

Visual	Audio	Backup
Chris Maese	I’m Chris Maese, and I live in Pueblo, Colorado.	
	Until a few weeks ago, I had a job building wind turbines. When I got hired, when I had the opportunity to work there, I jumped on it.	
<p>“Wind industry layoffs continue with tax credits stalled” KDVR News, 8/21/2012</p> <p>Romney “derailed a bipartisan agreement” on wind tax credit -Politico, 8/1/12</p>	I got laid off because Mitt Romney and his friends in Congress want to eliminate tax credits for the wind industry.	<p>KDVR News: “Wind industry layoffs continue with tax credit stalled.” KDVR Fox 31 in Denver reported, “Vestas Wind Systems announced Tuesday that it’s laying off 30 workers at its plant in Brighton, which comes a week after the company cut 90 jobs at its plant in Pueblo and again underlines the importance of a tax credit for wind energy producers that’s set to expire at the end of the year. Congress has failed to act on the credit, which has become an issue on the presidential campaign trail after Republican Mitt Romney stated that he opposes extending the wind energy Production Tax Credit.” [KDVR News, 8/21/12]</p> <p>Politico: Romney’s announced opposition to PTC “derailed a bipartisan agreement in the Senate to renew the industry’s crucial tax break.” Politico reported, “Mitt Romney’s announcement this week that he opposes any extension of the wind production tax credit derailed a bipartisan agreement in the Senate to renew the industry’s crucial tax break, sources said Wednesday. The wind PTC, which expires at the end of this year, was originally going to be included in the bipartisan deal that the Senate Finance Committee announced early Wednesday, senior Senate sources familiar with the negotiations told POLITICO. But wind was cut out of the deal after Romney came out against any extension or gradual phase-out of the credit in a campaign statement Monday. The statement, which came while the former Massachusetts governor was still on his overseas trip, prompted several Republican members to withdraw their support, the sources said.” [Politico, 8/1/12]</p> <p>NY Times: “Senate Republicans removed” PTC</p>

		<p>extension from tax package “to show their loyalty” to Romney. The Times reported, “A longstanding tax credit for wind power that has broad bipartisan support was caught Wednesday in presidential politics when Senate Republicans removed it from a usually routine package of business tax breaks to show their loyalty to their presumptive presidential nominee, Mitt Romney. Mr. Romney on Monday came out in favor of letting the wind production tax credit lapse at the end of the year, just as Senate Finance Committee members were nearing completion of a hard-fought package of business tax breaks they hope to pass out of the committee on Thursday. ... according to committee sources, Republicans who had favored the credit believed that they needed to unite against it for Mr. Romney’s sake.” [New York Times’ The Caucus blog, 8/1/12]</p> <p>Romney wants to end wind production tax credit. The <i>Des Moines Register</i> reported, “The lines are now drawn on a political hot button in Iowa: a lucrative tax break for wind energy. Mitt Romney is against it, President Barack Obama favors it — opposing stances that could have political and economic implications in Iowa, which has more wind energy jobs than any other state in the nation. ... Romney aides spelled out the GOP presidential candidate’s position in a statement Monday, drawing criticism from at least one Republican elected official in Iowa. Shawn McCoy, a spokesman for Romney’s Iowa campaign, told The Des Moines Register, ‘He will allow the wind credit to expire, end the stimulus boondoggles, and create a level playing field on which all sources of energy can compete on their merits. Wind energy will thrive wherever it is economically competitive, and wherever private sector competitors with far more experience than the president believe the investment will produce results.’ ” [Des Moines Register, 7/30/12]</p> <p>Following Romney’s announced opposition to PTC, language referencing wind tax credits was removed from GOP Party Platform. BuzzFeed reported, “In separate victory for the Romney campaign, language pertaining to wind energy</p>
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		<p>tax credits was removed from the platform. Romney has bucked some members of his party by opposing the tax credits, arguing they run counter to free market principles.” [Buzzfeed, 8/20/12]</p> <p>Citing PTC’s looming expiration, Vestas and Walker Component Group cut wind jobs in Pueblo, Brighton, and Denver. The American Wind Energy Association noted, “In Brighton, CO, Vestas Wind Systems cut about 30 workers on Monday, leaving about 200 still employed. These cuts follow more than 90 layoffs at the company’s tower plant in Pueblo, announced last week. Walker Component Group, a Denver-based cable supplier for Vestas Wind Systems, has also had to cut a portion of its workforce, reducing its staff by 15 workers to 24. Confirming that the layoffs at Walker Component Group were directly tied to Congress’ inaction to extend tax relief for wind power, company President Craig Walker told the Denver Post, ‘[T]he thing that distresses me is that there is so much controversy about it in Washington.’ ‘Not here,’ Walker continued, ‘not at other energy companies.’” [AWEA press release, 8/24/12]</p> <p>Vestas Wind Systems CEO: Company will lay off most of its 1,600 Colorado employees if PTC is not extended. According to the Denver Business Journal, “The chief executive of Vestas Wind Systems, the world’s largest wind turbine manufacturer, said the U.S. market for wind turbines is likely to fall by 80 percent in 2013 if Congress allows a federal production tax credit to expire later this year. Vestas operates four factories for wind turbine components in Colorado, employing some 1,600 workers. ... He provided no further strategy for how the company would handle such a decline other than the plans announced in January to cut another 1,600 U.S. jobs -- mostly in its Colorado manufacturing plants -- if it appears the credit will expire.” [Denver Business Journal, 6/11/12]</p> <p>PTC expiration would cost an estimated 37,000 jobs nationally. The Denver Business Journal reported, “The Dec. 31, 2012, expiration of a production tax credit (PTC) supporting wind power will cut the industry’s U.S. jobs in half,</p>
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		<p>according to a study released Monday by the American Wind Energy Association. The report, done by Navigant, estimates 37,000 American jobs would be lost, including a one-third cut to U.S. wind-manufacturing jobs, while private investment in the industry would drop by two-thirds.” [Denver Business Journal, 12/12/11]</p>
	<p>I think Mitt Romney is not in touch with the little guy. He’s always been a supporter of Big Oil. He has friends that are in the Big Oil industry.</p>	<p>Romney’s tax plan would nearly double amount of taxpayer-funded subsidies for the biggest oil companies. According to a Center for American Progress analysis, “Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s economic plan slashes corporate tax rates while failing to identify a single corporate tax loophole to eliminate. Highly profitable large oil companies that already enjoy lucrative tax breaks stand to receive some of the biggest benefits from Gov. Romney’s plan. The world’s five biggest public oil companies—BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, and Royal Dutch Shell—would keep special tax breaks worth \$2.4 billion each year. And by cutting corporate tax rates, the Romney plan could lower the companies’ annual tax bill by another \$2.3 billion, based on an analysis of the companies’ tax expense for 2011. The special tax breaks, supplemented by Gov. Romney’s lower corporate rates, could benefit the oil companies by more than \$4 billion annually.” [Center for American Progress Action Fund, 7/26/12]</p> <p>Romney dismissed eliminating oil subsidies as a “gimmick.” In an April 17 press release, Romney stated that President Obama’s plan to “target oil and gas producers for higher taxes” is part of a “government by gimmick” strategy that “will do nothing to reduce energy prices, expand domestic production, or strengthen the American economy.” [Romney press release, 4/17/12]</p> <p>Romney also pledged support for oil company subsidies during the 2008 campaign. The New York Times reported: “In a written response to questions about his energy positions, Romney said Friday, ‘Now is not the right time to raise taxes on our oil companies.’ He expressed doubt about requirements to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions.” [New York</p>

		<p>Times, 11/28/07]</p> <p>Romney said new fuel efficiency standards are “not the right approach.” The Detroit News reported, “In June, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney told The Detroit News he would reconsider what Obama has called one of his key domestic achievements: nearly doubling fuel-efficiency requirements to 54.5 mpg by 2025. Romney said he'd seek ‘a better way of encouraging fuel economy’ than corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE) mileage requirements ‘as the sole or primary vehicle,’ he said. ‘The best approach is to try and build vehicles that people want, rather than having the government telling the companies what they must make,’ he said. ‘I would work with the manufacturers to find ways to encourage fuel economy on the part of the consumer. But trying to have the manufacturer push the product on the consumer — that the consumer doesn't want — is not the right approach.’” [Detroit News, 7/18/12]</p> <p>Romney pledged to eliminate existing fuel efficiency standards. Think Progress reported, “In a Fox News interview hosted by Mike Huckabee, Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney pledged to overturn existing fuel economy standards that reduce global warming pollution.” The article quoted Romney as saying, “I would get the EPA out of its effort to manage carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles and trucks.” [Think Progress, 12/5/11]</p> <p>Romney similarly blasted CAFE standards during 2008 campaign. The Boston Globe reported: “In a speech to business leaders and at an international auto show, he was especially critical of new fuel efficiency standards signed into law last month by President Bush. ‘Instead of throwing over a life preserver, Washington has dropped yet another anvil on Michigan,’ Romney told the Detroit Economic Club. ‘And now it's passively sitting back to see if car companies can swim, and the answer is: just barely.’” [Boston Globe, 1/15/08]</p> <p>Romney to Big Oil Execs: I want “your input ...</p>
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		<p>before we actually cross the Ts and dot the Is” on my energy plan. As the Hill noted, at a campaign fundraiser in Houston, Romney told a group of energy executives of his energy plan, “I know that we have members of the media here right now, so I’m not going to go through that in great detail so I can save a bit of that until a little later in the week. But your input is something I wanted to retain before we actually cross the Ts and dot the Is on those policies.” [The Hill’s E2 Wire blog, 8/21/12]</p> <p>NY Times: Romney constructed energy plan “in consultation” with Big Oil executives. The New York Times reported, “An individual close to the Romney campaign said that Mr. Romney’s staff drafted the proposal in consultation with industry executives, including Harold Hamm, an Oklahoma billionaire who is the chairman of the campaign’s energy advisory committee and chief executive of Continental Resources, an oil and gas driller. Just this week, the oil and gas industry gave nearly \$10 million toward the Romney election effort in two fund-raisers.” [New York Times, 8/24/12]</p> <p>Romney’s energy plan would benefit energy interests backing his campaign. USA Today reported, “Mitt Romney’s campaign and a super PAC backing him have received more than \$15 million from oil, coal and other energy interests, many of which would benefit from the energy plan Romney unveiled Thursday. At least 35 people who ‘bundle’ donations for the Romney campaign are from the same industries, a USA TODAY analysis shows.” [USA Today, 8/23/12]</p> <p>Romney’s top energy adviser is a billionaire oil executive. Bloomberg reported: “Mitt Romney, the front-runner for the Republican Party’s presidential nomination, appointed Oklahoma oil billionaire Harold Hamm as energy adviser to his campaign. Hamm, the 66-year-old founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Continental Resources Inc. (CLR), will be chairman of Romney’s Energy Policy Advisory Group, the candidate’s campaign office said in a statement today.” As Think Progress has noted, another prominent member of the Romney campaign is Candian oil lobbyist David Wilkins.</p>
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		<p>[Bloomberg, 3/1/12; Think Progress, 2/21/12]</p> <p>Romney raised \$7 million in one day, largely from energy executives including Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson, energy investor L.E. Simmons, and billionaire oil baron Harold Hamm. NBC’s First Read reported: “Mitt Romney returned to Texas oil country Tuesday to fuel his campaign coffers with nearly \$7 million raised in just one day, largely with money from top energy industry executives. ... Romney started his day with a luncheon at the Houstonian Hotel that was hosted by energy industry titans including Rex Tillerson, CEO of oil and gas giant Exxon Mobil, and L.E. Simmons, a fellow member of the LDS church and Romney's Texas finance chairman, who made his millions investing in the booming energy sector here. Harold Hamm, a billionaire pioneer in modern drilling techniques who spearheaded oil and gas development in North Dakota, now America's second largest oil producing state, was also in attendance at the \$50,000 per person event, where Romney relayed his story as an example of bold economic risk taking. ... The final stop on Romney's energy pilgrimage comes Tuesday night at the Petroleum Club of Midland, where an invitation obtained by NBC News listed exploration and drilling company Concho Resources executives Timothy Leach and Jack Harper as event hosts, alongside Statewide Minerals owner Miles Boldrick, whose company website claims over 25,000 oil and gas wells nationwide.” [NBC’s First Read, 8/21/12]</p>
	That might be great for Mitt Romney and Big Oil, but try telling that to my kids.	
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