

## Your Weekly Wrap-up:

# Trump's Betrayal of the Hungry Working Class, What Trump's Playing at With Paris, & How Liberals Are Blowing It Worldwide and How Macron Might Not

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## Trump's Betrayal of the Hungry Working Class

"With Trump's proposal to gut federal food assistance by \$192 billion — much of which would come out of the shopping carts of the working class — the president is once again proving his willingness to shaft those who supported him most," writes PPI senior fellow [Joel Berg for the Washington Monthly](#).



"Contrary to the racially-tinged stereotype that Americans who rely upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) program — formerly known as food stamps — are primarily 'inner city,' liberal people of color, the reality is that many SNAP recipients are white, rural and suburban Americans who voted for Trump; the president won eight of the ten states with the highest percentage of SNAP recipients.

"Making America hungry again is the exact opposite of making it great. No superpower in the history of the world has remained a superpower if it has failed to feed its own people. Children must be nourished enough to learn — to be schooled, you must be fueled. Fighting hunger is central to every major religious and secular ethical tradition; a nation that allows one in seven of its residents to struggle with hunger is not a moral nation."

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## The Path to a Strong Middle Class Moves Forward, Not Backward

In an [op-ed for The Hill](#), PPI contributor Harry Holzer exposes why Trump's promise to restore mining and manufacturing jobs will not strengthen the middle class and explains what policies could help expand access to the middle class for workers and their families.. "The new digital



technologies and market forces that enable goods to be manufactured much more cheaply by machines or foreign workers cannot and should not be reversed," writes Holzer. "Any remaining manufacturing jobs will be far fewer in number than before and require much more technical skill than most workers in these industries ever had."

"Opportunities to join the middle class and experience the American Dream must be restored to the many millions of Americans who have lost it. What is required is not demagogic promises or nostalgia for a lost past, but rather a realistic effort to identify the real problems and try solutions that might actually work."

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## Colorado Blazes Low-Emissions, High-Employment Energy Pathway

In light of both President Trump's commitment to bring back coal and the lack of federal support for clean energy, states will have to step up and become leaders in energy innovation.

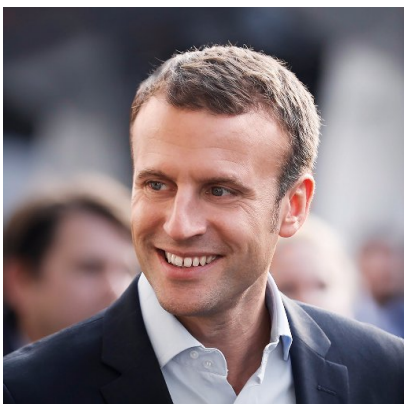


In [an op-ed for RealClearEnergy](#), PPI president Will Marshall and senior fellow Paul Bledsoe identify Colorado as one of the leading states in energy innovation and technology: "Governor John Hickenlooper has crafted a pro-growth, low-emissions agenda that should be a model to other states and to national policymakers. It emphasizes shale gas, wind, solar, hydropower, efficiency and advanced technology in everything from zero emissions electric cars to home net electricity metering"

And how is Colorado faring? "The payoff in jobs has been significant with more than 62,000 clean energy jobs state-wide," they write. "Clean tech was the Denver area's fastest growing industry in 2015, with the nine-county Northern CO region ranking fifth among the nation's 50 largest metro areas for clean tech employment concentration in 2015. And the region's 21,600 clean tech direct employment jobs are high paying—with an average salary of over \$76,000 a year — showing that the clean energy revolution has a key role to play in rebuilding America's middle class."

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## How Liberals Are Blowing It Worldwide and How Macron Might Not



PPI president Will Marshall wrote [an op-ed for The Daily Beast](#) on "How Liberals Are Blowing It Worldwide - and How Macron Might Not."

"Europe seems to be containing the fever of resurgent nationalism that propelled last year's Brexit vote as well as Donald Trump's improbable election here," writes Marshall. "Emmanuel Macron's landslide victory over Marine Le Pen in France's presidential election is just the latest sign that continental Europe isn't catching the populist bug."

"As populists push political debate to the right, however, center-left parties are floundering on

both sides of the Atlantic. Yoked to stale ideas and change-averse constituencies, they are failing to offer restive voters a radically pragmatic alternative to populist panaceas like cutting off immigration, seceding from the global economy and reverting to zero-sum nationalism."

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### What Trump's Playing at With Paris

In [an op-ed for US News](#), PPI senior fellow Andrew Rotherham sheds light on Trump's undeniably effective political tactics. By characterizing pro-environment Democrats as "anti-American," regardless of the real policy implications, Trump has been able to maintain the support of his base.

"Democrats can reasonably argue that Trump's creating a false choice and that the Paris accord is good for America, too, and that climate is a real issue, and that there are more jobs in solar than coal, and Tesla, etc. But politically it was already over at putting America first. Yes, Trump is dysfunctional and no one will ever accuse him of being a policy maven. What he is, though, is a carny barker with few peers, and by now, Democrats and everyone congratulating themselves on how much smarter they are than Trump ought to at least respect that."

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### How Better Politics Make a Stronger and More Open Internet

"Internet openness – or neutrality – is a foundation of the economic, social and cultural success of the online ecosystem. It ensures broadband providers don't block access to lawful websites, throttle traffic, or harmfully discriminate against apps or services online," writes PPI executive director Lindsay Lewis in [an opinion piece for the Austin American-Statesman](#).



"New leadership at the FCC has voted to move forward with plans to reverse itself and undo the unpopular 'Title II' decision, a wise move to ensure the internet holds onto its 'permissionless innovation' culture and can continue to grow and expand.

"But in the polarized and irrational Washington culture wars, some fringe voices seem determined to use the repeal of Title II to also destroy net neutrality – opposing bipartisan action to keep the net neutrality baby in place while the Title II bathwater is drained out."

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### Federal Agencies Should Stop, Not Facilitate, Litigation Abuse



"As a small business owner, I often hear about abusive litigation threats but never thought they would affect me – until now," writes PPI contributor Rob Sweeney in [an op-ed for the Morning Consult](#).

"I own a small technology business based in Kansas City called TextCaster that provides text-messaging services for educational, civic, nonprofit and corporate organizations. Over the past 18 months, my company has been hit hard by plaintiffs' lawyers who have mastered the art of the legal 'shake down.' They demand money from our clients over their perfectly legal texting practices, and in return for a payoff promise not to file the threatened lawsuit.

"As a result, my company has lost tens of thousands of dollars in revenue and incurred significant legal fees just to be able to manage this threat."

