

# Obama 'Climate' Advisor Was Big-Time Lobbyist

by Richard Freeman

May 7—*EIR* has uncovered a major conflict of interest scandal in the Obama Administration, featuring circles around former Vice President Al Gore, in imposing the genocidal “cap-and-trade” ponzi scheme, just as the U.S. economic-financial system is in complete breakdown.

In January, long-time Gore lieutenant, Carol Browner, took over the newly created office of Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Policy. She is on a rampage to force Congress to adopt cap-and-trade legislation. Before joining the Obama Administration, Browner was one of the leading lobbyists for cap-and-trade legislation, and earned millions of dollars in fees from the high-powered D.C. lobbying firm Downey McGrath Group. Browner’s husband, former Congressman Tom Downey (D-N.Y.), co-founded the company with with former Rep. Ray McGrath (R-N.Y.); the firm represents cap-and-trade outfits that stand to make tens of billions of dollars the moment such legislation is secured.

According to Congressional records, one of Downey McGrath’s top clients is the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), which controls the Chicago Climate Exchange, the primary U.S. cap-and-trade exchange. At a May 8, 2006 Senate Democratic Party Policy Committee hearing, Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) excoriated the ICE and its London-based division, the International Petroleum Exchange, the world’s largest petroleum futures and options market, as the key factor adding \$20 to \$25 to the price of every barrel of oil in the world.

## An Acolyte of Al Gore

The Dec. 8, 2008 *New York Times*, in its profile of Browner, labeled her “long an acolyte of Al Gore.” From 1988 through 1991, the rabid environmentalist Browner served as then-Senator Gore’s legislative director. In 1993, Gore lobbied successfully for Browner to be appointed head of President Bill Clinton’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and for the EPA to be made a cabinet-level position. In 2006, when Gore

founded the Alliance for Climate Protection to run mass propaganda on global warming and greenhouse gas reduction, funded by the proceeds of Gore's movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and Live Earth concerts, he invited Browner to serve on the Alliance's board.

Browner's service at the EPA was not without controversy. Among other things, she was accused of using her office to send out mailings to environmentalist groups. When she left the EPA in 2000, she ordered that everything on her office computer hard drive be deleted, despite a court injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth against her doing so. Two years later, Lamberth held the EPA in contempt of court for the systematic file destruction, describing it as "contumacious conduct."

After leaving the EPA, Browner joined Downey and McGrath, where she became a rising star, and, in 2007, she and Downey married. Downey McGrath prize client, the ICE, is one of the world's biggest and most predatory derivatives traders, trading futures and options in oil through its London-based International Petroleum Exchange, whose chairman, Sir Robert Reid, is a former CEO of Shell Oil UK; the firm also trades derivatives in currencies, stocks, and sugar. In 2002, the ICE took effective control of the newly formed Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), the institution created to trade carbon emissions through cap-and-trade. CCX chairman Richard Sandor is considered to be one of the fathers of the derivatives market. The ICE also grabbed effective control of the European Climate Exchange, a sister organization, so that it now dominates cap-and-trade in the U.S. and Europe.

## The Great Scam

Under the cap-and-trade ripoff, the government would either sell or allocate to substantial carbon-using companies, carbon emission certificates. A recipient company could either use the certificates to offset its carbon emissions, or sell them to other companies. Each successive year, there would be fewer carbon emission



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*Carol Browner, a former top lobbyist for companies standing to make megabucks from cap-and-trade legislation, is now pushing the policy as an advisor to Obama.*

certificates issued by the government (the cap), forcing a drastic reduction in carbon-based energy use, and a deliberate collapse of the manufacturing, agricultural, and infrastructure sectors that depend on such energy. The companies would offset part of the cap-and-trade levy by charging consumers higher prices.

Meanwhile, according to the plans, a thriving market in a new form of derivatives—carbon emission certificates—would take place. In 2006, a CCX representative boasted to *EIR* that there is "plenty of money" to be made in this mad scheme, were Congress to pass national legislation.

It is reported that Browner's stake in Downey McGrath, which has lobbied for the ICE's schemes, was worth between \$1 and \$5 million, when she quit the firm to become Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Policy. The U.S. House of Representatives keeps a lobby disclosure directory. According to House records, Downey McGrath Group, registrant ID #31805, still lists ICE as a client.

Browner was also active with, and appointed to the board of directors of, the cap-and-trade firm APX Environmental Market Depository.

Not incidentally, Browner, who was a co-founder with Madeline Albright of the Albright Group in 2001, was the chief lobbyist in the U.S. for the attempt by Dubai World Ports, a front for the British and the drug-money-linked government of Dubai, to take over six major ports in the United States in 2006.

Now, what Browner is doing from inside the Obama Administration, is attempting to impose a cap-and-trade scheme that would earn billions of dollars for her former, and her husband's current, clients. It would create a speculative bubble, and also vitiate the U.S. economy. Up until now, the news media published reams of stories on the failure of Obama Administration appointees to pay some tens of thousands of dollars of income taxes. But about the Browner conflict-of-interest scandal, which makes the others look like penny-ante affairs, they have not uttered a peep.