

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: [REDACTED]
DATE: June 18, 2010
RE: Information to Expose Senator Graham's Flip Flops

We've watched as Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) has gone from being a supporter of comprehensive climate and energy plan to a vocal critic. Now Graham is working overtime with his Republican colleagues to kill any meaningful legislation. We are tired of Graham saying one thing and doing another. **It is imperative we hold his feet to the fire and showcase his many flip-flops to the media, Beltway pundits, congressional staffers, and our key allies working to pass a bill.**

Below are some core messages to be used to frame our case against Graham and depict his hypocrisy. Additionally, we've provided specific examples (with actual links) of his flip-flopping on a wide variety of issues that we can cite while bringing to light Graham's newfound stance on climate legislation. **We encourage you to actively use and promote these points to go on the offensive and damage his credibility.**

Core Messages:

- Senator Graham's flip flopping on the need for comprehensive climate and energy legislation is the textbook definition of the cynical, partisan games that have polluted our political system.
- Just a few months ago, Senator Graham made it clear that Congress must pass a strong clean energy bill to limit the dangers of carbon pollution. Now he's backtracking.
- After months of reaching across party lines to find commonsense, bipartisan energy measures, Senator Graham's obvious reverse in policy wasted his own staff's time, taxpayer dollars, and the unique opportunity for him to help break partisan gridlock.
- Americans take politicians, including Senator Graham, at their word. Senator Graham's problem is simple: he says one thing and does another.
- Senator Graham can run away from the broad coalition of Americans supporting a comprehensive climate and energy policy, but he can't run away from his own remarks.

- Senator Graham's two-faced commentary speaks volumes on the blatant hypocrisy of his new "epiphany" on clean energy legislation and his lack of conviction on this vital issue.
- Just last week, in a press conference on Capitol Hill, Senator Graham once again contradicted himself:
 - **During the press conference:** *"The science about global warming has changed...I think the science is in question...I think they've oversold the stuff."*
 - **After the press conference:** *"Does climate change have to be a religion? No, it's not my religion. It is my concern." "I do buy into the idea that carbon emissions are not good for the planet as a whole."*
- In the wake of the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history and in light of Senator Graham's appalling apathy, it's clear that he's just another politician willing to say and do anything to please powerful polluters.

Specific Examples of Graham's Hypocrisy:

...On Immigration

BEFORE: "Last week we met with President Obama to discuss our draft framework for action on immigration. We expressed our belief that America's security and economic well-being depend on enacting sensible immigration policies...The American people deserve more than empty rhetoric and impractical calls for mass deportation. We urge the public and our colleagues to join our bipartisan efforts in enacting these reforms." – Washington Post Editorial with Sen. Schumer, March 19, 2010 [LINK](#)

BEFORE: "Senator Schumer and I also noted to the President our progress in completing the [immigration] framework has been slowed by issues we need his team and him personally to actively engage on....The Administration must make this a priority as securing our borders is a confidence building measure in the eyes of the American people... I expressed, in no uncertain terms, my belief that immigration reform could come to a halt for the year if health care reconciliation goes forward. For more than a year, health care has sucked most of the energy out of the room. Using reconciliation to push health care through will make it much harder for Congress to come together on a topic as important as immigration."—Press Release, March 11, 2010, [LINK](#)

AFTER: "When I told everyone I would do climate, in fact, I was assured we also wouldn't be doing immigration." – Interview with the Washington Post's Ezra Klein, April 29, 2010 [LINK](#)

...On Pricing Carbon

BEFORE: "The idea of not pricing carbon, in my view, means you're not serious about energy independence. The odd thing is you'll never have energy independence until you clean up the air, and you'll never clean up the air until you price carbon." – January 28, 2010 [LINK](#)

AFTER: "I don't see 60 votes right now for capping carbon and expanding offshore drilling." – Lindsey Graham, Interview after GOP Caucus Lunch with POTUS, May 25, 2010 [LINK](#)

...On "Energy-Only"

BEFORE: "[An energy only bill is] the 'kick the can down the road' approach." – February 3, 2010 [LINK](#)

BEFORE: "[Energy only is] putting off to another Congress what really needs to be done comprehensively. I don't think you'll ever have energy independence the way I want until you start dealing with carbon pollution and pricing carbon." – February 3, 2010 [LINK](#)

BEFORE: "The two are interconnected...If the approach is to try to pass some half-assed energy bill and say that's moving the ball down the road, forget it with me." – February 3, 2010 [LINK](#)

AFTER: "[The Gulf spill has] made it a harder climb, so let's do smaller versions of an energy-climate bill."—Lindsey Graham, Interview after GOP Caucus Lunch with POTUS, May 25, 2010 [LINK](#)

...On a Linked Carbon Fee

BEFORE: "It gets you a solution to the carbon problem that doesn't destroy that part of the economy. Once you have oil people saying, 'We can live with this, this was our idea,' then hopefully everybody else begins to look at this thing anew. That's the hope."—Climate Wire, March 3, 2010 [LINK](#)

BEFORE: ""Some of it will be passed on, some of it will be absorbed, but the money we collect from them gets passed back to the consumer, which holds them harmless"—The Hill, March 26, 2010 [LINK](#)

AFTER: "We ought to reward emission controls on the transportation side without a cap," National Journal, June 8, 2010 [LINK](#)

AFTER: The transportation-fee approach he worked on with Kerry and Lieberman will result in a "pretty dramatic increase" in the price of oil—National Journal, June 8, 2010 [LINK](#)

...On Off-Shore Drilling

BEFORE: "We're not going to do it on Earth Day...It's going to be offshore drilling day when it's introduced."—April 13, 2010 [LINK](#)

AFTER: "In addition to immigration, we now have to deal with a catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico which creates new policy and political challenges not envisioned in our original discussions. In light of this, I believe it would be wise to pause the process and reassess where we stand."—Lindsey Graham, Press Release, May 7, 2010 [LINK](#)

AFTER: "Start over and scale down your ambitions." – Lindsey Graham, National Journal, June 8, 2010 [LINK](#)