

## The Audacity of the Swamp

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A crony anti-infrastructure plan.

That, writes Veronique de Rugy at *Reason*, is “the best description of the Biden administration’s proposed \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan.”



Democrats are the masters of favoring a select few at the expense of the electorate and calling it the Public Good. Their woke moralism, egalitarianism, and other pieties effectively mask their party’s accomplished crony scheming.

Right now, though, the heady audacity of spending trillions of dollars we do not (yet) possess is all the mask the Democrats appear to need.

Does anyone talk about the Swamp anymore?

**“Biden’s plan also includes hundreds of billions that have nothing even remotely to do with infrastructure.”**

Never drained, it is back with a vengeance:

- “A large share of the plan . . . is a massive handout to private companies. The proposal includes \$300 billion to promote advanced manufacturing, \$174 billion for electric

vehicles, \$100 billion for broadband, \$100 billion for electric utility industry, and more.”

- “Biden’s plan also includes hundreds of billions that have nothing even remotely to do with infrastructure.”
- “To the extent that Democrats are trying to pay for this spending with taxes, they’re doing it in a way that belies their claim that this plan will result in a boost in quality infrastructure.”

The tax increase in the plan is to eliminate established tax “preferences” for fossil fuel companies. This would be politically popular with Democratic Party supporters, feeding their enviro-lust to lash out at what are commonly perceived as destroyers of the planet. But tax something more, get less. And a huge part of our infrastructure relies upon — indeed, *consists in* — the fossil fuel industry. So there will be less infrastructure investment in that realm.

But that doesn’t hurt the cronies. It hurts other folks.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.