agency of the state called the Forest Service an important partner in its efforts to combat ever worsening wildfires It is unknown at this time how this freeze will impact the protection of federal lands in California a Cal Fire spokeswoman said in a statement Firefighters who battled the Palisades and Eaton fires have been affected by the hiring freeze Many of those firefighters who had applied for promotions within their organizations have had their start dates delayed by weeks He added that federal firefighters served as reinforcements for local and state fire departments during the fires in Los Angeles and were heavily involved from the beginning because the Eaton fire initially was burning in the foothills of the Angeles National Forest which is overseen by the Forest Service A Forest Service firefighter based in Los Angeles County said he received an email this week notifying him that his promotion set to take effect in a few days would be delayed for at least two weeks because of the federal hiring freeze The firefighter said he and his colleagues were exhausted from working hundreds of hours of overtime in January alone He fought the Hurst fire which broke out in the San Fernando Valley on the same day as the Palisades and Eaton fires Separately from the executive order the Office of Personnel Management instructed agency heads last month to turn over the names of employees still on their probationary periods The directive noted that such employees can be terminated during that period without triggering appeal rights and that managers should determine whether they should be retained The Forest Service has roughly 2000 firefighters who are considered on probation and whose jobs could be on the line as a result of that OPM directive 5 California Newsom signs bills to fight Trump in California Gov Gavin Newsom has treaded more cautiously in recent weeks in dealing with Trump after he threatened to withhold disaster aid from California Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times February 7 2025 Two days after meeting with Trump at the White House to seek disaster aid Gov Gavin Newsom of California signed legislation on Friday that authorized \$50 million in state funds intended to counter the agenda of the president Half of the money was dedicated to legal aid including for undocumented immigrants without criminal records who have faced deportation threats from the Trump administration and the other half was intended to cover additional state litigation costs as California spars with the federal government in court Newsom signed a pair of bills with no news cameras bringing to a quiet end an effort he launched with vigor two days after the election Three months ago he asked state lawmakers to move quickly to defend the state from presumed incursions by Trump and called for a special legislative session The governor seemed to be positioning himself as a national leader of the Democratic resistance in the days following the election But he has treaded more cautiously in recent weeks after the president threatened to withhold disaster aid from California On Wednesday he met with Trump for more than an hour in the Oval Office The bills signed by Newsom passed on a party line vote Democrats who hold more than two thirds of the state legislative seats pressed the need to gird for legal battles with the Trump administration Californians are being threatened by an out of control administration in Washington that does not care about the Constitution that thinks there are no limits to its power the Democratic Assembly speaker said as lawmakers passed the bills on Monday We do not trust Trump The rightward shift that the nation experienced in the last election was evident in California state contests as well Republicans flipped three state legislative seats previously held by Democrats and Trump won 10 counties that former President Joseph R Biden Jr carried in 2020 Two of the counties fell partly in a Central Valley



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district represented by a Democratic assemblywoman The legislation lays the groundwork for California to resume its role of jousting with the federal government The state sued the Trump administration more than 100 times during the first term of the president and has been involved in three lawsuits challenging his orders since Trump re entered the White House last month 6 United States Washington DC The right wing crusade against USAID has been fueled by falsehoods including a false video **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The video falsely claiming that the United States Agency for International Development paid Ben Stiller Angelina Jolie and other actors millions of dollars to travel to Ukraine appeared to be a clip from E!News though it never appeared on the entertainment channel In fact the video first surfaced on X in a post from an account that researchers have said spreads Russian disinformation Within hours it drew the attention of Elon Musk who reposted it So did Trump Jr They amplified the false video as Musk pressed a crusade to shut down USAID the agency that has distributed much of the foreign aid of the government since 1961 Working with the blessing of Donald Trump blessing as the head of a government efficiency campaign Musk and others in the administration have taken over the headquarters of the agency frozen grants and notified employees that nearly all of them will be laid off By Wednesday afternoon Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary the authoritarian leader echoed the claims swirling in the United States writing on X that payments to Politico somehow financed basically the entire left wing media in Hungary For Russia and China the American conservative uproar over USAID has been met with startled glee Both nations echoing the complain of Orban have blamed the agency for supporting subversive programs in their countries President Vladimir V Putin of Russia banned USAID grants in 2012 and expelled the workers of the agency accusing the United States of funding opponents of his rule Officials from Republican and Democratic administrations have argued that the programs simply promoted civil society in Russia A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia ridiculed a series of grants that have been criticized in the United States too and claimed the underlying purpose of the agency was to promote political uprisings citing protests in Egypt in 2011 Ukraine in 2014 and Georgia last year The false video that went viral this week claiming USAID funded celebrity travel overseas fit the recurring narrative of Russia that the United States furtively supports Ukraine with resources that American voters would rather spend at home The video appeared to be the work of an influence campaign known to researchers as Operation Overload or Matryoshka after the Russian nesting dolls That work is led by a private company with links to the Kremlin By Thursday users on TikTok and the Truth Social platform of Donald Trump had shared the video as commenters expressed outrage and called for USAID to be eliminated There is no evidence of the payments in any of the programs of the agency A spokesman for E!News also said in a statement that the video is not authentic and did not originate from E!News The actor Ben Stiller said to have been paid \$4 million for a visit to Ukraine took to social media to try to refute the claim These are lies coming from Russian media he wrote on X I completely self funded my humanitarian trip to Ukraine There was no funding from USAID and certainly no payment of any kind More conspiratorially minded supporters of Musk continue to cheer the billionaire on anyway They include a food service worker and Army National Guard veteran who was blamed in 2022 for starting a conspiracy theory about American biological weapons laboratories in Ukraine



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Noticeable haze in the air yesterday, some even smelling smoke...

This is something we typically deal with in the spring; seasonal agricultural burning + south winds = hazy skies in Texas. It's just happening earlier this year thanks to the lack of cold fronts in the last week

