

The Delray Democrat

Democrats Deliver Republicans Put Party Before People, Country, and Planet¹

Michael K. Cantwell

After Senate Democrats passed America's largest-ever investment in combatting climate change, Paul Krugman asked, "[Did Democrats Just Save Civilization?](#)" The jury is still out, but it is undeniable that Republicans continue to do their best to thwart efforts to prevent the climatic disaster that scientists predict and that is unfolding before our eyes,.

The climate bill follows on the heels of three major legislative accomplishments in the last two months:

- the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades;
- the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades, which would provide medical care for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals
- the CHIPS Act, investing in microchip production to make America more competitive with China and reduce our reliance on foreign sources for a vital component used by the defense industry.

Fifteen Republican senators supported the gun bill, but both Rubio and Scott opposed it and not a single Republican voted for the climate bill. It is heresy in Trump's Republican Party to view climate change as anything more than a Chinese hoax.

Indeed, McConnell warned Schumer that Republicans would block CHIPS unless he gave up efforts to pass a climate bill. *Let's unpack that: if Democrats tried to address an existential threat to the planet, Republicans would put America's defenses at risk.*

A climate bill seemed dead after Manchin nixed yet another proposal, so Schumer introduced CHIPS, and it passed with Republican support. After Manchin came back to the table, Schumer announced a revised climate bill, and Republicans tried to kill CHIPS in the House. When that failed, they withdrew support for the veterans' bill, relenting only after veterans began sleeping on the Senate steps. Republicans will always put party before people, country, and planet.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, August 2022, page 1.