A Postcard from U.S. Electricity to President Obama in Beijing

Nov. 16, 2009 Dear President Obama. Maybe something was lost in translation — Postcard but did you actually say yesterday that since China has greater poverty, it shouldn't be held to the same emission standards as the United States? If so, it's getting really hard to read the tea President Barack Obama leaves! In the U.S., you always say that U.S. Embassy your National Energy Tax plan to reduce emissions won't cost much and will help Beijing, China the economy. But in China, you just gave the government P.S. - Hate to bring up a sore a free pass to set higher emission standards subject - but during the climate simply because their country is poorer? If negotiations with the Chinese3, did cap and trade is really good for the you happen to reiterate your economy, why doesn't the Chinese governstatement4 that your plan would ment embrace your plan too? bankrupt anyone5 who builds a Frankly, Shanghai is starting to sound a lot like San Francisco—where you once said coal-powered plant? that your plan would make our prices necessarily skyrocket² We'll leave the light on for ya...

Background

American Electricity

1. Yesterday, during a town hall in Shanghai, President Obama <u>said</u> that the United States and China should be held to different standards for reducing their emissions since China (the world's highest CO2 emitter) has "*much more poverty*":

"There's going to be a Copenhagen conference in December in which world leaders are trying to find a recipe so that we can all make commitments that are differentiated so each country would not have the same obligations -- obviously China, which has much more poverty, should not have to do exactly the same thing as the United States -- but all of us should have these certain obligations in terms of what our plan will be to reduce these greenhouse gases."

2. In January 17, 2008, candidate- Obama said:

"Under my plan of a cap and trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

3. As *Reuters* reported on November 14th:

"Asia Pacific leaders backed away on Saturday from supporting a global halving of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050."

4. In January 2008, candidate-Obama said:

"So, if somebody wants to build a coal plant, they can — it's just that it will bankrupt them, because they are going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted."

5. In September 2009, the Wall Street Journal reported that:

"China's ambition to create 'green cities' powered by huge wind farms comes with a dirty little secret: Dozens of new coal-fired power plants need to be installed as well."

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