



Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

Correction needed on Biden, fracking and getting rid of fossil fuels

1 message

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: truthometer@politifact.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:36 PM

Dear Truth-O-Meter,

One section of your vice-presidential debate fact check summary was particularly awful.

Under the heading "**Pence: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris "want to abolish fossil fuels and ban fracking,"**" PolitiFact issued a "False" ruling.

In the section on fracking, PolitiFact avers that Biden has not proposed an outright ban on fracking. Rather, he has proposed a ban on new fracking on federal lands. The "False" ruling would suggest that a partial ban on fracking is the same as no ban at all. Is that the message a fact checker should send?

In the section on eliminating fossil fuels, PolitiFact astonishingly declares "Biden has never said that he wants to abolish fossil fuels." Could you not spare the time to fact check that claim? Biden has said "We're going to end fossil fuel" and "[We are going to get rid of fossil fuels.](#)"

This part of your fact check could vie with the typical paid political ad in terms of its deception. Please take steps to fix the inaccuracies.

Pence: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris "want to abolish fossil fuels and ban fracking."

Rating: [False](#)

Biden has not called for banning fracking outright. He wants to block the federal government from [issuing new permits for drilling](#) on public land. Biden says that he won't shut down existing fracking operations on public land, and that he'll allow fracking to continue on private lands, where most of it takes place.

Biden appeared to say that he supports a ban on "new fracking" during a debate with Bernie Sanders. However, he walked back those remarks the same day and has consistently said that he doesn't support a ban on fracking.

Biden has never said that he wants to abolish fossil fuels. The Biden climate plan proposes a gradual shift toward clean energy with the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201013183302/https://www.politifact.com/article/2020/oct/08/fact-checking-2020-vice-presidential-debate-kamala/>

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White
editor
zebrafactcheck.com