

Trump: From Paris To Pittsburg – Perry Sioshansi’s Letter from America

The world better off without Trump sabotaging the Paris Accord from within.

Following the G7 summit in Sicily in late May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, enjoying a few drinks at a beer hall, observed that Europe can no longer count on the US. The following week, she got firm confirmation of that casual remark when the President Donald Trump announced during a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden that US was formally pulling out of the Paris Accord.

The reasons offered for abandoning a treaty voluntarily agreed by virtually every sovereign state in December 2015 and ratified in 2016 did not make any sense to most, except the president’s core supporters, who generally prefer alternative facts to the real ones.

The reaction from those who believe that climate change is real and requires urgent action – far more than what was pledged in Paris – was immediate and nearly universally negative, again setting aside those who believe that climate change is a hoax, perpetrated by Chinese to make America’s economy uncompetitive.

California Governor Jerry Brown, among Trump’s vocal critics, called the decision “insane” and announced he was heading to China to negotiate closer means of collaboration and investment in clean energy technologies of the future. He reaffirmed California’s commitment to stay the course, as did many others who say they must do even more now that the US has turned its back to the pressing climate issue.

While many expressed disappointment with the Trump Administration’s decision, others observed that the world may be better off without a reluctant US dragging its feet and slowing down efforts by other countries to pursue what needs to be done. Some of Trump’s supporters were apparently urging him not to withdraw from Paris Treaty as this would give China a chance to take a global leadership role, and/or because without the US, the Europeans may decide to do even more than they have already pledged.

It is rather sad, but when US decides not to lead, others will do so, leaving the US isolated and even less dependable as an ally – exactly as Angela Merkel had predicted.

Perry Sioshansi is Founder and President of Menlo Energy Economics and is the editor and publisher of *EEnergy Informer*, from which we have sourced this article, and which we commend.

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