

On climate change, Biden plans to make up for lost time

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Joe Biden visited one disaster site after another this summer — from California wildfires to hurricane-induced flooding in Louisiana and New York — he said climate change is “everybody’s crisis” and America must get serious about the “code red” danger posed by global warming.

In many ways, the president is making up for lost time.

Biden and Democrats are pursuing a sweeping \$3.5 trillion federal overhaul that includes landmark measures to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in what would be the most consequential environmental policies ever enacted, after years of fits and starts.

Sidelined after the former administration withdrew from the landmark Paris climate accord — the 2015 global effort to confront climate change — the U.S. has returned to the arena, with Biden promising world leaders in April that the U.S. would cut carbon pollution in half by 2030.

But following through on Biden’s climate goals depends in large part on passage of the Democratic package, and it will take the White House’s heft to close the deal between centrist and progressive lawmakers,

including disputes over its climate provisions.

“That’s where he earns his legacy,” Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., said of Biden.

As Democrats rush to finish a package that touches almost all aspects of American life, the proposals related to climate change are proving to be a sticking point, particularly among key centrist lawmakers.

The president met separately Tuesday with Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona as Democrats chip away at the package’s overall price tag and marshal support. With Republicans in lockstep against the plan, Democrats have few votes to spare as they try to pass it on their own.

“This is Speaker Pelosi’s grand socialist agenda to destroy freedom and embolden our enemies on the backs of American families,” said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers of Washington state, the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce panel.

Yet, for many Democrats, and voters who elected them — the climate provisions are among the most important elements of the sweeping bill. A poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public

Affairs Research shows 83% of Democrats are very concerned about climate change, compared with just 21% of Republicans.

“This is a ‘code red’ moment, but Democrats are answering the call,” said Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Florida, chairwoman of a special House committee on climate change.

“Our only hope to avoid catastrophe is to act with urgency — to act now,” Castor said Tuesday at the Capitol. She called climate change “a clear and present danger to American families who are facing brutal heat waves, devastating floods, failed electric grids and historic wildfires.”

The Democratic plan will make historic investments in clean energy, climate resilience and environmental justice, she said. “We have to get this right.”

Included in the massive legislation is a nationwide clean-electricity program that is intended to eliminate climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions from U.S. power plants by 2035 — catching up to requirements already set in some states.

The proposal would spend billions to install 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations and upgrade the power grid to make it more resilient during hurricanes and other extreme weather

events that are increasing and intensifying as a result of climate change.

The measure also would create a New Deal-style Civilian Climate Corps to unleash an army of young people to work in public lands and restoration projects.

“The climate crisis is here, and the cost of inaction is already staggering,” said Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, D-N.J. The U.S. had 22 climate and weather disasters in 2020 with losses exceeding \$1 billion each. Hurricane Ida and other recent disasters are likely to cost tens of billions more.

A slimmer \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill the House is set to consider Thursday addresses some of these priorities, with money for climate resiliency, water system upgrades and other provisions.

But progressive Democrats say a far more comprehensive approach is needed if the U.S. is to have a chance to achieve Biden’s goal of cutting the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions in half, leaving both packages at a standstill as talks continue behind the scenes.

“It’s about the livability of this planet,” said Huffman, a progressive caucus member who said Democrats were “unwilling to just be

steamrolled on that.”

But Manchin has said he will not support a number of clean energy and climate provisions. As the powerful chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Manchin has vowed to protect jobs in his coal and gas-producing state and said the price tag for the Democratic bill is too high. Manchin said after the White House meeting he did not give Biden a new topline figure.

Manchin and Sinema are not alone in raising objections. Seven House Democrats from Texas said provisions in the Democratic plan could cost thousands of jobs in the energy industry and increase energy costs for Americans.

“These taxes and fees, as well as the exclusion of natural gas production from clean energy initiatives, constitute punitive practices,” the Texas lawmakers said in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The letter was signed by Reps. Henry Cuellar, Vicente Gonzalez, Lizzie Fletcher, Sylvia Garcia, Marc Veasey, Filemon Vela and Colin Allred.

Overall, the Biden package aims to provide more than \$600 billion to tackle climate change and lower greenhouse gas emissions,

funded in large part by taxes on corporations, the wealthy and other fees, keeping to Biden’s pledge not to raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000 a year.

One alternative for raising revenues would be to impose a carbon tax. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said Monday he is developing legislation “that would make polluters pay for the costs of the climate crisis.”

But Wyden and others are mindful of Biden’s pledge not to hit pocketbooks of Americans and the senator said the carbon tax is being developed as part of a menu of options for consideration.

Environmental groups have hailed the overall package, calling it a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

“Investing in new clean energy technologies is one of the best things we can do to create good jobs for regular people right now while reaping long-term benefits and a healthier planet for decades to come,” said Matthew Davis of the League of Conservation Voters.

The clean-energy standard alone could create millions of jobs, while driving the U.S. electricity sector toward zero-carbon emissions, Davis and other advocates said.

Homes

(Continued from page 1) responsible for maintaining landscaping and buffers.

Several residents repeatedly asked if the homes will be subsidized or if they are considered Section 8 housing.

Medvedkov constantly emphasized that homes in the development are “not subsidized whatsoever.”

He said the rental homes are “absolutely indistinguishable” from properties that are owner-occupied. Comek noted that AMH Development actually owns and rents several homes in the New California development already.

Medvedkov added that the median income of individuals living in AMH Development homes — which has 80 communities nationwide — is between \$110,000 and \$120,000.

The homes that will be built in Jerome Township are valued “somewhere in the \$400,000s,” he added. Their monthly rental prices will range between \$2,100 and \$2,300.

Medvedkov said the development simply aims to “provide a different option” to individuals that may not be ready to own a home. He said that could include people who grew up in Jerome and would like to move back to and work in the area.

He said community members should not be overly concerned with whether their neighbors

rent or own their property. Medvedkov compared the scenario to car ownership. He said neighbors do not necessarily know if a vehicle is leased or owned, but only care if it is well kept.

To be sure, he added that AMH Development runs credit checks of every renter, as well as criminal background checks.

Medvedkov said no one with a felony is permitted to rent a home in the development. He said that is not a requirement to own a home, making the screening for this neighborhood even more stringent.

“We go above and beyond to make sure we have quality residents,” he said.

Sloat acknowledged each of Medvedkov’s points, but emphasized that the zoning hearing was not about potential occupants.

She said the trustees cannot consider whether the houses will be rented or owner-occupied when considering the rezoning request.

Comek agreed. She said the request meets all standards of development, adding “this development will pay all the taxes everyone else pays.”

“Zoning is about use, not users,” she said.

The trustees will render a decision during their next meeting at 7 p.m. Oct. 5.

Ohio House Republicans debut new anti-vaccine mandate bill

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Public and private sector employees could seek exemptions from employer-mandated coronavirus vaccines in three general areas, including an ability to demonstrate the presence of COVID-19 antibodies, under a newly introduced Republican bill in the Ohio House.

The bill is meant to replace a previous anti-vaccination bill that included a ban on employers requiring vaccines of any kind, including for diseases such as the flu.

Employees who could show proof they run the risk of a negative medical reaction, and those who don’t want the vaccine for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, would also be exempt from employer mandates, under the legislation co-sponsored by GOP Reps. Rick Carfagna of Delaware and Bill Seitz of Cincinnati. Both said they are vaccinated.

The exemptions would also be available for employees and students at Ohio’s public and private schools, colleges and universities. The legislation also prevents governments from requiring proof of vaccination to enter locally or state-owned public facilities, which would include publicly funded sports stadiums.

The legislation does not prevent private businesses

from requiring vaccination proof.

The bill isn’t universal in allowing the exceptions to COVID-19 vaccine mandates. For example, employees of children’s hospitals, employees who work on a hospital intensive care or critical care unit, and employees who start work after the proposed legislation takes effect would not be able to claim the exemptions.

The legislation “empowers Ohioans by ensuring the availability of clear, unambiguous COVID-19 vaccine mandate exemptions,” Carfagna said Tuesday. “It balances personal medical freedom and protecting the health and safety of Ohioans.”

Employees would not be responsible for costs imposed by employers for alternative methods to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, such as masking or testing, according to the bill. Employees would have to cover the cost of proving they already have a natural immunity to the coronavirus.

Rep. Allison Russo, a Democrat from Upper Arlington in suburban Columbus, questioned why other health care workers, such as those working in nursing homes, weren’t also prevented from claiming the exemptions. Seitz said many nursing homes are already

facing severe staffing shortages and there was a concern about making that shortage worse by those employees being required to get the vaccine.

Even if lawmakers approve the bill swiftly, it’s unlikely the legislation would take effect this year. The GOP-controlled House Health Committee passed the bill Tuesday afternoon along partisan lines, and full House approval was expected Wednesday. But the measure still needs to move through the Senate and even if approved there within days and then signed into law by Gov. Mike DeWine, it wouldn’t take effect for three months.

The previous legislation would have prevented employees from being fired as a result of refusing to get vaccinated and would allow them to sue their employers if they felt they had been wrongly dismissed.

Debate over the prior legislation achieved national notoriety in June when a doctor testified before the committee that people have become magnetized by the vaccine, allowing metal to stick to their skin. That has not happened.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a bulletin June 3 specifically debunking this falsehood, explaining that all COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.

Party

(Continued from page 1)

thankful for the community that has built around her family since their loss.

Block party guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and enjoy provided adult beverages, snacks, and a hotdog and chili bar. Kona Ice Truck will be at the event between 4-6 p.m.

Activities will include games and face painting for kids, a gift basket raffle and horse-drawn carriage rides around the block. Dutch Mill Greenhouse will also supply succulents.

Free will donations will be accepted at the event, with all proceeds benefiting the hospital.

“Hopefully this year is the first of many and maybe it takes off to open invitation,” Grace said.

This year’s Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 17.

So far, Colin & Griffin’s Gang has raised \$7,500 for the hospital with a goal of \$10,000 this year.

In 2017, the goal of Colin & Griffin’s Gang was to raise \$5,000. Grace said if an individual or team donates \$5,000, they can dedicate a wagon that transports the young hospital patients.

“The first year was amazing. I remember posting our story (online). I posted it right before I went to bed,” she said. “I woke up the next morning and there was an email saying, ‘You passed your goal.’”

Ultimately, the team raised about \$19,000 that year.

Between 2017 and 2021, the team has raised nearly \$50,000 for the hospital.

LOTTERY

CLEVELAND (AP) — These Ohio lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Lucky For Life 02-17-23-38-42, Lucky Ball: 14

Mega Millions 18-30-43-68-69, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 4

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Pick 3 Evening 4-1-7

Pick 3 Midday 4-2-2

Pick 4 Evening 1-1-1-4

Pick 4 Midday 9-9-6-0

Pick 5 Evening 6-2-1-5-3

Pick 5 Midday 1-2-6-5-4

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$570 million

Rolling Cash 5 01-05-24-33-37

Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

POLICE BEAT

According to Marysville Police Department reports:

Reese Karter Chapman, 18, of Northcrest Drive was arrested on a warrant service arrest in the 200

block of S. Plum Street at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday.

Stacey Chenault, 46, whose address is listed as “unknown” was arrested on a warrant service arrest in the 100 block of Red-

wood Drive at 8:17 p.m. Tuesday.

Police responded to a report of lost property in the 1200 block of W. Fifth Street at 10:09 a.m. Tuesday. The reporting person advised he lost his driver’s license.

Police responded to a report of suspicious conditions in the 100 block of Cypress Drive at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Police responded to a report of theft in the 15000 block of U.S. 36 at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Reports indicate MPD was called to Lowe’s in reference to a theft.

Police responded to a report of recovered property in the 1200 block of W. Fifth Street at 3:24 p.m. Tuesday.

Police responded to a report of recovered property at an unlisted address at 5:07 p.m. Tuesday.

According to Union County Sheriff’s Office reports:

A deputy assisted a Richwood Police Department officer with a domestic dispute at a residence

on Forest Lane in Richwood at midnight Tuesday.

A deputy investigated identity theft involving a fraudulent unemployment claim at a residence in the 11000 block of U.S. 36 at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday.

A deputy responded to the 18000 block of Raymond Road to investigate a property damage crash involving a 2006 Chevrolet truck pulling a farm implement that struck several mailboxes at 12:39 p.m. Tuesday.

Deputies and units from the Leesburg Township Fire Department responded to the intersection of Route 347 and Claibourne Road for an injury crash involving a 2004 Chevrolet Colorado that struck a 2017 Hyundai Accent at 5:11 p.m. Tuesday. The driver of the Hyundai, Hope R. Givens, 46, of Springfield was issued a traffic citation for failure to yield the right of way at a stop sign.

Deputies were dispatched to a residence in the 18000 block of Dog

Leg Road to investigate a domestic dispute between a husband and wife at 5:40 p.m. Tuesday.

A Union County deputy met with a Franklin County deputy to take custody of Anthony T. Hopkins, 39, of Columbus for an outstanding arrest warrant at 7:18 p.m. Tuesday. He was transported to the Tri-County Regional Jail.

A deputy assisted a Richwood Police Department officer with a domestic dispute at a residence on West Bomford Street in Richwood at 7:20 p.m. Tuesday.

A deputy and units from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Marysville Fire Department responded to Route 31 near Hillview Road for an injury crash involving a vehicle that struck a deer at 9:54 p.m. Tuesday. The State Patrol investigated the crash.

According to Ohio State Highway Patrol reports:

Reports were not available at press time.

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