

Episode 57DEG February 21 2025 Resilience to Trump Clean Energy Rollbacks and new Trump layoffs

In Episode 57DEG 1 United States Why Trump Clean Energy Rollbacks Could Derail a Factory Boom With the Trump administration reversing support for low carbon power the business case for making wind solar and electric vehicle parts gets weaker 2A Washington DC List of new Trump layoffs at Government Agencies 2B Washington DC Judge Rules Against Labor Unions Seeking to Block Mass Firings The Trump administration can proceed with its plans to fire thousands of government workers the judge said noting that the dispute should go before the agency that handles federal labor disputes called the Federal Labor Relations Authority 3 Michigan Dairy Workers May Have Passed Bird Flu to Pet Cats 4 Ukraine and the United States and the Group of 7 **RAWSEP View** The Group of Seven G7 is a political and economic forum that includes Canada France Germany Italy Japan the United Kingdom and the United States The European Union also participates in the G7 From 1997 to 2014 Russia was part of the G8 but Russia was suspended indefinitely from the group in 2014 after annexing Crimea an autonomous republic of Ukraine The G 8 is now referred to as the G 7 as a result From the article headline US Objects to Calling Russia Aggressor in G7 Statement on Invasion The American opposition to a draft of a Group of 7 statement marking the third anniversary of the Russian attack on Ukraine comes after Trump blamed Kyiv for starting the war Main Content

1 United States Why Trump Clean Energy Rollbacks Could Derail a Factory Boom With the Trump administration reversing support for low carbon power the business case for making wind solar and electric vehicle parts gets weaker **RAWSEP View** The factories which may be derailed by Trump are first of all manufacturing semiconductors Devices made of semiconductors notably silicon are essential components of most electronic circuits Electronic circuits are used in computers used for renewable energy storage The factories which may be derailed by Trump are secondly manufacturing equipment needed for renewable energy deployment The renewable energy deployment in question includes battery powered vehicles wind power and solar fields and panels This derailment of factories is meant to save money to offset tax credits for the wealthy which the Trump administration hopes will happen However this article concludes that the Biden administration plan to incentivize private industry to produce more semiconductors and more renewable energy in the form of wind and solar will have been already jump started and the evident economic benefits to private industry to continue deployment of clean energy will not stop **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 Feb 20 2025 American manufacturing has been in the doldrums for years battered by high borrowing costs and a strong dollar which makes exports less competitive But there has been a bright spot: billions of dollars flowing into factory construction signifying that a potential rebound in production and employment is around the corner The flood of investment has been driven by two major categories of subsidies provided under the Biden administration One offered incentives for the construction of several enormous semiconductor plants set to begin operation in the coming years The other supercharged the production of equipment needed for renewable energy deployment This second category is in jeopardy as the Trump administration and the Republican led Congress seek to roll back support for low carbon energy including battery powered vehicles wind power and solar fields One option to raise money to offset the cost of their desired tax cuts is truncating credits for renewable power generation Jigar Shah who ran the Loan Programs Office at the Energy Department under the Biden administration puts an optimistic spin on the state of the industry He estimates that more than half the new manufacturing facilities that his office supported are under construction and that most of their executives remain confident in the business case for completion because the industry fundamentals even without subsidies remain strong So then you will find 455 of them that are probably waiting or thinking or whatever but those 500 manufacturing facilities is greater than the number that we built in the last 10

years Shah said Will some of the projects not move forward? Yes But will we hit these grand milestones that we set for ourselves in 2021 in the Biden Administration? Unequivocally yes

2A Washington DC List of new Trump layoffs at Government Agencies [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 21 2025 Federal agency cuts: The IRS began laying off more than 6000 employees The CIA is moving to dismiss an unspecified number of officers working on recruiting and diversity issues according to former officials in what could be one of the largest mass firings in CIA history The Transportation Security Administration fired 243 probationary employees Four agencies were ordered to reduce their work and personnel to the minimum required by law And an arm of the Housing and Urban Development Department that helps rebuild homes after disasters is set to cut more than 80 percent of its staff

2B Washington DC Judge Rules Against Labor Unions Seeking to Block Mass Firings The Trump administration can proceed with its plans to fire thousands of government workers the judge said noting that the dispute should go before the agency that handles federal labor disputes called the Federal Labor Relations Authority [RAWSEP View](#) The judge did not address the legality of the firings but only that federal court was not the right avenue for the dispute The judge said the issue should first be addressed by the government agency called the Federal Labor Relations Authority This federal judge based in Washington DC agreed with the ruling last week of a federal judge based in Massachusetts [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 Feb 20 2025 A federal judge on Thursday denied an effort by labor unions to block the Trump effort to drastically reduce the size of the federal work force allowing the mass firings happening across multiple agencies to proceed In the ruling Judge Christopher R Cooper a US District Court judge in Washington signaled that he was concerned about the upheaval caused by the Trump actions But he did not address the legality of the downsizing efforts writing that the federal court was not the right venue for the dispute The first month of the Trump second administration has been defined by an onslaught of executive actions that have caused some say by design disruption and even chaos in widespread quarters of American society Judge Cooper wrote Still he said federal district judges are duty bound to decide legal issues based on even handed application of law and precedent no matter the identity of the litigants or the consequences of their rulings for average people Judge Cooper said that he was denying the request from the unions that he block the Trump administration from continuing its downsizing efforts because the matter should be first addressed with the agency that adjudicates labor disputes between federal employee unions and management known as the Federal Labor Relations Authority Judge Cooper noted that if the unions lose in that venue they could resume their court battle through the federal court of appeals the ruling of Judge Cooper in the case was similar to one that was made in a separate case last week by a judge in Massachusetts In that case the judge agreed labor unions representing federal workers did not have standing to challenge the Trump actions in federal court

3 Michigan Dairy Workers May Have Passed Bird Flu to Pet Cats CDC Study Suggests But the study whose publication was delayed by a pause in public communications by the agency leaves key questions unanswered [RAWSEP View](#) The ways that humans can transmit the Bird Flu to cats are described here The humans described in this article are dairy workers who worked closely with Bird Flu infected cows In a worst case scenario the Bird Flu may become airborne or may become a pandemic An example of an airborne infectious disease is COVID 19 An example of an airborne vector of disease is the PM25 emitted from indoor residential wood burning which enters the yards of near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners which sickens the near neighbors Wood burning is 90 percent PM25 particulate matter of 25 micron size the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths [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 Feb 20 2025 Two dairy workers in Michigan may have transmitted bird flu to their pet cats last May suggests a new study published on Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention In one household infected cats may also have passed the virus to other people in the home but limited evidence makes it difficult to ascertain the possibility The results are from a study that was scheduled to be published in January but was delayed by the Trump pause on communications from the CDC A single data table from the new report briefly appeared online two weeks ago in a paper on the wildfires in California then quickly disappeared That odd incident prompted calls from public health experts for release of the study The new paper still leaves major questions unanswered including how the cats first became infected and whether farm workers spread the virus to the cats and to other people in the household experts said I do not think we can say for sure if this is human to cat or cat to human or cat from something else Officials in Michigan began investigating two households last May when exclusively indoor cats showed respiratory and neurological symptoms and after death tested positive for the virus called H5N1 The officials interviewed the owners of the cats and interviewed household members and offered to test them for the virus The owners of both cats were dairy workers The first farm worker did not work with cows directly and the farm was not known to have infected herds But the worker reported that many of the barn cats on the premises of the farm recently died The worker also reported having experienced vomiting and diarrhea before the first household cat became ill The second farm worker reported being splashed in the face and eyes with milk and experiencing eye irritation Both workers declined to be tested This study provides yet more concerning evidence that farmworkers with high risk exposures may refuse testing In order to protect people and stay ahead of this virus we need to remove disincentives for patients to get tested People should not fear that testing positive will cause financial distress or other personal harms In the household of the first farmworker the first cat to become ill showed decreased appetite lack of grooming abnormal gait and lethargy and quickly deteriorated She was euthanized on the fourth day of illness A second cat in the household developed watery eye discharge rapid breathing and decreased appetite four days after the first cat became ill This cat recovered and was not tested for the virus A third cat had no symptoms and tested negative for the virus 11 days after the first cat became ill Neither the cats nor the humans in the household drank unpasteurized milk How the cats might have become infected is unclear but experts said that the farmworkers were likely to have become infected with H5N1 at their workplace and to have brought the virus home to their cats If you love your cat you probably give it head kisses if it lets you Three people in the household an adult and two adolescents tested negative for H5N1 Six days after the first cat became sick one of the adolescents became ill with a cough sore throat and body aches and the other reported a cough that was attributed to allergies But because the adolescents were tested late 11 days after the first cat became sick it was not impossible that they became infected with H5N1 that they picked up from the cats Later in May a pet cat in the second household developed severe neurological symptoms including anorexia and minimal movement and died within a day; the cat tested positive for bird flu after its death The owner of the cat transported unpasteurized milk including from farms with known bird flu outbreaks According to the study the owner did not wear personal protective equipment PPE while handling raw milk; reported frequent milk splash exposures to the face eyes and clothing; and did not remove work clothing before entering the home when returning from work The cat that became ill was known to roll in the work clothes of the owner the study noted Virus in raw milk splattered on those clothes may be the source of infection in the cat said the director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory At this point I think the higher risk is their exposure from raw dairy products he said There is so much virus in the milk Of 24 veterinary staff members who were potentially exposed to the infected cats seven reported symptoms such as nasal congestion and headache Only five agreed to testing; all were negative It is recommended that veterinarians remain alert to the possibility of bird flu infections when they see sick cats Pet owners should not have to rely on postmortem sampling to get a diagnosis

4 Ukraine and the United States and the Group of 7 [RAWSEP View](#) The Group of Seven G7 is a political and economic forum that includes Canada France Germany Italy Japan the United Kingdom and the United States The

European Union also participates in the G7 From 1997 to 2014 Russia was part of the G8 but Russia was suspended indefinitely from the group in 2014 after annexing Crimea an autonomous republic of Ukraine The G 8 is now referred to as the G 7 as a result From the article headline US Objects to Calling Russia Aggressor in G7 Statement on Invasion The American opposition to a draft of a Group of 7 statement marking the third anniversary of the Russian attack on Ukraine comes after Trump blamed Kyiv for starting the war **RAWSEP View** It is counterproductive to helping democratic Ukraine win the war for the United States to deny that this is a war of Russian anti democratic aggression The Canadian first draft of a statement on the 3rd anniversary of the war stated the truth that Russian was the aggressor and stated that the G7 countries were pro Ukrainian Trump in the United States is also refusing to serve as a co sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution for the anniversary that backs Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and condemns Russian aggression The insult which Zelensky supposedly made about Trump was that he called what Trump said about Ukraine starting the war was misinformation and disinformation Apparently Zelensky did not refer to what Trump said plainly as lies so it appears to the editor of RAWSEP that Zelensky was remarkably diplomatic in his comments Trump has a history of disputes with the G7 going back to walking out on a similar G7 meeting also in Canada in 2018 over language on trade **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 Feb 20 2025 The United States is opposing calling Russia the aggressor in the war with Ukraine in a Group of 7 statement being drafted to mark the third anniversary of the Russian full scale invasion three senior officials from countries involved said on Thursday The American objections to the statement come after Trump earlier this week blamed Ukraine for starting the war which in fact began with the Russian attack on Ukraine One senior official from a Group of 7 country said that Canada had circulated the first draft of the statement to the other six member countries That version the official said used language that retained the pro Ukraine tone the group of allies adopted after the full scale invasion of the country in February 2022 The US side went through that first draft this week and removed all references that could be interpreted as being pro Ukraine the official said The result the official added was a neutral draft statement that made no references to Russia as the aggressor in the conflict nor to Ukraine as the victim of the invasion Canada took the lead in writing the draft because it currently holds the presidency of the Group of 7 Diplomats are continuing to work on the language in the draft which currently describes a devastating war that began with the Russian invasion of Ukraine but does not use the words Russian aggression or aggressors which have been in Group of 7 statements since 2022 senior German and European officials said One of the senior officials from a Group of 7 nation added that the drafting and negotiating over the text could continue until Monday when the text is set to be published Similarly it is not yet settled whether the Group of 7 leaders who will meet virtually on Monday will invite President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine to participate as he did last year the official said The American objections follow a bitter exchange of insults between Zelensky and Trump The US president has vowed to try to end the war rapidly and has authorized envoys to hold talks with Russia without the involvement of Kyiv or European nations The officials emphasized that the Group of 7 draft was not finished but also said that it was important to come up with a mutually agreed to statement which is never easy and always requires wordsmithing Canada began the drafting process by adhering to expressions used in previous Group of 7 statements on the war which condemned Russia at some length But Trump administration officials indicated they wanted something different from and shorter than the statement issued under former President Biden and sought to ensure it did not interfere or block the negotiations now underway with Russia The Americans also wanted to cut passages that described the invasion as a breach of sovereignty For now the current draft includes a statement that says strong security guarantees and Ukrainian integration into the European Union will be critical to secure a lasting peace that prevents future aggression Foreign affairs ministers from the Group of 7 are scheduled to meet in Quebec from March 12 to 14 2025 The leaders of the 7 countries are scheduled to meet in Alberta Canada in mid June The last time Canada was the Group of 7 chair during the Trump first term in 2018 Trump walked out of a summit meeting in Quebec and withdrew his support for the final joint communiqué angry about its language on trade