

Congressional Republicans Accused President Biden Of Creating A Supply Chain Crisis While Opposing Build Back Better's Investments In Supply Chain Resilience

SUMMARY: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States, along with the rest of the world, has experienced significant supply chain [disruptions](#). Throughout October 2021, Congressional Republican lawmakers have accused the Biden administration of "[exacerbating](#)" the supply chain disruption with its policies, while also opposing Build Back Better, claiming it would "[worsen](#)" the issue.

In actuality, President Biden's [Build Back Better Framework](#) would make heavy investments in supply chain resiliency through direct funds to address supply chain issues, as well as funds to address the indirect causes of labor supply shortages. These provisions include:

- Investing **\$5 billion** in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce to **help map and monitor manufacturing supply chains**, allowing policymakers to "[proactively identify choke points](#)" and "[lessen vulnerabilities](#)"
- Allocating **\$600 million** in **project grants to reduce port congestion**, with ports currently facing "[staggering pileup\[s\]](#)"
- **\$110 billion** to **incentivize new domestic energy supply chains** due to the U.S. renewable energy sector being "[highly dependent on foreign supply chains](#)"
- Increasing the labor supply by **investing \$400 billion in universal early childhood education and subsidizing child care**, which will "[allow parents to get back to work](#)"

The Build Back Better Framework Would Invest Billions In "Supply Chain Resiliency," In Order To Prepare For "Future Pandemics And Supply Chain Disruptions," Incentivize New Domestic Energy Supply Chains, And Increase The Labor Supply With Childcare Expansion.

The Build Back Better Act Would Invest \$5 Billion In Supporting "The Resilience Of Manufacturing Supply Chains," By Mapping Supply Chains, Establishing Guidelines, Promoting Technological Advances, and Providing Grants.

The Build Back Better Framework Aims To "Prepar[e] The Nation For Future Pandemics And Supply Chain Disruptions." "The Build Back Better framework will also make an historic investment in maternal health and establish a new and innovative community violence intervention initiative, in addition to investing in small businesses and preparing the nation for future pandemics and supply chain disruptions. [The White House, [10/28/21](#)]

The Build Back Better Act Appropriated \$5 Billion To The Office Of The Secretary Of Commerce To "Support The Resilience Of Manufacturing Supply Chains." "In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$5,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce, to support the resilience of manufacturing supply chains affecting interstate commerce and related administrative costs." [House Rules Committee, pg. 732, [11/03/21](#)]

The \$5 Billion Would Be Used To Map Supply Chains, Establish Guidelines, Promote Technological Advances, And Provide Grants And Loans To Improve "Supply Chain Resiliency." "(1) mapping and monitoring manufacturing supply chains; [...] (2) facilitating and supporting the establishment of voluntary

standards, guidelines, and best practices; [...] (3) identifying, accelerating, promoting, demonstrating, and deploying technological advances for manufacturing supply chains; and [...] (4) providing grants, loans, and loan guarantees to maintain and improve manufacturing supply chain resiliency." [House Rules Committee, pg. 732-733, [11/03/21](#)]

According To Former Brookings Institution Expert Geoffrey Gertz, The Government Has "An Important Role" In Mapping Out Supply Chains, Which Allows Policymakers To "Proactively Identify Possible Choke Points" And To "Lessen Vulnerabilities." "In light of these challenges, there is an important role for governments to play in mapping out today's supply chains, and the linkages between them. Each firm has only a blinkered, incomplete view of its own little corner of global supply chains—governments must step in to piece together the bigger picture. A better mapping of supply chains will allow policymakers to proactively identify possible choke points in global economic networks, and work to lessen vulnerabilities and introduce strategic redundancies where needed." [Brookings Institution, [03/05/20](#)]

The Build Back Better Act Would Invest \$600 Million In Grants For Projects That Support "Supply Chain Resilience, Reduction In Port Congestion, And The Development Of Offshore Wind," As Ports Are Facing A "Staggering Pileup" And The United State's Renewables Sector Is "Highly Dependent On Foreign Supply Chains."

The Build Back Better Act Appropriates \$600 Million For Project Grants Supporting "Supply Chain Resilience, Reduction In Port Congestion, And The Development Of Offshore Wind." "(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$600,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 24 2026, to the Maritime Administration for the purposes of making grants for projects to support supply chain resilience, reduction in port congestion, and the development of offshore wind through the program under section 50302(c) of title 46, United States Code." [House Rules Committee, pg. 1043-1044, [11/03/21](#)]

Ports Are Running Out Of Space For Cargo, Resulting In A "Staggering Pileup" That Could Require A "Substantial Refashioning" Of Shipping Infrastructure. "It has come to this in the Great Supply Chain Disruption: They are running out of places to put things at one of the largest ports in the United States. As major ports contend with a staggering pileup of cargo, what once seemed like a temporary phenomenon — a traffic jam that would eventually dissipate — is increasingly viewed as a new reality that could require a substantial refashioning of the world's shipping infrastructure." [The New York Times, [10/10/21](#)]

While The U.S. Renewables Sector Is "Highly Dependent On Foreign Supply Chains," There Is "Significant Domestic Industrial Capacity" To Manufacture Offshore Wind Turbines And Their Components. "Currently, the U.S. renewables sector is highly dependent on foreign supply chains. [...] In the case of offshore wind, meanwhile, both the industry and, by extension, the U.S. supply chain are 'immature' to the point of being nonexistent; however, there is significant domestic industrial capacity to support manufacturing offshore wind turbines and their component parts as more offshore wind projects come online in the next decade." [Center For American Progress, [10/04/21](#)]

With The United States Having "The Best Opportunity" To "Onshore" Clean Technology Manufacturing, The Build Back Better Framework Would Invest \$110 Billion In Incentivizing New Domestic Energy Supply Chains, While Also "Boosting The Competitiveness Of Existing Industries."

The Build Back Better Framework Would Allocate \$110 Billion For Incentivizing "New Domestic Supply Chains," Including "Solar, Batteries, And Advanced Materials," While Also "Boosting The Competitiveness of Existing Industries." "Investments and Incentives for Clean Energy Technology, Manufacturing, and Supply Chains (\$110 billion): Targeted incentives to spur new domestic supply chains and technologies, like solar, batteries, and advanced materials, while boosting the competitiveness of existing industries, like steel, cement, and aluminum." [The White House, [10/28/21](#)]

With The Expected Growth In The Clean Energy Industry, The United States Has The "Best Opportunity" Within The Next Decade To "Onshore The Manufacturing Supply Chains Of Clean Technology." "The amount of materials and products needed to supply [clean energy's] growth in production will increase exponentially over the next few years. That raises the question: Will these materials and products come primarily from abroad, or will they be sourced and manufactured in the United States? From lithium in electric vehicle (EV) batteries, to the steel in a wind turbine, to the polysilicon in a solar panel, the next decade represents the best opportunity to date to onshore the manufacturing supply chains of clean technology. In doing so, this country would create and retain tens of thousands, and potentially hundreds of thousands, of good jobs for working Americans." [Center For American Progress, [10/04/21](#)]

While A "Lack Of Labor" Contributes To Supply Chain Disruptions, The Build Back Better Act Would Increase The Labor Supply By Investing \$400 Billion In Universal Early Childhood Education And Subsidizing Child Care.

According To CNBC's Susan Caminiti, The Core Problem Of The Supply Chain Disruption Is The "Lack Of Labor," From Longshoreman At Ports To Truck Drivers. "At its core, the problems plaguing nearly every disruption along this globally interconnected network is a lack of labor. The container ships off the coast of California don't have the longshoreman to unload them. A shortage of truck drivers — a problem that existed pre-pandemic, but one that has only worsened since — means goods can't get from the ports to warehouses to then find their way to retailers and consumers." [CNBC, [09/28/21](#)]

According To the Roosevelt Institute, Convenient And Affordable Childcare For Working Parents Is Necessary To Increasing The Labor Supply. "Childcare: Convenient, affordable childcare is a major obstacle for working parents, illuminated even more so by school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted women's labor force participation. Increasing the capacity of industries in order to curb inflation of specific prices requires increasing the supply of labor." [Roosevelt Institute, [09/28/21](#)]

The Build Back Better Act Expands Childcare, Which Will "Allow Parents To Get Back To Work." "The Build Back Better Act invests in existing and new childcare facilities in underserved areas and provides subsidies to make childcare more affordable for qualifying households. Together, these investments would increase the supply of childcare, create new jobs, and allow parents to get back to work." [Roosevelt Institute, [09/28/21](#)]

The Build Back Better Act Allocated \$400 Billion In Providing Universal Early Childhood Education And Subsidizing Child Care. "Universal pre-K and child care subsidies: \$400 billion. [...] Some of the framework's biggest investments are in early childhood education and child care, which have stayed more intact in this proposal compared to other policies. The framework includes funding covering free preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, which will last for six years. Right now, a handful of states, including Vermont and Florida, offer some form of universal pre-K, but many do not. (Ultimately, this measure would allocate federal money for implementing these programs, though states would have significant leeway in how to use it.) It also contains substantial funding to help families cover the costs of child care, which will also last for six years. Under this policy, families making up to 250 percent of a state's median income would not have to pay more than 7 percent of their annual income on child care." [Vox, [10/28/21](#)]

Throughout October 2021, Federal Republican Lawmakers Have Blamed President Biden For "Exacerbating" the Supply Chain Crisis With His Policies, While Also Opposing The Build Back Better Framework, Claiming It Would "Worsen" The Issue.

In October 2021, 160 House Republican Members Signed A Letter Accusing President Biden Of "Exacerbating" The "Supply Chain Crisis" And Urged Him To "Halt Discussions" Of Build Back Better, Claiming It Would "Worsen" The Issue.

October 20, 2021: 160 House Republican Members, Led By Rep. Sam Graves (MO-06), Wrote A Letter Stating The Policies Of President Biden And Democratic Party Leaders Were "Exacerbating Or Simply Ignoring The Underlying Supply Chain Crisis." "Our priority right now should be strengthening our nation's economy and increasing our global competitiveness. The policies of your presidency and party's leaders in Congress are exacerbating or simply ignoring the underlying supply chain crisis." [Republican House Committee On Transportation And Infrastructure, [10/20/21](#)]

In The Letter, The Republican Members Urged The Biden Administration To "Step Up" By Stopping The "Reckless Tax And Spending Plan" Along With The "Harmful" Regulations And "Excessive Benefits" That Are "Disincentivizing Work." "While many in both business and labor have agreed to step up, House Republicans are calling on you, your Administration, and your allies in Congress to do the same. Your Administration must step up for American workers and businesses by halting your reckless tax and spending plan currently pending before Congress. We request that you stop the litany of harmful regulatory actions that are driving up energy costs and to stop disarming the same American businesses you are asking to bail you out with vaccine mandates and excessive benefits that are disincentivizing work." [Republican House Committee On Transportation And Infrastructure, [10/20/21](#)]

In The Letter, House Republicans Called On President Biden To "Halt Discussions" On The Build Back Better Framework, Claiming The Framework Would "Worsen The Supply Chain Crisis." "Further consideration of your massive expansion of social spending, paid for by anticompetitive tax increases on small businesses and families, only stands to worsen the supply chain crisis. We urge you to call on your Congressional allies to halt discussions on a budget reconciliation bill that aims to reshape the social fabric of this country and instead work on real infrastructure solutions that focus on moving goods and people safely and efficiently throughout our great country and around the world." [Republican House Committee On Transportation And Infrastructure, [10/20/21](#)]

In October 2021, Republican Members Of The House Oversight Committee Authored A Letter Condemning President Biden For Being "Unwilling" To Recognize "Supply Chain Crisis," While Claiming The Build Back Better Framework Was An Attempt By Congressional Democrats To "Force" Policies "Without Regard For" Inflation.

In An October 2021 Letter, House Oversight Republicans Claimed President Biden Was "' Unwilling To Recognize The Growing Supply Chain Crisis.'" "'Meanwhile, the Biden Administration appears unwilling to recognize the growing supply chain crisis,' the letter reads. 'Instead, the Vice President is advising parents to buy Christmas gifts early—something much easier for those workers not awaiting a Christmas bonus—and blaming climate change.'" [Fox News, [10/14/21](#)]

In Their Letter, House Oversight Republicans Blamed The Biden Administration For Labor Shortages And Claimed A Vaccine Mandate Would "'Likely Worsen The Situation.'" "'The delays at ports, railyards, and warehouses stem directly from extreme labor shortages, caused in large part by the Biden Administration's and congressional Democrats' misguided policy to pay people not to work,' the letter said. 'Further, President Biden's unilateral vaccine mandate will likely worsen the situation as employers are forced to terminate employees unwilling to be vaccinated.'" [Fox News, [10/14/21](#)]

In Their Letter, House Oversight Republicans Also Claimed The Build Back Better Framework Would Increase The Cost Of Living Through Tax Increases, Which Would Result In "'No Prosperity.'" "'If we pass the Democrat's proposed \$3.5 trillion spending bill which raises taxes across the board, the cost of living for every American will increase. Between inflation and the new taxes in the bill, there will be no prosperity, but may be this is the intent of the Biden Administration.'" [Fox News, [10/14/21](#)]

In An October Weekly Newsletter, House Oversight Republicans Claimed The Build Back Better Framework Was An Attempt For Democrats To "Force" "Radical, Socialist" Policies "Without Regard For" Inflation And Debt. "It begs the question: Why are Democrats attempting to spend MORE money and jam through another sweeping spending bill? It's simple. This is an opportunity to force the American people to

accept their radical, socialist policies without regard for rising inflation or our national debt. This is a \$5 Trillion Socialist Wish List." [Republican House Committee On Oversight And Reform, [10/20/21](#)]

In October 2021, The Republican Study Committee, The "Largest [Republican] Caucus," Blamed President Biden For Cancelling Christmas Due To "Supply Chain Snags," While Also Opposing The Build Back Better Framework.

In October 2021, The Republican Study Committee–The "Largest [Republican] Caucus On Capitol Hill"–Issued A New Memo On How Members Could "Sharpen Their Messaging On the Supply Chain Crisis Ahead Of the Holiday Season." "The Republican Study Committee (RSC), the largest GOP caucus on Capitol Hill, will send a new memo to lawmakers on Thursday detailing how they can sharpen their messaging on the supply chain crisis ahead of the holiday season, when consumers could face the sting of higher prices and empty store shelves." [The Hill, [10/21/21](#)]

The Memo Claimed, "Christmas Is Cancelled In America," Due To The Biden Administration, Placing Blame For The "Supply Chain Snags" On It And The Green New Deal Agenda. "The RSC memo argues there are four main reasons why the Biden administration is to blame for the supply chain snags: President Biden's economic policies, including billions in extra unemployment aid, have dwindled the number of truckers, port workers and other personnel; Biden's Green New Deal agenda has caused shipping prices to skyrocket; by pumping trillions of stimulus dollars into the economy, Biden is spurring inflation, which is accelerating spending and exacerbating the supply chain crisis; Biden's 'soft China policies' mean too many things are being manufactured in China, so 'when the power goes out in China, Christmas is cancelled in America.'" [The Hill, [10/21/21](#)]

In September 2021, The Republican Study Committed "Reaffirm[ed]" Their Opposition On The Build Back Better Framework, Calling The Framework A "Socialist Wish List Reconciliation Bill." "Yesterday, the Republican Study Steering Committee voted to adopt an official position opposing the Democrats' fake infrastructure plan: 'The Republican Study Committee is opposed to all the radical attempts by Congressional Democrats and the Biden Administration to fundamentally alter the country. This includes a blank check debt limit increase, a CR that helps facilitate the Biden open borders agenda, and certainly their socialist wish list reconciliation bill. It has become clearer by the day that the infrastructure bill, that could potentially be voted on next week, is a lynchpin for this agenda. The Republican Study Committee reaffirms our opposition to this bill and urges our colleagues to actively oppose it.'" [Republican Study Committee, [09/24/21](#)]

In October 2021, House Republicans Tweeted That President Biden Was "Trying To Steal Christmas," While Blaming Him For "Exacerbating" The Supply Chain Crisis By Trying To Pass Build Back Better, Which House Republicans Claimed Would Make The Issue "Worse."

October 13, 2021 Tweet From House Republicans: "This Is The Guys Who Is Trying To Steal Christmas. Americans Are NOT Going To Let That Happen." [Twitter, [10/13/21](#)]



House Republicans 
@HouseGOP

...

This is the guys who is trying to steal Christmas.

Americans are NOT going to let that happen.



3:41 PM · Oct 13, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

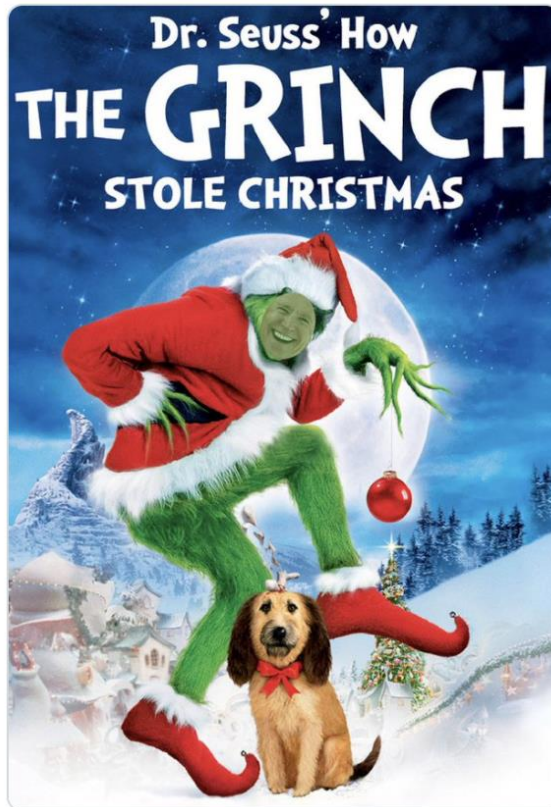
October 14, 2021 Tweet From House Republicans: "Coming To America This December." [Twitter, [10/14/21](#)]



House Republicans 
@HouseGOP

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Coming to America this December.



4:49 PM · Oct 14, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

October 21, 2021: House Republicans Published A Blog Post Entitled: "Biden And Pelosi's Radical Policies Are Making The Supply Chain Crisis Worse." [House Republican Caucus, [10/21/21](#)]

In The Blog Post, House Republicans Claimed President Biden's "Radical Agenda" Is "Exacerbating" The Supply Chain Crisis That Is "Threatening Christmas." "America is facing a historic supply chain crisis that is threatening Christmas for millions of Americans, Instead of working to fix this crisis President Biden and Speaker Pelosi's radical agenda is only exacerbating the growing supply chain crisis." [House Republican Caucus, [10/21/21](#)]

Congressional Republicans Have Blamed The Biden Administration For "Creat[ing] A Massive Supply Chain Crisis," While Also Opposing The Build Back Better Framework, Claiming It Would "Destroy" The Economy And "Bankrupt America."

In October 2021, Rep. James Comer (KY-01) Tweeted That The Biden Administration Had "Created A Massive Supply Chain Crisis," Then Tweeted His Strong Opposition To Build Back Better, Claiming It Would Make Inflation "Worse" And Damage The "Economy."

October 18, 2021 Tweet From Rep. James Comer: "The Biden Administration Has Created A Massive Supply Chain Crisis – And Refuses To Show Any Leadership In Fixing It. Before Long We'll Have To Bring Back Jimmy Carter's Misery Index For @JoeBiden's Economy." [Twitter, [10/18/21](#)]



[Twitter, [10/18/21](#)]

October 27, 2021 Tweet From Rep. James Comer: "My Latest Column: Trillions More In Wasteful Spending Will Make Biden's Inflation Crisis Worse And Damage Our Economy." [Twitter, [10/27/21](#)]



Rep. James Comer 
@RepJamesComer



My latest column: trillions more in wasteful spending will make Biden's inflation crisis worse and damage our economy.



comer.house.gov

Column: Partisan Spending Bill Will Damage Economy

9:07 AM · Oct 27, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, [10/27/21](#)]

In His Column, Rep. Comer Announced His Strong Opposition To Build Back Better, Claiming That Congress Should "Focus On Stimulating Economic Growth." "I stand strongly in opposition to the spending bill under negotiation by President Biden and Speaker Pelosi. Instead of borrowing and spending money we don't have, Congress should focus on stimulating economic growth by reducing the burdensome regulations holding our workforce and critical industries back." [Representative Comer, [10/25/21](#)]

In October 2021, Rep. Ralph Norman (SC-05) Blamed The Biden Administration For "Making No Effort" To Handle The Supply Chain Crisis, While Also Calling The Build Back Better Framework A "Sham" That Would "Bankrupt American Quicker."

In An October 21, 2021 Interview, Rep. Ralph Norman (SC-05) Blamed The Biden Administration For "Making No Effort" To Handle The Supply Chain Crisis. "The seriousness of it is cannot be overstated I've had more calls on people that are short supplies you know we've come through the worst pandemic can't get workers their parts and have not been delivered it effects every business in this country and the Biden administration is the only way to explain it is it's just intentional. I mean that they can talk about it can't get, you know, workers to unload the ships but you got over 240 ships in California, you know, you could if they wanted to they could use the choose the federal government be it national guard be it military you could get the ships unloaded, but they making no effort." [The Jason Rantz Show (00:48), [10/21/21](#)]

In An Interview With Fox News, Rep. Norman Called The Build Back Better Framework A "Sham," And Claimed That "No Republican Should Vote" For It Because It Will "Bankrupt America Quicker." "It's a shame the whole framework of what he's doing the spending instead of build back better, Stewart, it is bankrupt America quicker. There's no republican should vote for either the 1.2 trillion or the 3.5 which is really A 5 plus trillion-dollar bill. It's the payback on states that have been mismanaged miss Ronan under the guise of a green new deal so I hope it both hope both of them go down and is anything but bipartisan and this president is." [Fox Business (00:23), [10/28/21](#)]

In October 2021, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) Accused The Biden Administration Of Being "Badly Out Of Touch" With The Severity Of the Supply Chain Crisis, While Calling The Build Back Better Framework A "Reckless Tax And Spending Spree."

On October 25, 2021, Senator Wicker Published A Post Accusing The Biden Administration Of Not "Appreciat[ing] The Severity Of This [Inflation] Crisis," Claiming That The Administration Is "Badly Out Of Touch." "The Biden Administration does not seem to appreciate the severity of this crisis. Recently, the

President's chief of staff dismissed rising prices and supply chain delays as 'high class problems.' His spokesperson Jen Psaki also made light of the delays by sarcastically calling them a 'tragedy.' These comments show the Administration is badly out of touch." [Senator Wicker, [10/25/21](#)]

Wicker Expressed His Hope For The Democrats To "Abandon" The Build Back Better Framework.

"Unfortunately, Democrats are holding up final passage of this bill until they pass their massive and reckless tax-and-spending agenda. I hope my Democrat colleagues will abandon this proposal and instead recognize the urgent need to pass our bipartisan infrastructure bill. Doing so would help ease the supply chain crisis and make our economy more resilient in the future." [Senator Wicker, [10/25/21](#)]

On October 28, 2021, Senator Wicker Tweeted A Link To A Fox News Article With The Caption: "President Biden's New 'Framework' Is Just A Different Flavor Of National Democrats' Reckless Tax And Spending Spree That American Have Been Hearing For Months." [Twitter, [10/28/21](#)]



[Twitter, [10/28/21](#)]

Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) Accused President Biden Of Crippling The Supply Chain While Claiming Build Back Better Would "Destroy" The Economy.

Senator Rick Scott Blamed President Biden Of Crippling The Supply Chain Due To His "Failed Agenda Of Systemic Socialism" And Vaccine Mandates. "Joe Biden can't seem to grasp basic economics. We now have simultaneous crises: a crippled supply chain that can't deliver on time, or at all, and massive inflation that's crushing Americans with skyrocketing prices. Inflation hurts everyone, but it's most devastating for America's poorest families, like mine growing up. Thanks to Biden's failed agenda of systemic socialism and unconstitutional mandates, businesses cannot produce the goods that Americans need while keeping their prices low, and families cannot afford to buy these products when they finally find them on the shelves." [Senator Scott, [10/14/21](#)]

In An Op-Ed, Senator Scott Slammed Democrats For Their "Taxing-And-Spending Spree" That Would "Destroy" The Economy And "Kill The American Dream." "For Mr. Sanders, his fellow socialists and the radical left in Washington, the majority the Democrats hold in Congress is an opportunity to push a taxing-and-spending spree on the American people. Their structural reform would mean the Green New Deal, defunding the police, critical race theory in our children's classrooms, open borders and amnesty as a crisis rages on our

southern border and free everything with no accountability. How would it all be paid for? With massive tax increases on families and businesses that will destroy our economy and kill the American dream." [Wall Street Journal, [08/11/21](#)]