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By Alex Mills
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The outright political hatchet job on the Keystone XL Pipeline by environmental extremists has once again revealed that the Obama administration will react more favorably to emotional fear rather than scientific evidence.

President Obama announced on January 18 that he would not approve the application for the pipeline even though it would create thousands of new jobs and be a spark to the economy. Obama acts as though those jobs will be there forever, but they will not.

The public is becoming more frustrated with the liberal, environmental policies of the administration that act as a deterrent to economic growth and energy security.

Once upon a time environmentalists were viewed as loveable tree huggers who did nothing to harm anyone. They were only concerned about protecting the earth from those greedy capitalists who wanted to rape and pillage anything and everything in sight to make a buck.

The Keystone Pipeline is just one of a multitude of policies pushed by extremists that has put the nation right behind the old, black, eight ball. Another example is the dunes sagebrush lizard, a tiny little creature that lives in West Texas. The federal government wants to declare the lizard an endangered species, which would virtually shut down future drilling and development of hydrocarbons.

Talk about unintended consequences! Shut down drilling in the Permian Basin and another nail has been placed in the proverbial economic coffin of nation.

The list of craziness goes on and on, but the environmental zealots continue on.

One of the environmental groups that takes credit for defeating the Keystone pipeline is the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC). The lead item on their home page of its web site, www.nrdc.org, is: "THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR STANDING UP TO BIG OIL!" NRDC leaders want you to write President Obama for rejecting "this terribly destructive project." The web site continues: "Your decision inspires me with hope for a cleaner energy future – one in which the fossil fuel giants do not call all the shots..."

Sounds pretty tough.

The Houston Chronicle reported on Jan. 17 that NRDC's Executive Director Peter Lehner will give a speech at Rice University on Jan. 25 (they obtained an advance copy) where he will tell America that the oil and gas industry must accept its doom on the hydraulic fracturing issue or "it's going to be a fight everywhere."

Lehner seems to forget that the industry has fracked hundreds of thousands of wells for 60 years without one case of groundwater contamination. That hasn't satisfied the NRDC and other extremists so they falsely claim that hydraulic fracturing is not regulated. The fact is each state regulates fracturing. They wanted to see what ingredients went into a frac job. When they found out the 99.5% was water and sand and that most of the chemicals used were not more harmful than those used in a swimming pool, they want more transparency. After Texas passed a law regarding chemical disclosure to the public, NRDC wants additional safeguards and oversight.

The oil and gas industry has bent over backwards to accommodate the environmental community.

It appears, however, that the environmental organizations need Big Oil around so they can continue their fear tactics, a key component in fundraising. And, the NRDC is good at scaring people to give them money. According to their 2010 tax return, NRDC's revenues were \$97 million with \$232 million in assets! Get this, NRDC has \$125 million in publicly traded securities, according to their tax records. With that kind of money, you can buy a lot of friends in high places.

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