

# Republicans Try to Look Good by Looking Backwards

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While candidates at the second Republican debate called for an energy policy based on oil, fracked gas and nuclear energy, Donald Trump was in Michigan demanding an end to electric vehicles and promoting gasoline engines. After touring an electric vehicle battery plant, he said, “This plant, we just walked through this plant and the electric vehicles are gonna put [automakers] out of business. They don’t need any of this. The things that you make in Michigan, they don’t need any of it.”<sup>1</sup>

Earlier he had called electric vehicles a “hoax,” saying that all the jobs will go to China, and pledged to repeal all of President Biden’s efforts to build the American electric vehicle industry and reduce greenhouse auto emissions

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/28/business/cars-trump-uaw-electric-vehicles/index.html>

In Michigan, he told auto workers, “Your current negotiations don’t mean as much as you think. You’re striking for wages but you know your job’s only going to be here for two years, three years if you’re lucky.” Why is that? Because the Biden administration is promoting electric vehicles. “It makes no difference what you get’ in a deal with the car companies,” Trump said, because “all of these cars will be manufactured in foreign lands.”<sup>2</sup>

Said the *National Review*, “President Joe Biden’s bid to remake the auto industry has drawn entrenched opposition and quick mobilization from Republican lawmakers at the state and congressional levels.”<sup>3</sup>

Nonetheless, President Biden is determined to build an American EV industry over Republican backwardness. Here is Biden’s program to build an American electric vehicle industry and reduce fossil fuel use. It comes straight from the White House Briefing Room.<sup>4</sup>

The President united automakers and autoworkers around the bold goal for electric vehicles to make up 50% of all vehicles sold in the United States by 2030. His economic agenda, including

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/trump-michigan-uaw-speech-rcna117831>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/opposition-to-bidens-electric-vehicle-push-mounts/>

<sup>4</sup> [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Standards and Major Progress for a Made-in-America National Network of Electric Vehicle Chargers | The White House](#)

robust new “Made in America” policies, has spurred domestic manufacturing of EVs, EV chargers, and batteries. And thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden is making new and used EVs affordable for consumers and providing the auto industry market certainty.

- Since President Biden took office, companies have invested nearly \$85 billion in manufacturing of electric vehicles, batteries, and EV chargers in the United States.
- The pace of this investment is accelerating – just in 2022, companies have announced \$13 billion in domestic EV manufacturing – more than triple the investment in 2020. Companies have also announced \$24 billion in batteries – more than 28 times the investment in 2020 – and over \$700 million to support EV charging.
- The number of electric vehicles sold in the U.S. has tripled since the President took office.

## **PRESIDENT BIDEN’S ECONOMIC AGENDA IN ACTION**

This manufacturing and jobs growth is being spurred by the President’s aggressive action to advance our EV future:

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$7.5 billion to build a national network of 500,000 EV chargers so that charging EVs is predictable, reliable and accessible; more than \$7 billion to ensure domestic manufacturers have the critical minerals and other components necessary to make batteries; and over

\$10 billion for clean transit and school buses.

- The Inflation Reduction Act provides incentives for buyers of new and used EVs, credits to help manufacturers retool existing facilities and build new manufacturing in the United States, and grants to deploy zero emission heavy-duty vehicles.
- The CHIPS and Science Act will make critical investments in building domestic capacity for the semiconductors necessary for electric vehicles.