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Energy Secretary Chu's Hopeless Clean Energy Crush

By Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Energy Secretary Steven Chu is on a mission to proliferate the use of clean energy no matter the cost to American taxpayers. In 2008, Secretary Chu told the *Wall Street Journal*, "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." Even worse, according to White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, President Obama never asked Secretary Chu to walk back his comments. Today, the average gallon of gas in Europe costs more than \$8.

With gas prices just over \$4 per gallon in the U.S., and projected by *Barron's* to hit \$4.50 this spring, Secretary Chu and the Administration are less than \$1 away before electric vehicles become a reasonable price option for the average American family.

When President Obama was inaugurated the price of a gallon of gas was \$1.84. In less than 4 years under this Administration, the price of gas has more than doubled. Not to mention, this has all occurred at a time when unemployment is at its longest streak above 8.0% since the Great Depression. Once you factor in the U-6 measure of unemployment, which includes discouraged workers and part-time workers seeking full time employment, the real unemployment rate is at a sky high 14.9%.

Unfortunately, the price of gas is not the only area in which Secretary Chu is putting a dent in American taxpayers' wallets. He is also responsible for the mismanagement of the Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program.

If you were to listen to Secretary Chu and the White House, they would have you believe that the United States is currently engaged in a global solar race with China, reminiscent of the Cold War. They believe that we must use every option within our arsenal to win the war no matter the cost to taxpayers.

So, when Solyndra filed for bankruptcy protection on September 6, 2011,

