

**October 2019**

**Secession: the time is now**

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In my June 2019 opinion piece, I opined that it was, perhaps, time for California, along with Oregon and Washington, to negotiate a “divorce” from the United States. I cited several reasons for my assertion: we contribute more to federal coffers than we receive in return, thereby subsidizing states we have major political disagreements with, the rest of the country disparages us and our progressive thinking, and we have filed more than one-hundred lawsuits against the Trump Administration to rein in its excesses.

I’ve now come up with yet one more reason why I feel that it’s time to dissolve our affiliation with the United States. In early September 2019, the Trump administration instructed the Justice Department to launch an anti-trust probe into the actions of four automakers: Ford, Honda, BMW and Volkswagen for agreeing to *voluntarily* meet California’s clean air standards, standards that are far more stringent than those of the rest of the country, yet not quite as stringent as the federal standards set by President Obama before he left office.

This anti-trust investigation is completely illegal in this situation, since the four automakers in question do NOT control the automobile market in the United States. Toyota, GM, Chrysler and others have not yet signed on to the California standards, and with this spurious investigation, make it unlikely that they’ll do so, at least until the situation is rectified. Therefore, there is no “trust” or “monopoly” to investigate. This is nothing more than an abuse of power on the part of the executive branch of government.

What this again shows is that Mr. Trump has openly declared war on California, and, by

extension, all of the liberal “Left” Coast states. In his September 19, 2019 op-ed column in the *New York Times*, Paul Krugman stated: *“Sure enough, this week Donald Trump effectively declared war on California on two fronts. He’s trying to take away the Golden State’s ability to regulate pollution generated by its 15 million cars, and, more bizarrely, he’s seeking to have the Environmental Protection Agency declare that California’s homeless population constitutes an environmental threat.”*<sup>1</sup>

In response to Trump’s egregious misappropriation of power, California and 23 other states on September 20, 2019, filed suit against the Trump administration’s unprecedented legal reversal of the state’s authority to set its own rules on climate-warming tailpipe emissions.<sup>2</sup>

Ever since the current administration has been in power its officials have consistently denied the reality of Global Climate Change, despite the scientific consensus and rapidly escalating evidence that the planet is warming much faster than anticipated: melting polar icecaps, increasingly severe tropical storms and hurricanes, soaring summer temperatures, wildfires etc. In fact, Mr. Trump has supported Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro in Mr Bolsonaro’s increasing destruction of the Amazon rainforest, saying, the United States would “absolutely ... be a voice for Brazil” amid the international outcry over Brazil’s increasing rainforest destruction.<sup>3</sup>

While the Paris climate accords weren’t nearly stringent enough in the world’s effort to limit Carbon emissions, the United States withdrew from the treaty in 2017. Trump claimed that this action was an effort to revitalize the West Virginia and Kentucky coal industry, an industry that the rest of the world, including China, the Earth’s largest coal utilizer, is turning away from.

If Mr Trump wishes to turn the clock back forty or fifty years, dismantling all the environmental progress we’ve made in that time, that’s his business, but we in California and the

other progressive states don't have to go along with the insanity. We accept the scientific consensus and can take steps to combat global climate change without help from the federal government. In fact, it is our duty to future generations to combat the change.

California is on-board with the rest of the world, if not the US. As an independent nation with the fifth largest economy in the world we are in a position to make a significant dent in carbon emissions, if only the rest of the US would get out of the way and let us do the right thing for the planet.

This is the sixtieth lawsuit Attorney General Xavier Becerra has filed against the Trump administration. California has won thirty-six of them and the rest are still wending their way through the court system. And, while I'm proud of our attorney general for standing up for the right thing in the face of such absurdly stupid, idiotic and unconstitutional federal overreach, all these lawsuits detract from his job of working with the legal system of California.

Trump hates us, and we hate Trump. Doesn't it make more sense to grant us the divorce we both want, rather than engaging in prolonged name-calling, Twitter storms and lawsuits? To paraphrase George Wallace, in his 1963 inauguration as governor of Alabama: "In the name of the greatest state that has ever been in this union, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of government cruelty and insanity, and I say negotiate secession now, negotiate secession tomorrow, negotiate secession forever."

### **Sources**

1. Krugman, Paul "Trump Declares War on California" *New York Times* Sept 19, 2019
2. "California Sues the Trump Administration in Its Escalating War Over Auto Emissions Image" *New York Times* Sept. 20, 2019
3. Waldron, Travis "As The Amazon Burns, Brazil's Best Ally In Climate Denial Is The United States" *Huffpost* Sept 22, 2019

