

Be prepared for more rules this holiday season

Tim Huelskamp
Congressman

While most Americans are preparing for holiday celebrations this month, the Obama Administration and its EPA are rolling out and enacting rules to make sure next year's festivities are certainly more expensive and much less bright. In its zeal to kill coal-fired power plants - as the President hinted he would do when he ran for office - the Administration will finalize one energy-crushing rule this month and fully implement another as we ring in the new year.

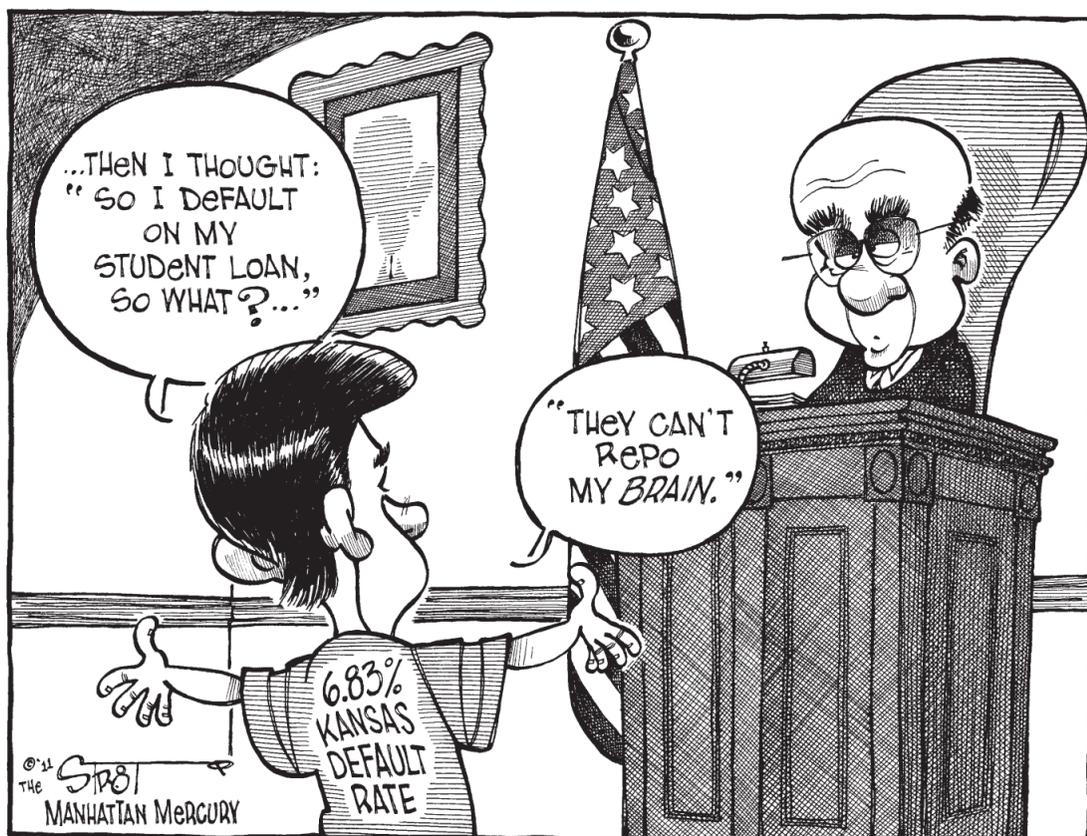
Among the new rules facing America are the Utility Maximum Available Control Technology Rule (Utility MACT) and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). A real mouthful, to be sure, but these words mean less - much less electricity being produced in the U.S. According to the Administration's own research, these job-killing regulations can force many existing power plants to "retire" or delay and prevent much-needed new power plants from going online.

The basic rule of economics is that when there is a reduced supply, a product will cost more. In this case, these two regulations combined are expected to cost consumers an additional \$184 billion from 2011 to 2030. In fact, one group estimates that these expensive regulations could eliminate up to 4 percent of power supply and could cost upwards of \$120 billion by 2015 alone!

The possibility of Kansans losing power as a result of these regulations is more than speculation. It is an inevitable reality. Regulations like these establish unattainable targets for emissions levels that Sun-flower Electric may not be able to achieve with its Holcomb Expansion Project, an overdue endeavor that will supply much-needed electricity to our part of the country. Regulations like these also set unreasonable deadlines for compliance that entities like Westar may not be able to meet, and as a result, could impose blackouts on Kansans as early as this summer. While Washington thinks it may be doing America a favor by imposing these regulations, all it has done is cause a tremendous amount of uncertainty, unachievable goals, and undue costs to you.

Supporters of these regulations argue that they are necessary for environmental reasons. But without these job-killing regulations, progress has already been made. In fact, between 1980 and 2008, there have been substantial reductions in nitrogen dioxide (40 percent decline), sulfur dioxide (56 percent) and lead (96 percent)! The EPA wants you to believe that there have been no gains whatsoever, which is why there needs to be expedited new regulations - no matter what the practical and economic costs are. The EPA is trying to make America buy into a "solution" in search of a problem.

Simply stated, America needs more energy - not less. America needs less regulation - not more. And, it needs it from a variety of sources. But, until the time comes when it is economically viable and non-disruptive to expand and transition to nontraditional sources, we cannot abandon the sources of energy we do have and on which our economy relies. The Obama Administration may hope that the announcement of one rule and official "start date" for another go unnoticed, but consumers will certainly recognize these regulations when their electric bills skyrocket and rolling blackouts could force a 2012 holiday celebration take place in the dark.



A win will always exceed my expectations

At a game early in this college football season I was approached by a young lady with a "fan" survey. As I understood it, it was for someone's doctorate project, not research for the athletic department.

The questions covered a wide range of areas.

How many games do you attend each year? How long have you supported this team? Did you attend the school you cheer for? Age, Income, Education?

They asked a series of questions about how you feel about "your" team and how closely you identify with them.

They wanted to know how much you planned to spend inside the stadium, on parking, and travel, hotels, and meals for the weekend.

They wanted to know how much "gear" and clothing with the school's insignia you have.

I got a Power Cat window sticker for my trouble.

It made me reflect my status as a fan. I enjoy sports, but I think we give silly games way too much credit for healing, teaching life lessons, etc.

I love the 'Cats but it was not my idea to get season tickets.

I don't buy concessions unless the one bottle of opened water I can carry in is gone and it's unbearably hot. I'm cheap! Stadium concessions are ridiculously over priced!

All fall it looked like the "Cat's Closet" threw up in the back of our vehicle: stadium seats, blankets, coats, hats, flags, Frisbees. I'm the proud owner of a Jordy Nelson bobble head! A purple flag flies at our house much of the year.

Yet I carefully cultivate an attitude of detachment. Because some people are

This Too Shall Pass

Nancy Hagman



born with a silver spoon in their mouth and the rest of us are K-Staters! Nothing is ever going to be easy or go our way! It's best not to care too much!

I have some nice Power Cat jewelry. I have silly stuff like purple Mardi Gras beads and a purple purse with KSU all over it. I paint my fingernails purple every weekend!

But outside of game days I rarely wear anything with a KSU logo. I do carry that obnoxious purse a lot in the fall only because changing purses is a life-altering process that takes hours!

Much of the KSU stuff we have I did not buy. My very good Jayhawk friend, who lives in Lawrence, gives me a lot of purple stuff. I did question her motives on the necklace she made last year. It had a huge purplish-blue heart and a smaller reddish orange bead. If you squint you might think it was Jayhawk blue and red! This year my birthday present is a gorgeous hand knitted purple scarf! Purple is a beautiful color, right for just about any occasion. Though this scarf is way too nice to take to a game!

You notice I did not say my friend graduated from KU. This is how you can tell who K-State fans are: they are the one that attended K-State. KU fans bought a tee shirt.

Wildcat fans are always waiting for the other shoe to drop. I was in school during the Vince Gibson years. Vince tried to give us "Pride". It never exact-

ly took. As a group it would be difficult to find a group less prideful than KSU fans.

With Wildcats there is a mindset of inferiority. I'm happy when the 'Cats win because my expectation is they will loose. Always. Even in the years when they are good (which it turns out they are this year, I guess).

After the A&M game, (which we should have lost because even though by then we had a better record we're K-State and they are Texas A&M, going to the SEC, no on wants us silly old Wildcats, etc) the hubby got this great idea: If the 'Cats go to the Cotton Bowl the Hagmans are going also!

I ignored him! I threw away the letter from the Athletic Dept about Bowl games. I deleted the e-mail. I'm not that much of a fan!

Then KSU got the Cotton Bowl! The kids want to go! The hubby wants to go! It's in the Dallas Cowboys stadium. One the sport's wonders of the world, ranking up there with the Roman Coliseum! Who wouldn't want to go?

I'm not much of a fan. But I'm going!!!

I'm wishing I could take that survey over! This season has been a hard one. All those close games, our quarterback literally bloodied but head unbowed. Even thought I hate this kind of stuff I believe a miracle occurred! Our 72-year old coach learned how to smile! We all did!

I finally get fanatical fans. I want to be one: spend the money, wear the gear! Be proud!

I'm starting to feel it! Look for us January 6, 21 rows up behind the goal posts! To quote Vince Gibson, "We gonna win!"

Maybe!



Thumbs up to all the groups, individuals, churches, and KQNK Radio for the participation in the County Clerk's food collection challenge. You all did a great job contributing to God's Pantry. Emailed in.

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I was telling Jack the other day, I realize gift cards, VISA cards, money are the "in thing" to give, but I like to pick out a gift.

Jack's response to me was, wise as always, "A gift is a part of the giver."

My parents frequently gave us money and we appreciated it as we could do something or buy something we wouldn't have been able to otherwise, but they also always gave a "little something" to open on Christmas day. That was the real treasure; a music box or a passed down vegetable bowl or red drinking glasses.

When Jack proposed to me it was with a ring he had chosen. Of course, he knew my style and paid attention to my preferences, but he chose it. I almost ruined one of my favorite of Jack's gifts. We were driving down the main thoroughfare in Reno, NV when I spotted a woman in a purple dress. I made some comment about not liking purple and turned in time to see Jack's crestfallen look. I knew I was getting something purple and all of my insis-

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



tence to him that I liked some purple fell on deaf ears, until my birthday. I opened a package containing probably the prettiest dress, albeit purple, I have ever owned. Purple velvet top, vibrant purple print miniskirt (of course I was all of 114 pounds then) and I wore it forever. Sometimes people know us better than we know ourselves and this is when a gift is truly a gift.

Choosing your own gift does ensure you get just what you want, but does it reflect how the other person sees you? Jack is good at asking for help in choosing a gift. He goes in with a general idea of what he wants to give and then seeks help in seeing what is

available. Now just so you know, I am not above giving little hints.

I think we would all agree we have a much more self centered society than in the past. The evidence of this is reflected in many ways; from ill behaved children to the disintegration of families and gift giving is merely one aspect of this. Writing a check is easy and probably preferred, but the simple act of choosing something for someone requires thought, purpose and, yes, effort. Both my sister and my late sister-in-law have (had) an incredible knack for remembering the things you like, color preference, design styles and size. It makes a person feel special when others endeavor to remember the things about us that make up who we are.

This Christmas I will give money, gift cards, etc., but I will also choose something for each person. Some little thing I hope they will treasure for what it is...a part of the giver.

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