

The Brunswick News

Saturday, March 22, 2025

OPINION

Deceptive policies expand risks, harm the public

Deceptive, opportunistic policies – aided by dogmatic and profitable disinformation – are increasingly reflected in the interrelated actions of elected officials and corporate leaders. Collectively, these exploitative measures, hidden and prolonged by the false rationalizations used to justify them, are worsening long-term predicaments, imposing unjust threats on American citizens

Such deceptions abound in the unprecedented, lawless actions of Elon Musk in his unchecked dismantling of federal programs, disguised as alleged goals of the Department of Government Efficiency, done to accommodate \$5 trillion-tax-cuts for the wealthy.

As a Congressional representative has observed, “Elon Musk is a private citizen with massive foreign debts, countless conflicts of interest, and unknown personal motivations that disqualify him from serving in the federal government.” Aside from these exasperating facts, consider that Musk has benefitted from at least \$38 billion in federal contracts, grants, and tax credits. Without these massive government supports, Musk’s enterprises wouldn’t exist, and his enormous wealth accumulation wouldn’t have been possible.

Among programs dangerously weakened are those of NOAA and FEMA. Both agencies provide services essential to many Americans, foremost those living in areas vulnerable to hurricanes and flooding, like coastal Georgia. Without the ability to predict weather, facilitate emergency evacuations, and conduct recovery operations, people harmed by major storms will suffer unjust, life-changing penalties that until now have been minimized by tax-dollars well-spent.

Most reckless is the Trump Administration’s rejection of science through its denial of climate change – which is accelerating the damages caused by these multi-billion-dollar catastrophes – to defend Big Oil’s continued profiteering.

David Kyler

Center for a Sustainable Coast