



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



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-Vice-President: KEN ORNDORFF

-Treasurer: ALICE PHILLIPS

DATE: December 4, 2014



DIGGERS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND POTLUCK DINNER DECEMBER 4, 2014

Our party went really well, we had 21 members show up and everyone brought something wonderful for our dinner. There was ham (Penny), turkey, dressing and gravy (Claudia), a wild rice salad (Sherry), candied carrots (Karen), au-gratin potatoes (Tammy), and there was more, but I can't remember everything! Then there was dessert! Donuts (David and Christoph), cheesecake (sorry, can't remember who), cookies (?), and I had made ambrosia (fruit jello- whip) and "Sex in a Pan" that was so yummy! Terrie said, "This "Sex in a Pan" is so good, after having some, pretty soon everyone will be wanting a cigarette!"

Then we called numbers for the door prizes, where everyone got a nice gift. Claudia got the machete and Delmon got the tool bag (which I told him was a purse). Bill won the 50/50 prize of \$45.00 (?). And we had some pretty nice table raffle prizes that we sold to who ever made a \$ donation to the club.

I probably left out something important, but that's not unusual; I was a real scatter-head that night. I really was! But I want everyone to know:

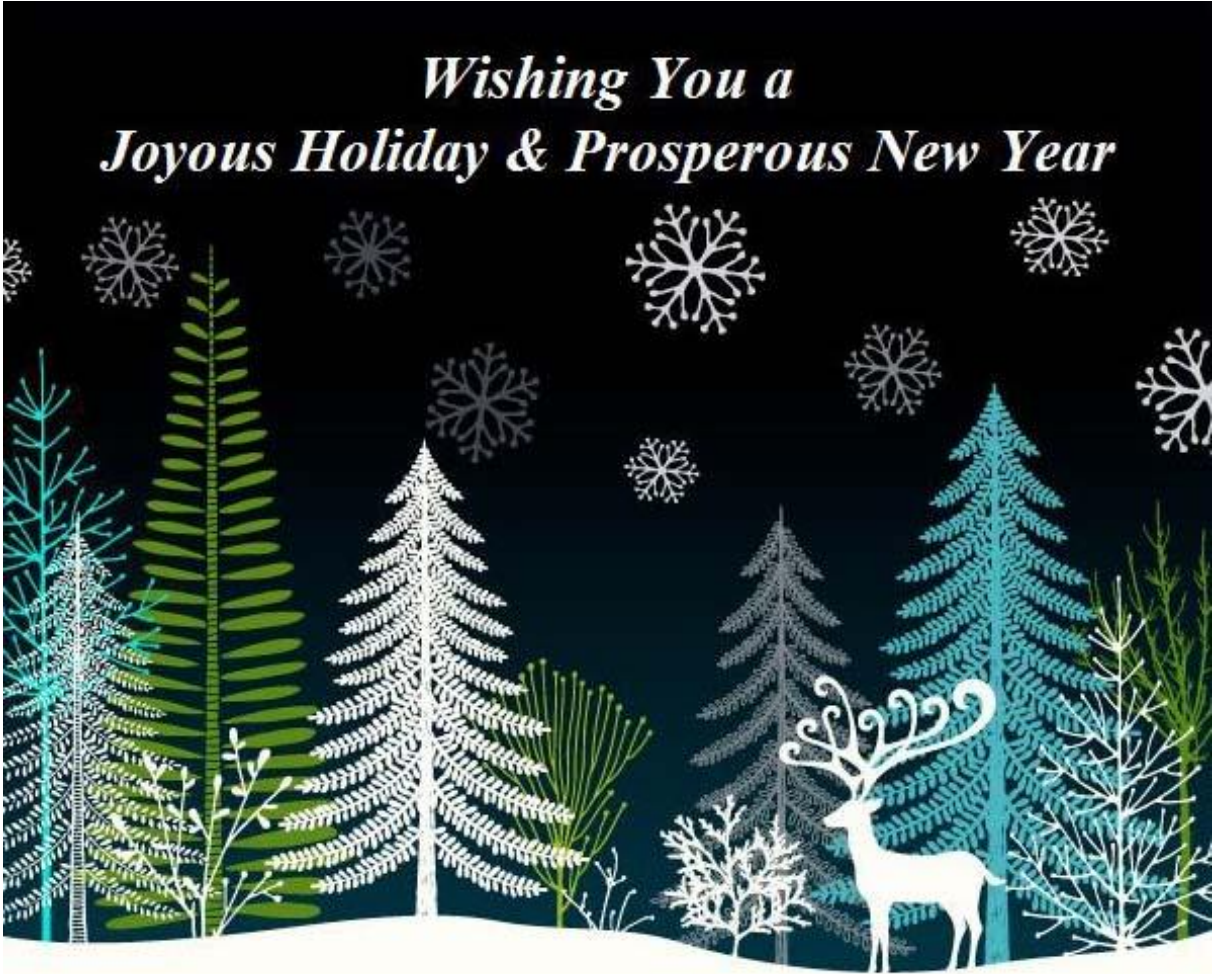
ELECTIONS ARE NEXT MONTH! And we have a couple openings for new officers: PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT. I hear we have some eligible candidates for these positions.

I am ready to step down as president simply because I'm just not cut out for the job. You all saw how well I DIDN'T fit the role. I had a time with it, I didn't know what the heck I was doing up there. I'm certain that whoever takes my place will be cut from the cloth of true presidential material!

Our next meeting is on Thursday January 22, 2015 @ 7:00

The letter is "B".

-Penny Esplin, President 2014



Delmon picks a gift.



Penny and Walt



Claudia opens her gift, a machete!





Tammy picks out a gift



Cody and son



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO SOLDIERS
EVERYWHERE THAT ARE AWAY
FROM THEIR FAMILIES**



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GOLD and MINING

Most Dredge Mining Should be Banned According to State Report

A task force created by the 2013 Oregon Legislature has submitted its report that recommends no dredging be allowed on private lands in waters considered essential stream habitat for wild salmon and pacific lamprey throughout the Rogue Basin and Western Oregon.

In the Rogue Basin, that would include the Rogue, Applegate and Illinois Rivers along with every tributary downstream from major dams such as Lost Creek, Applegate, and Reeder. Those dams have no mechanism for salmon to cross according to the report.

The president of the Waldo Mining District, Tom Kitchar, who sat on the working group compiling the report, called the result a "witch hunt", saying the group had miners in its cross-hairs.

Karen Tarnow, a state Department of Environmental Quality policy advisor who worked on the report, says the task force did what it was charged to do.

The reports frameworks are scheduled to go before the Oregon Legislature next year under the Governor's goal of getting new laws in place for 2016.



American Mining Rights Association's

·News out of California, December 10 2014



This photo was taken during the confiscation in May of this year near Fresno.

Update on the two men cited for suction dredging (CA) without a permit which AMRA is representing:

We had our second date in court today on Jim and Ron's case of dredging without a permit. They have plead "not guilty" and the next court date is January. We wanted Jim and Ron's dredge back in their hands but DFG claimed they could not let our boys have their dredge back since they were in violation of a "poaching" regulation whereany piece of equipment which MIGHT harm a fish could not be released..... We asserted that under that vague regulation, they should outlaw hiking boots, cars, boats, boat motors and swim suits. Never know when a swim suit could trap a poor, defenseless salmon fry in the tie string. The clincher on this was when we provided information to the DA that DFG uses the very same hose for transferring fish (stocking programs) from their tanker trucks to streams, lakes and rivers. The very same hose, purchased at the same manufacturer as the dredge manufacturers.

The DA agreed with us and Jim and Ron picked up their 4" Proline dredge from DFG this afternoon.

Without boring you all with the minutia, we firmly believe it is in the best interest of the tax payers of Fresno County for the DA to just dismiss this case. We believe this will happen as the primary discussion was about Brandon Rinehart's case and that appeals published case.

So.....this is good news. They have their dredge back and we believe the case will be dismissed on the grounds that they would "never" obtain a guilty verdict on this topic. The science is behind the dredgers, the facts are behind the dredgers and now the courts have affirmed the case by the dredgers.

We all have choices to make, and these two men decided to dredge to put food on their tables. Dredging does not harm fish, if it did, Sierra Fund (uber liberal radical environmental group dredging under the guise of removing mercury in CA) would not be dredging. See, if you are politically aligned with the liberals, you get rewarded, if you are not, you get punished and shut down and the law be damned. They have a word for that type of behavior.

This fight over suction dredging is long from over and AMRA intends to be right in the middle of it every inch along this road.

Join us, let us unite and lets fight to keep our rights.

[American Mining Rights Association's](#)

Congrats Jim and Ron.....glad you got your little blue back!



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT v. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INC.

http://www.oyez.org/cases/2010-2019/2012/2012_11_460

Docket No. 11-460

Petitioner Los Angeles County Flood Control Distric

Respondent Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., et al.

Decided By [Roberts Court \(2010- \)](#)

Opinion [568 U.S. ____ \(2013\)](#)

Granted [Monday, June 25, 2012](#)

Argued [Tuesday, December 4, 2012](#)

Decided [Tuesday, January 8, 2013](#)

Advocates [Timothy T. Coates](#) (for the petitioner)

[Pratik A. Shah](#) (Assistant to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, for the United States, as amicus curiae, supporting the petitioner)

[Aaron Colangelo](#) (for the respondents)

Term: 2010-2019

Location: [Los Angeles County](#)

Facts of the Case

The level of pollution detected in the Santa Clara River, the Los Angeles River, the San Gabriel River, and Malibu Creek—collectively known as the Watershed Rivers—far exceeds what is allowed by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit held by Los Angeles County. The National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and other environmental organizations brought legal action against the county and the district, alleging that the county violated the Clean Water Act. The allegations stem from the fact that the county and district allowed untreated storm water that had collected myriad pollutants to run unchecked through storm sewers and into the rivers. The county and district did not contest the fact that the amount of pollutants was high but rather contested the allegations that they were solely responsible.

The federal district court found for county and the district and held that there was no evidence that they were directly responsible. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the district court's decision with respect to the Santa Clara River and the Malibu Creek but reversed the decision with respect to the San Gabriel River and the Los Angeles River.

Question

Can the transfer of water from one portion of a river to another portion via a manmade improvement for the purpose of controlling storm water runoff still be considered a "discharge" under the Clean Water Act?

Argument

[Los Angeles County Flood Control District v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. - Oral Argument](#)
[Los Angeles County Flood Control District v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. - Opinion Announcement](#)

Conclusion

Decision: 9 votes for Los Angeles County Flood Control District, 0 vote(s) against

Legal provision: Clean Water Act

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg delivered the opinion of the 9-0 majority. **The Court held that the pumping of polluted water from one portion of a waterway to another section of the same waterway did not constitute pollution under the Clean Water Act.**

Based on the text of the CWA, the **"discharge of a pollutant" refers to the addition of a pollutant to a waterway.**

Because the pollutant is coming from farther up the same waterway, it cannot be considered an addition. Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. concurred in the judgment.



Oregon Prospecting, Sweethome, OR

Dear Fellow Prospectors,

We are closing our store after 15 years here as of Jan, 31st 2015 in Sweet Home, It's with excitement and some sadness that we submit this to the news letter. We are excited because Steve and I are ready to take on to the next adventure, it's sad because we will miss serving our loyal customers that stop by Oregon Prospecting on the way up to the claims or outings. We will miss putting on our yearly Demonstrations and Training Seminar with Louie Frick up Quartzville. But it's the right time for us to make the move we always knew we would.

We are **NOT** closing down Oregon Prospecting, we will take it with us, as always we will still be available through our web site, e-mail and phone orders. And of course you will see us at the SHOWS! We are ready to get back to some gold mining ourselves and spend time with family, as my dad's health has declined we knew we needed to start making plans to return home. Home for us is Reedsport, we have a home waiting for us there and that was the Home of Oregon Prospecting "Houston Mining" in the beginning, so we are returning to our Roots so to speak and ready for it. Even with the store front closing Jan., 31st 2015, we will remain in the area for awhile before returning to Reedsport. While we are still @ 1045 Main Street address we are offering 10% off all Prospecting Equipment that is \$5.00 or more for our Christmas Specials. As always we have deep discounts on all metal detectors.

We hope to get the chance to see some of your while we have our doors open. Please feel free to call, facebook, email or stop in! Remember we are not going away, just changing locations! I am working with another business in Sweet Home to keep some supplies on hand for you, I will get that information out to you as we get to that point. Until then, we are here as always Monday through Friday 10 to 6pm,

If we miss you here, I'm sure we will still do some business together either via our web site or at the shows, or we may run into you on the river someplace....until then we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and may you always find the gold at the end of your Rainbow, whatever that may be!

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New Signs Gold and Silver Are Returning as Monetary Assets

by Stefan Gleason, Money Metals Exchange, December 03, 2014
<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=5m27pt2dld1sn#6884298069>

Much to the chagrin of the financial elite, gold and silver are reentering the American consciousness and starting to shake the wing nutty image of their recent past. But it's taken a global financial crisis to get the public's attention – one that could wipe out our nation at almost any moment.

The U.S. government's role in the economy is on a seemingly interminable upward trajectory. The government's official debt balance that just crossed the \$18 trillion mark (with additional unfunded liabilities estimated at more than \$100 trillion). Half the population now lives in households that receive government payments.

Even as private sector jobs disappear and workforce participation rates languish near generational lows, the corporate sector is seemingly thriving. Corporate profits as a percentage of the economy are at record highs. Fortune 500 corporations are using cash hoards and cheap financing – not so much to invest in capital assets or business expansion, but to buy back their own shares and send their stock prices higher.

All these dangerous excesses and distortions are made possible by our free-wheeling fiat monetary system.

What's occurring now – endless proliferations of paper flowing into the Treasury and banking sector from the central bank – is precisely the sort of thing our Founding Fathers sought to prevent.

The Coinage Act of 1792 authorized the minting of the nation's money. It defined a “dollar” in terms of a specific quantity of grains of silver (equivalent to

about three-fourths of an ounce). Few people today even realize that the dollar bills in their pocket were originally intended to be silver.

The de-monetization of silver was effectively complete in 1965, when the U.S. Mint ceased producing dollars, half dollars, quarters, and dimes containing 90% silver (from 1965 to 1970, half dollars contained 40% silver).

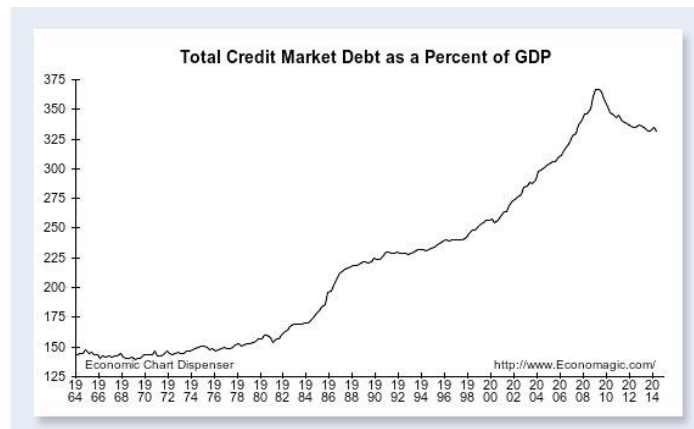
Of course, you can still buy U.S. 90% silver coins minted in 1964 and earlier. [They are priced based on the current value of their silver content, plus a small premium.](#) You can even use them as money in legal barter transactions.

The last real link the U.S. still had to sound, Constitutional money was finally broken in 1971, when President Richard Nixon suspended gold convertibility. Henceforth, no foreign government could redeem their dollar reserves for gold.

After the dollar became a purely fiat currency 43 years ago, it began a course of massive depreciation. Since 1971, gold prices have moved from \$41 per ounce to as high as \$1,900. Silver went from \$1.40 an ounce to \$49.50 at its peak in 1980 – a high mark hit again in 2011. [Gold and silver prices](#) have pulled back from their 2011 highs, but are likely to rise higher still.

Meanwhile, government debt and profligacy have reached epic proportions. In 1971, the national debt stood at \$398 billion, 34% of GDP. Today's \$18 trillion debt load represents 99% of GDP.

Total credit market debt comes in at an astonishing 330% of GDP – and that's off from its peak in late 2008. Since the 2008 financial crisis, the Federal Reserve has been waging a battle against credit market deflation, which is the market's way of unwinding a credit market bubble. The Fed has bought more than \$4.3 trillion worth of bonds and tried to reignite a financial bubble in the stock market by holding rates at ultra-low levels.



Ironically, the promulgators of this financial madness will often try to portray advocates of hard money as loony! Yet under a gold standard, we had stable price levels, a more restrained government, and less severe booms and busts in financial markets.

The movement to return fiat currencies to sound money has gained momentum in recent years. On November 30th, Swiss voters went to the polls to decide on a referendum to force Switzerland's central bank to dramatically boost its gold reserves. (The Swiss franc had been the last remaining major country to operate on gold standard until 1999, when the franc went fiat.)

The "Save Our Swiss Gold" referendum failed. Even so, other countries in Europe are eyeing gold as a monetary asset.

The Dutch central bank in November moved a fifth of its 612.5 metric tons in gold reserves from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York back home to Amsterdam. "The Dutch Central Bank joins other banks that are keeping a larger share of their gold supply in their own country," the central bank said in a statement.

France may soon make a similar move to repatriate its gold reserves. The leader of France's largest opposition party, the National Front, called on the French central bank to take full possession of its gold held abroad and called for an independent audit of the country's gold reserves.

A member of the European Central Bank Executive Board, Yves Mersch, recently gave a speech discussing the potential benefits of the ECB buying real assets, including gold.

Russia this year became the world's largest regular buyer of gold. In October, the Russian Central Bank bought nearly 20 tons of gold, or around 8% of total world monthly gold mining production.

Sound money efforts are spreading in the U.S. at the state level. Earlier this year, Oklahoma joined Utah, Texas, and Louisiana in passing a legal tender law that removes state taxes on transactions made with gold and silver coins. These

states have asserted their power under Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution to recognize gold and silver as legitimate currency alongside the dollar. Similar legislation is now under consideration in several other states.

Granted, it seems unlikely that the U.S. or any major country will return their currency to a classical gold standard anytime soon. But signs abound that precious metals are re-entering the public consciousness – and will be playing a more prominent role in monetary systems as geopolitical tensions rise, debt levels become more unmanageable, and public confidence in political institutions wanes.



Rio, BHP very close to develop U.S. largest copper mine

[Cecilia Jamasmie. Mining.com.](#) December 4, 2014



The Morenci mine, in Southeast Arizona, may soon lose its status as one of North America's largest producer of copper. (Image by [Arizona Wonders](#))

Arizona's lawmakers slipped Tuesday night a piece of legislation that would allow mining giants Rio Tinto (LON:RIO) and BHP Billiton (ASX:BHP) to jointly build a massive copper mine in the state as part of a deal with the U.S. Government.

According to [Arizona Republic](#) the bill —set to be passed before the end of the year— would allow Rio to acquire 2,400 acres of the federally protected [Tonto National Forest](#) in southeast Arizona in exchange for 5,000 acres in parcels scattered around the state.

The land swap bill was added into the 1,600-page [National Defense Authorization Act](#), the annual defense appropriation legislation that must be passed each year, according to the report.

Both miners have said they expect operations at [their Resolution Copper project](#) —55%-45% owned by Rio and BHP— to start as early as 2020. But they have had to deal with [legal hurdles](#) and opposition by the [San Carlos Apache Tribe](#) and other southwestern nations, who claim the massive project would weaken the ground beneath their sacred Native American lands.

Analysts are confident this time the miners will get their wish granted.

Analysts are confident this time the miners will get their wish granted.

“This land swap has faced a long and bumpy road in Congress,” Caitlin Webber, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst [told The Daily Telegraph](#).

“Finally being tucked into this must-pass bill is the closest it's been to enactment,” she added.

Resolution Copper, located in Arizona's famous [Copper Corridor](#), is expected to create 3,700 direct and indirect jobs and bring more than \$60 billion in economic benefits to the state over its 66-year life. Rio and BHP estimate that output from the mine will meet 25% of the U.S. total demand, which will make it [North America's largest copper mine](#).



ARCHEOLOGY

Ancient gold coins found in toilet in southern India

[Cecilia Jamasmie](#), Mining.com, December 2, 2014

<http://www.mining.com/ancient-gold-coins-found-in-toilet-in-southern-india-84145/>



The treasure unearthed may have looked something like this

Construction workers have hit a pot full of 200-year-old gold coins while digging an eight-foot hole to be used as a toilet close to an ancient temple in an Indian village.

According to [Bangalore Mirror](#), the excavation crew found 43 coins inside the buried crock and instead of telling the person who hired them about the discovery, reburied it and told the homeowner that they were unable to finish the work that day.

Later that evening, the men returned to the site and recovered the buried treasure. Then they made their way to the nearby town of Chamarajanagar (Karnataka), taking the coins to a pawnbroker to determine their value.

The lender allegedly sent the workers away, telling them those coins were fake and hence worthless. BM reports the person proceeded to call the local police and inform them of the discovery of ancient coins by a few labourers.

Further digging in the neighbourhood unveiled another 50 gold coins.

Experts are yet to determine the period of the coins but according to sources [quoted by The Times of India](#), most of them are from the late 18th century and early 19th century when this part of the country was under Hyder Ali — ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore.

It is unclear whether the workers may face charges. It is also uncertain if the Archaeology Survey of India will continue to check the area in search of more coins.

GOVERNMENT

PLF op-ed decries EPA Clean Water Act power grab In *The Wall Street Journal*

PLF PRESS RELEASE

Pacific Legal Foundation -- www.pacificlegal.org -- (916) 419-7111

Washington, D.C.; December 8, 2014: Two federal bureaucracies are attempting an unprecedented — and unconstitutional — power grab by trying to extend the Clean Water Act (CWA) to cover “virtually any wet ... spot in the country, including ditches, drains, seasonal puddle-like depressions, intermittent streams, ponds, impoundments, prairie potholes, and large ‘buffer areas’ of land adjacent to every waterway.”

So argues a Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) op-ed in today's *Wall Street Journal*, titled “[Watch Out for That Puddle, Soon It Could Be Federally Regulated.](#)” Authored by M. Reed Hopper, a PLF Principal Attorney, and Todd Gaziano, Executive Director of PLF's DC Center and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law, the op-ed targets the proposed new definition of the “waters of the United States” put forward by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. PLF submitted formal comments opposing the proposed new rule, pointing out that it is so vague and potentially all-encompassing that it could lead to unlimited expansion of federal control over property nationwide — going far beyond the limits laid down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

One of the key rulings was the 2006 PLF case of [Rapanos v. United States](#), which Hopper successfully argued before the justices. The court affirmed that the CWA does not cover remote water bodies with no significant effects on traditional navigable waters, and the federal government is expressly forbidden from regulating all tributaries. However, as PLF's op-ed in the *Journal* points out, the agencies' proposed rule would extend to “the very waters the Supreme Court said they could not regulate.”

“By any fair reading, the proposed rule would federalize virtually all water in the nation, and much of the land, in direct contravention of Supreme Court precedent and express congressional policy in the Clean Water Act ... ,” write

Hopper and Gaziano. "It is patently unreasonable and should be amended or withdrawn." Otherwise, "PLF and others will again take these two agencies to court."

[Read the op-ed](http://www.wsj.com/articles/m-reed-hopper-and-todd-f-gaziano-watch-out-for-that-puddle-soon-it-could-be-federally-regulated-1417990935) at: (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/m-reed-hopper-and-todd-f-gaziano-watch-out-for-that-puddle-soon-it-could-be-federally-regulated-1417990935>).

[About Pacific Legal Foundation](#)

Donor-supported Pacific Legal Foundation (www.pacificlegal.org) is the leading legal watchdog organization that litigates for limited government, property rights, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations, in courts across the country. PLF represents all clients free of charge.

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Group demands Washington decrease wolf population

AP

November 29, 2014

MOSCOW, Idaho (AP) — A billboard campaign in Washington state aims to reignite a debate that splits the Pacific Northwest: Do wolves belong?

The four billboards near the Idaho border by Washington Residents Against Wolves calls for the state to decrease the wolf population, The Moscow-Pullman Daily News reports (<http://bit.ly/1yvEXL>). The billboards read: "Endangered? No. Dangerous? Yes. Good for Washington? Absolutely Not!"

Pictured is a snarling wolf.

Wolves kill livestock, endanger elk populations and pose a threat to the public, group spokeswoman Jamie Henneman said.

"We feel there is not a broad enough awareness about the impact of wolves in Washington state," Henneman said. "There has been some (awareness) with the impact on livestock, but the impact is much, much greater."

Ecologists dispute that claim, saying wolves are scared of humans and are crucial to the habitat. "They want people to think that these wolves are dangerous," population ecologist Oz Garton said.

Among the most disputed aspects of the campaign is the claim that wolves are not native to the area and compete with other predators for scant resources.

"We have this non-native species coming in and disturbing this," she said. "We appreciate the predators as a really important role in the ecosystem ... (but) we already have this handled in Washington."

Wildlife officials have repeatedly said the species of gray wolf introduced, *canis lupus*, is the exact species that once thrived in the Northwest.

The debate over wolves illustrates a divide in the Pacific Northwest between rural areas further east and populous urban areas near the Pacific Ocean. Rural ranchers and residents say their more liberal counterparts in cities don't understand the realities of living among wolves, including the danger to the public and livestock.

Advocates of wolves reply that the area is their native habitat, and wolves have a positive impact on areas where elk would otherwise destroy grassland. Garton said habitat is the primary driver for changes in elk population and location, followed by the impact of wolves.

"Hunters pick on the wolves as the problem, which is really not true," Garton said.



CALIFORNIA is the LARGEST INSANE ASYLUM in the WORLD

From the L. A. Times.

Interesting that the LA times published this. Lou Dobbs reported this information on CNN and it cost him his job. The only network we would see this on would be FOX. All the others are staying away from it.

Whether you are a Democrat or Republican this should be of great interest to you!

This is only one State. If this doesn't open eyes, nothing will!

- ★ **40%** of all workers in L. A. County (L. A. County has 10.2 million people) are working for cash and not paying taxes. This is because they are predominantly illegal immigrants working without a green card.
- ★ **95%** of warrants for murder in Los Angeles are for illegal aliens.
- ★ **75%** of people on the most wanted list in Los Angeles are illegal aliens.
- ★ Over **2/3** of all births in Los Angeles County are to illegal alien Mexicans on Medi-Cal, whose births were paid for by taxpayers.
- ★ Nearly **35%** of all inmates in California detention centers are Mexican nationals here illegally.
- ★ Over **300,000 illegal aliens** in Los Angeles County are living in garages.
- ★ The FBI reports **half of all gang members in Los Angeles** are most likely illegal aliens from south of the border.
- ★ Nearly **60%** of all occupants of HUD properties are illegal.
- ★ 21 radio stations in L. A. are Spanish speaking.
- ★ In L.A. County 5.1 million people speak English, **3.9 million speak Spanish**. (There are 10.2 million people in L. A. County.)

Less than 2% of illegal aliens are picking our crops, but 29% are on welfare. Over 70% of the United States 'annual population growth (and over 90% of California, Florida, and New York) results from immigration. 29% of inmates in federal prisons are illegal aliens. We are fools for letting this continue.



Defense bill hits snag over land swaps, wilderness

By [DONNA CASSATA](#), AP THE BIG STORY, Dec. 3, 2014

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0570ebae44d34affa900cf8bafd7909b/defense-bill-hits-snag-over-land-swaps-wilderness>

WASHINGTON (AP) — Quick passage of a sweeping defense policy bill hit a snag on Wednesday over public lands, dividing Senate Republicans.

The \$585 billion measure authorizing funds for the military **includes several unrelated bills to expand wilderness areas in the West** and expand the program streamlining oil and gas permits, a popular step with western state lawmakers.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., objected to their inclusion and promised to block any attempt to quickly finish the bill next week in the final days of the lame-duck session.

"A bill that defines the needs of our nation's defense is **hardly the proper place to trample on private property rights**," Coburn wrote in a letter to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. **"Nor is it the place to restrict access to hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities on massive swaths of taxpayer-supported lands."**

The House is expected to pass the bill on Thursday. Senate leaders hoped to finish it next week but need the consent of all senators to act quickly. Coburn, in his letter, said he would "utilize all procedural options at my disposal as a United States senator" to block such action.

Sen. James Inhofe, Coburn's Oklahoma colleague and the top Republican on the Armed Service Committee, said he expected senators to work out their differences and pass the bill, which authorizes funds for ships, aircraft and military personnel while expanding U.S. military operations to counter Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

In a closed-door GOP lunch, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski argued that the wilderness expansion and other changes create jobs, according to Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., a proponent of the legislation.

"It's a real economic engine for some of the rural western states," Heller said in an interview.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, joined Coburn in criticizing the legislation, complaining about the designation of **250,000 acres of new wilderness**, in addition to **15 new national park units or expansions** and **three new wild and scenic river designations**.

The provisions also include transferring management of a 140-square-mile national preserve in northern New Mexico to the National Park Service and making a land swap in Arizona that would clear the way for a much-disputed copper mine.

"With the military's shrinking budget, it is offensive that this bill would be used to fund congressional pork. And, **at a time where jobs are scarce and the federal government has removed billions of acres of land from productive use**, Congress should not be restricting more than a half-million new acres," Cruz said in a statement.

Caren Cowan, executive director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, which represents thousands of ranchers in the state and has been a vocal critic of what she considers federal overreach in the West.

"This is a continuation of the governance by blackmail," Cowan said. "The national defense authorization is vital to our nation and those who serve in the military. It should not be used as a bargaining chip for land grabs. Working on land packages in this manner is a disservice to the land and the people who enjoy it."

Associated Press writer Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this report.



Five complete lies about America's new \$18 trillion debt level

Sovereign Man, December 2, 2014

http://www.sovereignman.com/?inf_contact_key=87d8cb9e77b6275d462fe9ebd3cc9f3aac30ed71edbd79ee1701b8ed69263d00



On October 22, 1981, the government of the United States of America accumulated an astounding \$1 TRILLION in debt.

At that point, it had taken the country 74,984 days (more than 205 years) to accumulate its first trillion in debt.

It would take less than five years to accumulate its second trillion.

And as the US government just hit \$18 trillion in debt on Friday afternoon, it has taken a measly 403 days to accumulate its most recent trillion.

There's so much misinformation and propaganda about this; let's examine some of the biggest lies out there about the US debt:

1) "They can get it under control."

What a massive lie. Politicians have been saying for decades that they're going to cut spending and get the debt under control.

FACT: The last time the US debt actually decreased from one fiscal year to the next was back in 1957 during the EISENHOWER administration.

FACT: For the last several years, the US government has been spending roughly 90% of its ENTIRE tax revenue just to pay for mandatory entitlement programs and interest on the debt.

This leaves almost nothing for practically everything else we think of as government.

2) "The debt doesn't matter because we owe it to ourselves."

This is probably the biggest lie of all. Two of the Social Security trust funds alone (OASI and DI) own \$2.72 trillion of US debt.

The federal government owes this money to current and future beneficiaries of those trust funds, i.e. EVERY SINGLE US CITIZEN ALIVE.

I fail to see the silver lining here. How is it somehow 'better' if the government defaults on its citizens as opposed to, say, banks?

3) "They can always 'selectively default' on the debt"

Another lie. People think that the US government can pick and choose who it pays.

They could make a big stink about China, for example, and then choose to default on the \$2 trillion in debt that's owed to the Chinese.

Nice try. But this would rock global financial markets and destroy whatever tiny shred of credibility the US still has.

Others have suggested that the government could selectively default on the Federal Reserve (which owns \$2.46 trillion of US debt).

Again, possible. But given that the Fed (the issuer of the US dollar) would become immediately insolvent, the resulting currency crisis would be completely disastrous.

4) "It's the NET debt that's important"

Analysts often pay attention to a country's "net debt" instead of its gross debt. If you have a million bucks in debt, and a million bucks in cash, then your 'net debt' is zero. It washes out.

Problem is, the US government doesn't have any cash. The Treasury Department opened its business day on Friday morning with just \$71.9 billion in cash, or just 0.39% of its total debt level.

Apple has more money than that.

5) "They can fix it by raising taxes"

No they can't. Just look at the numbers. Since the end of World War II, US government tax revenue has consistently been roughly 17% of GDP.

They can raise tax rates, but it doesn't move the needle in terms of revenue as a percentage of GDP.

In other words, the government's 'slice of the pie' is pretty consistent.

You'd think with this obvious data that, rather than try to increase tax rates (ineffective), they'd do everything they can to help make a bigger pie.

Or better yet, just leave everyone the hell alone so we're free to bake as much as we can.

But no. They have to regulate every aspect of people's existence: How you are allowed to educate your children. What you can/cannot put in your body. How much interest you are entitled to receive on your savings.

All of this costs time, money, and efficiency. So do never-ending wars. The bombs. The drones. The airstrikes.

This isn't about any single person or President. The problem is with the system itself.

History shows that every leading superpower from the past almost invariably fell to the same fate.

Great powers often feel that their wealth and success entitles them to spend recklessly and wage endless, arrogant wars. The Romans. The Ottoman Empire. The British.

History may not repeat but it certainly rhymes. And the lesson here is very clear: debt weakens a nation. It weakens a society.

Generations that will not even be born for decades will inherit these debts by complete accident of birth.

And the people in charge of the system have backed themselves into a corner where there is no way out other than to default-- either on their creditors (creating a global financial crisis), the central bank (creating a currency crisis), or on the citizens themselves (creating an epic social crisis).

Bottom line: this is not a consequence-free environment. And while you can't fix the debt problem, you can certainly reduce your own exposure to what happens next.



Does “The Land of the Free” Have Any Rational Meaning?

A FREE-MAN's TAKE

with [Paul Rosenberg](#) | December 05, 2014

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=dp4ge8tt0i4ko#8352714714>

I once knew a man who was a deacon in the Catholic Church. During certain ceremonies, his job was to raise his hand in a gesture of blessing over a church member and say some Latin words. The problem was, this guy had become a fairly serious atheist. So, instead of the prescribed Latin blessing, he would say the Latin words for “can't help you, can't hurt you.” No one noticed, not even the priests.

I feel like I'm watching something similar when I see the beginning of a sporting event and hear thousands of people singing “the land of the free” as a benediction over themselves. They don't assimilate the words that their mouths are forming; they may as well be singing Latin.

What I mean about not assimilating the words is this: People understand these words as a type of self-blessing or self-praise, but they never examine their actual meaning. “The land of the free” has become holy dogma—an uncritically accepted truth. To critique those words is to reveal yourself as a heretic.

So much for our progress from the Middle Ages. Reason has again become treason.

But if reason makes us heretics, let's at least be explicit heretics.

The Knee-Jerk Responses

Rather than explaining what freedom is or isn't, I think I should start with the knee-jerk responses to disagreements with the American state's holy words. They do, after all, erupt instantly upon the appearance of heresy.

“If you don't like it here, go to North Korea!” Translated into honest speech, that means this:

If we're not as bad as North Korea, we have freedom.

And that is simply a lie. Worse, it confuses people. There are degrees of evil, after all. The guy who was just shot in the stomach is far better off than the guy who was just shot in the head, but we never say that such a person is uninjured.

Likewise, someone who is half enslaved is better off than someone who is fully enslaved, but it's a lie to call that person “free.”

So North Korea being worse does **not** mean that we are free. That's *pure* BS.

“You're a blame-America-firster!” Actually, there's a lot about America that I really like and even defend. For example, the people here still retain a gut feeling that they should be left alone. That's a big, important deal, even if they're confused about what it should mean. There's also an

assumption of productivity and adaptation among the American people, and I like that a lot too.

I think the American people have a lot to offer. As for their rulers, I don't think much of them, but the two aren't remotely the same thing. Listen to Americans complain about their government, and you'll see that most of them land on my side of that argument.

The issue here is that I don't reflexively endorse US military ventures. And that accusation is true. I don't like sending young people out to be wounded and killed, and I don't endorse the stirring up of wars.

It's telling that American pro-military dogma excludes relevant opposition. To believe in it, you must blank out the most decorated Marine of his era declaring that "war is a racket," and Dwight Eisenhower solemnly warning the American people about their military industrial complex.

So if I'm blaming America first, I'm joining Major General Smedley Butler and the supreme Allied commander of World War Two.

"You hate soldiers!" That one is simply a lie. I feel compassion for most soldiers. I'm sure there are a few monsters among them, but every large group has a few monsters in it. *Moreover, war turns normal people into monsters.*

I feel sorry for the kid who joins the Army because he or she doesn't know what else to do, sees no job prospects, wants the benefits, and knows that he or she will get rivers of praise for joining. At 18 years old, none of us is particularly good at perspective and choice-making.

And over recent years, the odds have been fairly good that such a kid would be thrown into combat... a situation I'd wish upon almost no one. I've said it before and I'll probably say it again, but no one is made better by killing people. Our children are not coming home better; they're coming home worse. Is that something to celebrate?

And how come the emotionally wounded soldier is shuffled aside by the VA and the flag worshippers? Maybe it's because he or she is no longer useful for spreading the dogma?

“You are...” Someone is always going to come up with a new response. It happens automatically once you tear into one of their old defenses.

Dogma in humans leaps to defend itself. It is (as I explained at length with my friend Sean Hastings) a type of parasite that hijacks the human brain in order to reproduce itself. All dogma—ancient, medieval, modern, Eastern, whatever—abuses humans in this way.

New responses are fairly easy to deal with if you can take a bit of time to examine them. The difficult moment is when the new response is delivered to an emotional crowd. Emotional effects (which bypass reason) can be countered quite well, but not within a two-second timespan. So a clever defender of dogma can usually land the first blow.

That first blow, however, is more or less all the heretic hunter has. If that blow is parried or countered, dogma loses. That's why these people go for fast, emotional kills, then scurry away from the subject.

Land of the Who?

Ah yes, “the free.” But to call US citizens “free” puts a hell of a strain on the definition of *free*.

(Liberty and freedom, by the way, mean the same thing. *Freedom* comes to the English language from German and *liberty* from French. Both mean “unbound” or “unrestrained.”)

As I mentioned above, freedom in the dogmatic context merely means “oppression is worse somewhere else.” And that's not much consolation once you stop to consider it.

What, then, can we say about productive Americans? Their money is taken from them by income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, gas taxes, and probably a dozen taxes on their utility bills. Together, these impositions remove half of their earnings, much of it before they hold it in their hands. Can we call such a person *free*?

I can tell you that neither Sam Adams nor Thomas Jefferson would have called this situation “freedom.” Neither would most of the American founders. The dogmatics can emotionalize however they like, but they are **not** standing with the Americans of 1776.

Here, for the record, is Thomas Jefferson’s definition of freedom, which is very close to my own:

Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add “within the limits of the law” because law is often but the tyrant’s will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual.

So here’s the Jefferson Test: *How free are Americans to act according to their own will, limited **only** by the equal rights of others?*

- If we allow others to keep all their earnings, can we be free to keep ours?
- If we agree that others should be immune from speed traps, can we be immune too?
- If we agree that others should be free from mass surveillance, can we be free of it too?
- If we allow others to self-medicate peacefully, are we free to do so?

We all know the answers to these questions, and we all know that freedom in America fails this test. The problem lies in having the guts to admit it.

In the end, characterizing modern America as “the land of the free” has to be judged as a dirty lie.

So...

So, if we were to honestly sing the national anthem, we'd have to reference North Korea and sing "the land of the less enslaved." Singing the dogmatic way would propagate a lie, even if it was melodic and in unison.

A *Free-Man's Take* is written by adventure capitalist, author, and freedom advocate Paul Rosenberg. You can get much more from Paul in his unique monthly newsletter, *Free-Man's Perspective*.



The Gruber Confession

By Charles Krauthammer, The Washington Post, Opinions November 13, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-krauthammer-the-gruber-confession/2014/11/13/474595bc-6b6b-11e4-9fb4-a622dae742a2_story.html

It's not exactly the Ems Dispatch (the diplomatic cable Bismarck doctored to provoke the 1870 Franco-Prussian War). But what the just-resurfaced Gruber Confession lacks in world-historical consequence, it makes up for in world-class cynicism. This October 2013 video shows MIT Professor Jonathan Gruber, a principal architect of Obamacare, admitting that, **in order to get it passed, the law was made deliberately obscure and deceptive.**

It constitutes the ultimate vindication of the charge that Obamacare was sold on a pack of lies.

"Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage," said Gruber. "Basically, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical to getting the thing to pass." This was no open-mic gaffe. It was a clear, indeed enthusiastic, admission to an academic conference of the mendacity underlying Obamacare.

First, Gruber said, the bill's authors manipulated the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which issues gold-standard cost estimates of any legislative proposal: "This bill was written in a tortured way to make sure CBO did not score

the mandate as taxes." Why? Because "if CBO scored the mandate as taxes, the bill dies." And yet, the president himself openly insisted that the individual mandate — what you must pay the government if you fail to buy health insurance — was not a tax.

Worse was the pretense that Obamacare wouldn't cost anyone anything. On the contrary, it's a win-win, insisted President Obama, promising that the "typical family" would save \$2,500 on premiums every year.

Skeptics like me pointed out the obvious: You can't subsidize 30 million uninsured without someone paying something. Indeed, Gruber admits, Obamacare was a huge transfer of wealth — which had to be hidden from the American people, because "if you had a law which . . . made explicit that healthy people pay in and sick people get money, it would not have passed."

Remember: The whole premise of Obamacare was that it would help the needy, but if you were not in need, if you liked what you had, you would be left alone. Which is why Obama kept repeating — PolitiFact counted 31 times — that "if you like your plan, you can keep your plan."

But of course you couldn't, as millions discovered when they were kicked off their plans last year. Millions more were further shocked when they discovered major hikes in their premiums and deductibles. It was their wealth that was being redistributed.

As NBC News and others reported last year, the administration knew this all along. But White House political hands overrode those wary about the president's phony promise. In fact, Obama knew the falsity of his claim as far back as February 2010, when, at a meeting with congressional leaders, he agreed that millions would lose their plans.

Now, it's not unconstitutional to lie. Nor are laws enacted by means of deliberate deception thereby rendered invalid. But it is helpful for citizens to know the cynicism with which the massive federalization of their health care was crafted.

It gets even worse, thanks again to Gruber. Last week, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case claiming that the administration is violating its own health-care law, which clearly specifies that subsidies can be given only to insurance purchased on "exchanges established by the state." Just 13 states have set up such exchanges. Yet the administration is giving tax credits to plans bought on the federal exchange — serving 37 states — despite what the law says.

If the plaintiffs prevail, the subsidy system collapses and, with it, Obamacare itself. Which is why the administration is frantically arguing that “exchanges established by the state” is merely sloppy drafting, a kind of legislative typo. And that the intent all along was to subsidize all plans on all exchanges.

Re-enter Professor Gruber. On a separate video in a different speech, he explains what Obamacare intended: “If you’re a state and you don’t set up an exchange, that means your citizens don’t get their tax credits.” The legislative idea was to coerce states into setting up their own exchanges by otherwise denying their citizens subsidies.

This may have been a stupid idea, but it was no slip. And it’s the law, as written, as enacted and as intended. It can be changed by Congress only, not by the executive. Which is precisely what the plaintiffs are saying. Q.E.D.

It’s refreshing that “the most transparent administration in history,” as this administration fancies itself, should finally display candor about its signature act of social change. Inadvertently, of course. But now we know what lay behind Obama’s smooth reassurances — the arrogance of an academic liberalism, so perfectly embodied in the Gruber Confession, that rules in the name of a citizenry it mocks, disdains and deliberately, contemptuously deceives.



Obama Watch, FATCA on Tour

[Donald Grove](#), Contributing Editor, The Casey Report

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=dopf689gtaf86#7770039827>

Implementation of the infamous Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) got underway in earnest on July 1, 2014. A cacophony of protests and warnings could be heard as that date approached, and it has only grown louder as more and more people realize how startlingly draconian and wrongheaded this legislation is.

Even if one believes that the real objective behind FATCA is, as professed, to snag wealthy overseas tax cheats, it isn’t hard to see that the collateral damage far exceeds any conceivable benefit. Any additional tax revenue will be

dwarfed by compliance costs, lost foreign investment, overseas financial institutions refusing to do business with Americans, and the alarming specter of more and more Americans renouncing their citizenship.

Road Trip

Jim Bopp, a serially successful Supreme Court litigator, and Mike Lee, Republican Senator from Utah, have taken their battle against FATCA on the road. Mike Lee is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who stepped onto the national stage with his rebuttal to President Obama's State of the Union address in January this year. Senator Lee will explain how FATCA can be attacked legislatively.

As I write, they are in Paris addressing attendees of an event sponsored by the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO) and [Republicans Overseas](#). Additional stops are planned for London, Frankfurt, Geneva, and Luxembourg. The tour may even extend to Asia.



Senator Mike Lee

Jim Bopp is preparing to challenge the constitutionality of FATCA in the Supreme Court and will be lining up plaintiffs for that court case during this tour. The AARO told its members that the pair will discuss the court challenge and explain why FATCA is “an invasion of privacy, an overstepping of authority on the part of the Treasury Department, and a tool for ‘cruel and unusual punishment.’” Their tour will build support for FATCA reform among 7.6 million Americans who live and work overseas but mostly do not vote in US elections. Organizers hope to register and get ballots to this huge block of voters—equivalent to the 13th-largest state.

Unwilling Participants

It's easy to understand why foreign banks are closing Americans' accounts and refusing to open new ones: FATCA basically turns them into snitches for the IRS. Overseas Americans are treated like tax evaders—guilty until proven innocent. Foreign financial institutions (FFIs) are required to perform “due diligence” on “suspicious” customers, including flagging those who open accounts using foreign passports but are US citizens or permanent residents of the US. Banks that

are not sufficiently attentive or fail to report suspicious customers risk being deemed “negligent” by the IRS and may be sanctioned.

The US Treasury Department seems quite proud of the fact that foreign banks are complying with FATCA. That compliance is not willing, however. The banks really have no choice. US correspondent banks in New York have been told not to provide correspondent services to foreign banks that don't comply with FATCA. To tighten the noose, US banks have also been told not to do business with any foreign banks that assist banks that are not compliant. Thus, a compliant FFI that assists a noncompliant FFI is shunned by US correspondent banks on which it relies to process its own payments.

Closing the Gates

The poor, if they want to slip away from the clutches of the US before becoming wealthy, have a relatively easy time of it. It is not as easy for the wealthy to escape. The IRS imposes a tax on unrealized capital gains of both citizens renouncing their citizenship and of noncitizen green card holders who have been allowed to live and work in the US. Under Internal Revenue Code § 877A, the property of “covered expatriates” is taxed at 15% on a mark-to-market basis on the day before expatriation.

Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Bob Casey Jr. (D-PA) have more than once tried to enact the Ex-PATRIOT Act (Expatriation Prevention by Abolishing Tax-Related Incentives for Offshore Tenancy). Their bill would have doubled the tax on Americans leaving the US for tax reasons to 30%. These efforts to keep money from leaving our shores are reminiscent of exit taxes imposed on Jews leaving Nazi Germany in the 1930s and by Rhodesia in the 1970s. Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, suggested that Schumer “probably just plagiarized it and translated it from the original German.”

Since 1996 American citizens who renounced their citizenship to avoid taxes could be denied a visa to return to the US. The Ex-PATRIOT Act would have replaced that 1996 Reed Amendment with its own provision denying admission to “specified expatriates” and shifting jurisdiction from the Attorney General to Treasury and Homeland Security.

In 2012, in response to Facebook cofounder Eduardo Saverin renouncing his citizenship, Senator Casey warned that: “We simply cannot allow the ultra-wealthy to write their own rules.” Today many of those renouncing their citizenship aren't the ultra-wealthy evading taxes. Many are overseas Americans who find that they can't do business with FFIs, are not free to make their preferred investments, are hopelessly overburdened by trying to comply with

incomprehensible and complex regulations, and are genuinely afraid of the severe consequences if they make a compliance mistake. Yet Bruce Ash, chairman of Republican Overseas Action Inc., concluded that the Obama administration “is building a virtual Berlin Wall to keep overseas Americans from renouncing their citizenship.”

The Obama administration’s response has been to increase the fee imposed by the State Department on those renouncing citizenship by 422% from \$450 to \$2,350.

The Accidental Kenyan

Finally, the international Internet-based Isaac Brock Society has [filed a complaint with the United Nations](#) on behalf of “‘Accidental Americans’ who now face the horrendous cost of getting rid of a citizenship they didn’t know they had and don’t want.”

I’m reminded of Don Whiteley’s [excellent article in the Vancouver Sun](#), in which he asks: What if Kenya’s tax policy copied the US’s?



Fasten your seatbelts, Canada, and get ready for the battle for America

By [Marc Patrone](#), Sun News network, November 7, 2014

<http://www.calgarysun.com/2014/11/07/fasten-your-seatbelts-canada-and-get-ready-for-the-battle-for-america>



US President Barack Obama speaks during a press conference in the East Room of the White House on November 5, 2014 in Washington, DC. Obama held the press conference one day after his Democratic party was defeated in midterm elections. President Obama congratulated his Republican opponents Wednesday on their midterm election victory and promised to

work constructively with them in Congress for the next two years."Obviously, Republicans had a good night and they deserve credit for running good campaigns," he said, after Republicans took control of the Senate and strengthened their hold on the House of Representatives.

America is on the edge of a second revolutionary war.

It may not be bloody like the first one, but it will be hugely important.

Some might suggest **it's more a civil war, but with liberty and the constitution hanging in the balance**, revolution seems a more appropriate comparison.

There are no British troops or monarchy to fight this time.

The 'shot heard around the world' wasn't fired from a musket, it came from the ballot box.

Americans have taken a long hard look at the kind of fundamental transformation promised by Barack Obama and the Democrat party and they want nothing to do with it.

The Republican victory suggests Americans are more than just unhappy with the direction the country is headed.

Such was the devastating scope of the electoral debacle for the Democrats that it appears Americans are mobilizing for war against the Obama agenda.

They are only now truly beginning to understand the threat to liberty he presents.

What's so deeply troubling, albeit not entirely unexpected, is the disdain, arrogance and contempt with which this president dismissed the results.

"So to everyone who voted, I want you to know I hear you. To the two-thirds of voters who chose not to participate in the process yesterday, I hear you, too," he said.

Meaning what?

He seems to be suggesting that by not voting, the majority of Americans agree with what he's doing.

Terrifying? You bet.

It's taken six years, but the ugly truth about Obama's contemptuous attitudes toward the people who elected him twice is becoming all too evident.

Lame duck? Guess again.

The man probably realizes that a chance to remake the U.S. according to his far left view of the world may not come around again.

His time is running out. Obama's 'nuclear' option is amnesty for millions of illegals.

He expects those illegals will become dependents of the state, thus stacking the electoral deck in favour of Democrats by promising the new 'wards of the state' a suite of entitlements.

The depth of this destructive agenda is clear, rip off trillions in wealth (which Obama believes was stolen anyway) and give it to those whom he considers 'victims' of capitalism.

The beneficiaries will naturally reward the progressive left with voter support into perpetuity. Viola, the progressive dream of a one-party state is realized.

This has been decades in the making. The left has infiltrated, corrupted, and subverted the institutions that had, up to now, served as pillars supporting freedom, democracy, and prosperity.

The bulk of what was once a free and independent media has been reduced to little more than an arm of the Democrats.

That tens of millions of Americans are flocking to Fox News, Conservative talk radio and online news sites is heartening but doesn't change the fact most TV, print media outlets are in an advanced state of putrid, cancerous liberal rot.

The same cancer has undermined the school system, 'big labour,' the environmental movement, and the Hollywood culture machine.

Even capitalism itself has succumbed to the lure of easy government money, power and cronyism.

So who is left to fight for freedom? The rest of America.

Obama will attempt to ram through amnesty, climate change, wealth redistribution and he will ignore the constitution to do it.

Republicans have assured Obama impeachment is off the table. And so the battle lines are drawn.

Fasten your seatbelts Canada, we're about to get a front-row seat to the battle for the soul of America and indeed the free world.

Let's hope that, as in the first revolutionary war, that the right side wins.

If it doesn't, we all lose.



Women were demonstrating for a very important right, 1933.





U.N. sending thousands of Muslims to America Resettlement will cost billions of dollars

[Leo Hohmann](#), WND, December 13, 2014



Syrian refugees displaced by civil war.

The federal government is preparing for another “surge” in refugees and this time they won’t be coming illegally from Central America.

The U.S. State Department announced this week that the first major contingent of Syrian refugees, 9,000 of them, have been hand-selected by the United Nations for resettlement into communities across the United States.

The announcement came [Tuesday on the State Department's website](#).

[WND reported in September](#) that Syrians would make up the next big wave of Muslim refugees coming to the U.S., as resettlement agencies were lobbying for the U.S. to accept at least 75,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years.

Until now, the U.S. had accepted only 300 of the more than 3.2 million refugees created by the Syrian civil war in which ISIS, El Nusra and other Sunni Muslim jihadist rebels are locked in a protracted battle with the Shiite regime of Bashar al-Assad.

But the U.S. government has been the most active of all nations in accepting Islamic refugees from other war-torn countries, such as Iraq, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Now, the Syrians will be added to the mix. They are cleared for refugee status by the U.N. high commissioner on refugees (UNHCR), who assigns them to various

countries. Once granted refugee status by the U.N. they are screened by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for any ties to terrorist organizations.

The State Department announcement makes it clear that the 9,000 refugees represent just the beginning of an extended program to accept more Syrians.

“The United States accepts the majority of all UNHCR referrals from around the world. Last year, we reached our goal of resettling nearly 70,000 refugees from nearly 70 countries. And we plan to lead in resettling Syrians as well,” the statement reads. “We are reviewing some 9,000 recent UNHCR referrals from Syria. We are receiving roughly a thousand new ones each month, and we expect admissions from Syria to surge in 2015 and beyond.”

The United States, with its commitment to accepting 70,000 displaced people a year, absorbs more refugees than all other countries combined. This number is understated, however, as once refugees get to the United States they are placed on a fast track to citizenship and are able to get their extended families to join them in the states under the government's Refuge Family Reunification program.

The State Department works to place refugees in 180 cities across 49 states.

[Click here to view the database containing all 180 cities accepting U.N. refugees for resettlement.](#)

Despite the large numbers, the U.S. has come under criticism from aid groups for its pace in taking in refugees from the Syrian war, which is by far the largest refugee crisis of recent years, reported Ann Corcoran of [Refugee Resettlement Watch](#).

U.S. officials say the resettlement program has moved slowly because the United Nations refugee agency, which they look to for referrals, didn't begin making recommendations until late last year. And the United States takes 18 to 24 months on average to carefully vet each applicant to make sure he or she poses no security risk.

Muslim countries in the Middle East have so far not stepped up to permanently take in their Islamic brothers and sisters although the temporary refugee camps to which the Syrians have fled are in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.



Syrian refugee camps like this one have popped up in Jordan and Lebanon.

The State Department announcement was careful to explain that the U.S. will take in only those Syrians who are “persecuted by their government.” Christians in Syria are being killed by ISIS and other Muslim rebels, not by “their government,” but the Sunni Muslims are being killed by the Shiite-led government.

It also would not take 18 to 24 months to “vet” Christian refugees for security purposes.

“There is no doubt the majority of Syrians to be admitted to the U.S. will be Muslims because it would be unlikely there would be a ‘security risk’ with the Christians,” according to Corcoran.

She said screening has become more rigorous since 2009, when authorities were alarmed to discover that two members of al-Qaeda had entered the country posing as Iraqi refugees. That concern has been sharpened by worries that fighters from the Islamic State militant group may try to enter the United States.

The United States has accepted nearly [2 million refugees from Muslim countries since 1992](#), WND previously reported. The authority for the resettlement program is the Refugee Act of 1980, signed into law by President Jimmy Carter.

On Tuesday, Anne C. Richard, assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration, said at a U.N. meeting in Geneva that the Obama administration was going to step up its efforts because the refugee outflow had swelled “to a mass exodus.”

At the Geneva meeting, 28 countries agreed to take in 66,000 refugees. But that was far short of the 300,000 Syrians that officials at the U.N. refugee agency believe need to be permanently resettled.

Corcoran alerted readers of her blog who live in cities already stocked with large numbers of refugees that they should contact their members of Congress if they have concerns about getting new shipments of displaced persons. The added burden that refugees put on social services has prompted several mayors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to request that the federal government shut off the refugee spigot, [as reported recently by WND](#). The mayor of Athens, Georgia, Nancy Denson, has requested that her city not be added to the list of cities accepting refugees until a full accounting of the costs can be tabulated.

Richard, in her announcement, said resettlement agencies and “charities” are already mobilizing to help the soon arrival of new Syrian refugees.

“Like most other refugees resettled in the United States, they will get help from the International Organization for Migration with medical exams and transportation to the United States. Once they arrive, networks of resettlement agencies, charities, churches, civic organizations and local volunteers will welcome them. These groups work in 180 communities across the country and make sure refugees have homes, furniture, clothes, English classes, job training, health care and help enrolling their children in school. They are now preparing key contacts in American communities to welcome Syrians.”

What Richard fails to mention is that most of the resettlement work done by the above network of agencies is taxpayer funded through various grants distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Refugee Resettlement Program.

The nine contractors that lobbied for more Syrian refugees are:

- [Church World Service \(CWS\)](#)
- [Ethiopian Community Development Council \(ECDC\)](#)
- [Episcopal Migration Ministries \(EMM\)](#)
- [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society \(HIAS\)](#)
- [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#)
- [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants \(USCRI\)](#)
- [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services \(LIRS\)](#)
- [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#)
- [World Relief Corp. \(WR\)](#)

The cost of resettling 70,000 refugees comes to just over \$1 billion per year to the U.S. government, according to [a State Department report for fiscal 2015](#). This includes running the program and issuing federal grants to the nine resettlement agencies. The \$1 billion figure does not include the cost of the unaccompanied alien children program, supplying food stamps, subsidized housing, interpreters,

Medicaid, WIC, temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) and educating the children, much of which falls to states and localities.

Corcoran estimates that, taken in total, the cost of the U.S. refugee resettlement program could run as high as \$10 billion per year.

“Those numbers are just not obtainable,” she said.

That also does not include the potential cost of security risks. [WND reported in September](#) that 22 Somali-Americans brought in through the refugee program have been documented by the FBI to have left the country to fight for Al-Shabab, a terrorist organization in Somalia, while several others have gone to fight for the Islamic State, also called ISIS, in Syria. Dozens of others have been prosecuted for sending money or other material support to terrorist organizations.

Several of the resettlement agencies, [such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#), have posted statements on their websites welcoming President Obama's recent executive action granting amnesty to up to 5 million illegal aliens. The religious “charities” conduct their refugee resettlement work with government grants accounting for 90 to 98 percent of their budgets, as previously reported by WND.

Leo Hohmann is a news editor for WND. He has been a reporter and editor at several suburban newspapers in the Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina, areas and also served as managing editor of Triangle Business Journal in Raleigh, North Carolina.



GLOBAL WARMING

'Climate Change' in the Land of Gruber/Obama

Roger L Simon, pjmedia.com, November 12th, 2014

<http://pjmedia.com/rogersimon/2014/11/12/climate-change-in-the-land-of-gruberobama/?singlepage=true>

Soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is "distressed" by the new deal on "climate change" (*née* "global warming") made between China and the U.S. on Obama's trip to Beijing.

I know McConnell is from Kentucky and takes energy policy seriously, but he should relax. There's about as much chance of this agreement being honored as I have winning next year's Derby... as the horse. The reason is so simple I will abandon propriety and put it in caps: NO ONE BELIEVES IT!

And there are so many reasons for that I could fill several posts but I'll give just a few. You can add more.

1. Most Americans don't think Obama tells the truth about anything, let alone something as controversial as climate. They just made that clear by voting him down in about 237 elections, if you believe Obama's own assertion that his own policies were on trial.

2. No one really knows if "climate change" exists or, if it does, whether its danger is remotely worth the money to correct it, although we do know that "global warming" has not occurred for eighteen years and counting and there is, if anything, global cooling with record lows being set everywhere, the Antarctic ice cap also at record levels, etc. (Yes, yes, climate is not weather, blablabla. Climate is... anything you want to say it is.)

3. Anyone who still believes in "climate change" is likely to be: a. a profiteer (like the financial wizards who put together those "carbon exchanges" a few years back, making off with billions before they went belly up), b. a scientist looking for a handout, c. a bureaucrat or official of a Third World country looking for a handout, d. an official of the UN (virtually the same as c), e. a moral narcissist, preferably rich, who thinks he knows better than us idiots, scientific training not required (cf. Tom Steyer, this year's George Soros wannabe), f. a true-believing liberal camp follower of the sort that doesn't care when Nancy Pelosi says you have to pass Obamacare in order to know what's in it (this is the largest group), or g. a journalist blinded by panic about losing their job if they dare to tell even part of the truth or wander off the reservation.

How do the Chinese figure in all this? Since they break into practically every computer we own, we can assume they also read our newspapers and watch Fox News (maybe even MSNBC, Heaven help them). Besides Obama's being a lame duck who was clobbered in the last election, they are fully aware of his myriad lies and prevarications from "If like your plan..." to red lines in Syria. No one trusts him, even members of his own party.

The Chinese therefore know any deal with Obama is just for show, meaningless. But to make doubly sure, they arranged for the language in the agreement to say "intend" to reduce their emissions by such-and-such by 2020 — "intend," the mother of all wiggle words. (I "intend" to win the Oscar in 2016, even though I have not written the script yet.) Actually, the Chinese, as usual, did a brilliant job of using Obama for their own propaganda, knowing full well that he was desperate to be back in the news for something positive, preferably as far from D.C. as possible.

It's worth noting that the Chinese do have a bad pollution (not "global warming" or whatever anti-science Lysenkoist junk term Obama and his cronies want to concoct) problem. But my guess is they will get around to solving it themselves for selfish reasons. Beijing air quality is horrible. The Politburo can't stay inside at the Ritz Carlton *all the time*. Obama's will have nothing to do with it.

So, as I said, Mitch McConnell should relax. Not that he shouldn't oppose the deal, but in the end this will be the least of his problems. Obama is only making a fool of himself, at least in the eyes of the Chinese and probably most people who see the reality of the situation.

But not as a big a fool as Jonathan Gruber, the MIT professor and putative architect of Obamacare, who has been caught on three videos explaining why it was necessary to overcomplicate and lie about the Affordable Care Act in order to pass it. (At least he read it. I doubt Obama did and I know Pelosi didn't.) Besides the professor's sleazy Gramscian elitism that doesn't do much for the reputation of MIT, Gruber has something unconscious and disconnected about him that suggests a personality disorder. He doesn't seem to quite *get* why people might be upset that his deliberate obscurantism completely undermines democracy and the founding documents of our country. After all, he means well. (The ends justify the means meets Asperger Syndrome)

In fact, it's actually quite fascist, reminiscent of Mussolini in a way. But that makes Gruber the perfect adviser for Barack Obama, whose approach to governing is becoming ever closer to Il Duce's statism. No doubt the professor is very concerned about "climate change." I wouldn't be surprised if he would

like to see all “denialists” removed from the MIT faculty. Fortunately for Richard Lindzen, he has already retired.



California Drought Linked to Natural Causes, Not Climate Change

By Becky Oskin, , December 8, 2014

<http://news.yahoo.com/california-drought-linked-natural-causes-not-climate-change-230935805.html>



Trinity Lake in northern California, one of the state's largest water reservoirs, was at 30 percent capacity in August. This photo shows the lake in February.

Natural temperature swings in the ocean, not global warming, are driving California's extreme drought, according to a new government study.

Researchers said sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean set up an atmospheric roadblock off the West Coast that diverted winter storms away from California. The state relies on winter rain and snow for most of its yearly water.

The roadblock is a [persistent ridge of high pressure](#) that first formed in 2011 during a La Niña event. Even though La Niña broke down after the 2011-2012 winter, the western equatorial Pacific Ocean remained a warm water bull's-eye, a pattern known to trigger droughts in the Southwest and California, the researchers report.

In the new study, scientists determined that the high-pressure system, dubbed the "ridiculously resilient ridge" by a California forecaster, continued through the 2013-2014 winter because of these favorable ocean temperatures. The pool of warm water generates atmospheric winds that form patterns of high and low pressure (called planetary waves) that can get stuck off western North America as a high-pressure ridge. [[The 5 Worst Droughts in US History](#)]

The ridge and its accompanying drought are opposite the conditions that climate models predict under global warming, lead study author Richard Seager, a professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York, said today (Dec. 8) during a news briefing. Climate models project low-pressure systems off the West Coast, with wetter winters and drier springs for central and northern California, he said. "Overall, it's a shorter, sharper rainy season," Seager said.

The report, "[Causes and Predictability of the 2011-14 California Drought](#)," was released today by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal. The study compares drought observations with 160 climate model simulations to tease out the most important factors controlling the [drought](#). The researchers plan to submit the work to the Journal of Climate, Seager said.

The study authors are not questioning whether climate change exists, only its effects on the short-term drought.

"There is no question global warming continues to unfold," said Marty Hoerling, study co-author and a researcher with NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. "The three-year drought is not related to the overall warming, but [[droughts in California](#)] are something that happens time and time again."

Scientists not involved with the study, such as Penn State meteorologist Michael Mann, criticized the report for not including the effects of California's record-high temperatures in 2014. Heat makes droughts drier by amplifying moisture loss from soil and plants and increasing water demand.

According to the new report, which measures drought by precipitation, last winter was California's sixth-driest since 1895, and the state's three-year drought is second only to the historic 1974 to 1977 dry spell, which sparked California's first big water conservation movement.

But if one measures drought by soil moisture, an indicator of both precipitation and temperature, then California's drought is the [worst in 1,200 years](#), according

to a study published last week (Dec. 3) in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.



Obama's Biggest Taxpayer Funded Classrooms Used For Teaching Global Warming Doctrine



Even as we're heading into the colder months of the winter season, your thoughts may be turning to the kind of vacation you'd like to take when the weather turns warmer. Some of the more popular destinations in America are, of course, our treasured National Parks.

According to a recent article in [The Washington Post](#), there are some 400 National Parks throughout the United States visited each year by about 280 million people. Greeting, guiding, and working with many of those visitors are uniformed Park Rangers, numbering close to 4,000.

And now, recognizing that those Rangers enjoy a relatively high degree of credibility with the children and adults they contact, the National Park Service has added a new duty to the list of work requirements — talking to visitors about global warming.

[Nationaljournal.com](#) features a lengthy post explaining how the thousands of Rangers in America's National Parks — often seen as teachers about, and protectors of, the environments within which they work — can have a tremendous influence on visitors.

National parks are on the front lines of climate change. And park rangers are increasingly delivering the message that global warming is taking a toll on the iconic areas.

The [National Journal](#) article explains how Park Rangers — operating with an unquestioning belief in the “proven science” of climate change — recognize they are uniquely positioned to teach. They take the “opportunity to turn parks into open-air classrooms.”

Educational efforts have ramped up in recent years. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which spans parts of North Carolina and Tennessee, has hosted climate-science workshops for high school and middle school teachers as well as college professors.

California’s Golden Gate National Recreation Area produces a podcast that discusses global warming. The visitors’ center at Yosemite National Park in California is chock-full of climate change brochures and fact sheets.

Though some Rangers reportedly avoid getting into debates with those labelled as “climate change deniers,” a new Obama initiative aimed at energizing the Rangers’ pro-active global warming education efforts might change that.

Earlier this month, the White House issued a directive asking the Park Service to create a national blueprint for climate education.

“We still have some park managers who think it’s too controversial to talk about climate change,” says Julia Washburn, the Park Service associate director for interpretation and education. “This nationwide plan will really show that this is a priority.”

And what about the presentation of opposing viewpoints from those who don’t buy into the man-made global warming narrative?

While there’s no indication the National Park Service will present, or even acknowledge, opposing opinions and theories to the officially adopted, Obama-approved climate change curriculum, [we are told](#) that Rangers will be kind enough not to force unwilling vacationers to sit through a global warming lecture.

...visitors who don't believe in global warming may opt out of educational talks and leave climate brochures sitting on the shelves of visitor centers.



The Fires of Mount (Climate) Doom

Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow, December 13, 2014

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=daeno9ffb3khl#160606621>

As the UN climate conference (COP 20) draws to its conclusion in Lima, it's clear **the climate crowd is making some progress on certain aspects of a new treaty**. Yes, on matters such as "loss and damage," "verification," and most importantly the Green Climate Fund (i.e. money) there is still a bit of work to do, but Mordor remains confident it will have something fearsome ready to unleash on Middle Earth next year in Paris.

Particular "progress" seems to have been made on the **Green Climate Fund** in Lima this week. **This fund, you may recall, was the brainchild of Hillary Clinton after the Copenhagen meeting in 2009**, where it was proposed that \$100 billion would be collected from developed nations to be redistributed to developing nations to manage their climate challenges. While this was agreed to in principle, scant dollars have actually been donated to this fund ... until recently. Now, thanks to pledges from Japan, Canada, U.S. and others, some \$10 billion is headed to the kitty, and this June, developing countries can line up to start putting in their dibs. This may be the most important development coming out of Lima.



The verification issue, on the other hand, has been another matter at COP 20. The EU, which is set to make severe cutbacks on its own CO2 emissions by 2030, is dead set on making sure others follow suit. It wants some sort of assurance

that if they are going to kill their economy with energy rationing -- everybody else has to do the same. The rest of the world, however, isn't so sure it wants join them. Will this impasse over verification be enough to scuttle the process? Probably not. If the past is any rule, such wrinkles can still typically be ironed out through diplomatic maneuvering in the coming years after Paris. Time will tell.

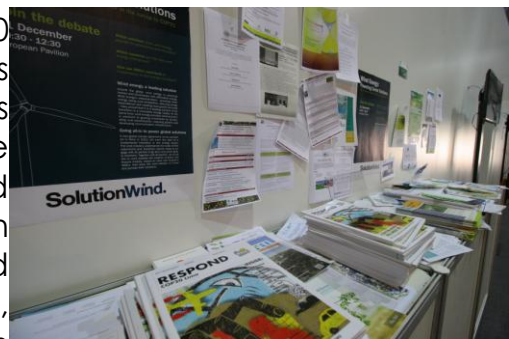
What isn't discussed much in Lima, outside of CFACT and a few allies, is the science. Despite the fact the scientific consensus on a number of climate issues is crumbling, few at least in this conference seem to care. Sea ice is increasing, polar bear numbers are growing, the Antarctic is expanding, and there's been no global warming in over 18 years -- but none of this seems to matter to the alarmist faithful. Least of all to John Kerry who, having kicked CFACT out of its press conference early to do a photo-op, arrived to deliver an Al Gore-style speech of gloom and doom.

Secretary of State John F. Kerry called climate change perhaps "the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." He painted a picture of looming drought and famine, massive floods and deadly storms as a result of global warming, and then labeled those who denied the evidence of climate change as "shoddy scientists and extreme ideologues." Clearly he was playing to the crowd.



Hypocrisy was also on display in Lima as COP 20 scored the biggest carbon footprint of any such summits to date.

As reported in the UK Daily Mail, COP 20 produced emissions a whopping 1.5 times above the norm. In fact, the 50,000 tons emitted during the conference emits is what the entire country Peru pumps out in six hours and 40 minutes. It is more than eight times as much carbon as the 2009 Copenhagen talks and twice that of the 2010 conference in Cancun, Mexico, according to the U.N. Not much remorse found on the faces of delegates here, however, who tend to shrug it off as the price to be had for saving the planet.



CFACT for its part accomplished quite a bit in the final days of COP 20. In addition to breaking the story on Greenpeace desecrating historical monuments and getting the science out through various press briefings, media

interviews and meetings with delegates, it was also able to forge new alliances with friends and allies in Peru. These friendships will be useful in coming years as the battle widens to other parts of the world.

The battle for Middle Earth is far from over.

For nature and people too,



Craig Rucker
Executive Director

P.S. Obama, Kerry and the rest mean to force this treaty down our throats. People need to know the facts.



GENERAL TOPICS

Think Before You Donate Think Before You Donate

Here is a timely reminder before you open up your wallet during this Holiday season. Whether or not you use the following requested ones, these can all be checked out on the internet. Ask to show an accounting of where the money goes. By law it must be made public.

GOODWILL - CEO and owner, Mark Curran, profits \$2.3 million a year. Goodwill is a very catchy name for his business. You donate to his business and then he sells the items for PROFIT. He pays nothing for his products and pays his workers minimum wage! Nice Guy. \$0.00 goes to help anyone! Stop giving to this man.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS - President and CEO Marsha J. Evans' salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses.

MARCH OF DIMES - It is called the March of Dimes because only a dime for every 1 dollar is given to the needy.

THE UNITED WAY - President, Brian Gallagher, receives a \$375,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.

UNICEF - CEO Carl M. Stern receives \$1,200,000 per year (100k per month) plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE. Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.

**INSTEAD GIVE IT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING GO "GREEN"
AND PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT WILL DO SOME GOOD:**

THE SALVATION ARMY Commissioner, Todd Bassett, receives a small salary of only \$13,000 per year (plus housing) for managing this \$2 billion dollar organization. 96% of donated dollars go to the cause.

THE AMERICAN LEGION National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

THE MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEARTS National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

MAKE A WISH For children's last wishes. 100% goes to funding trips or special wishes for a dying child.

ST. JUDE RESEARCH HOSPITAL 100% goes towards funding and helping Children with Cancer who have no insurance and cannot afford to pay.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSES All monies go to running the houses for parents who have critically ill Children in the hospital. 100% goes to housing, and feeding the families.

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL 100% of donations go to help the blind, buy hearing aids, support medical missions around the world. Their latest undertaking is measles vaccinations (only \$1.00 per shot).

If you belong to a church, give there. You know where that donation goes.



The Brown Recluse Spider

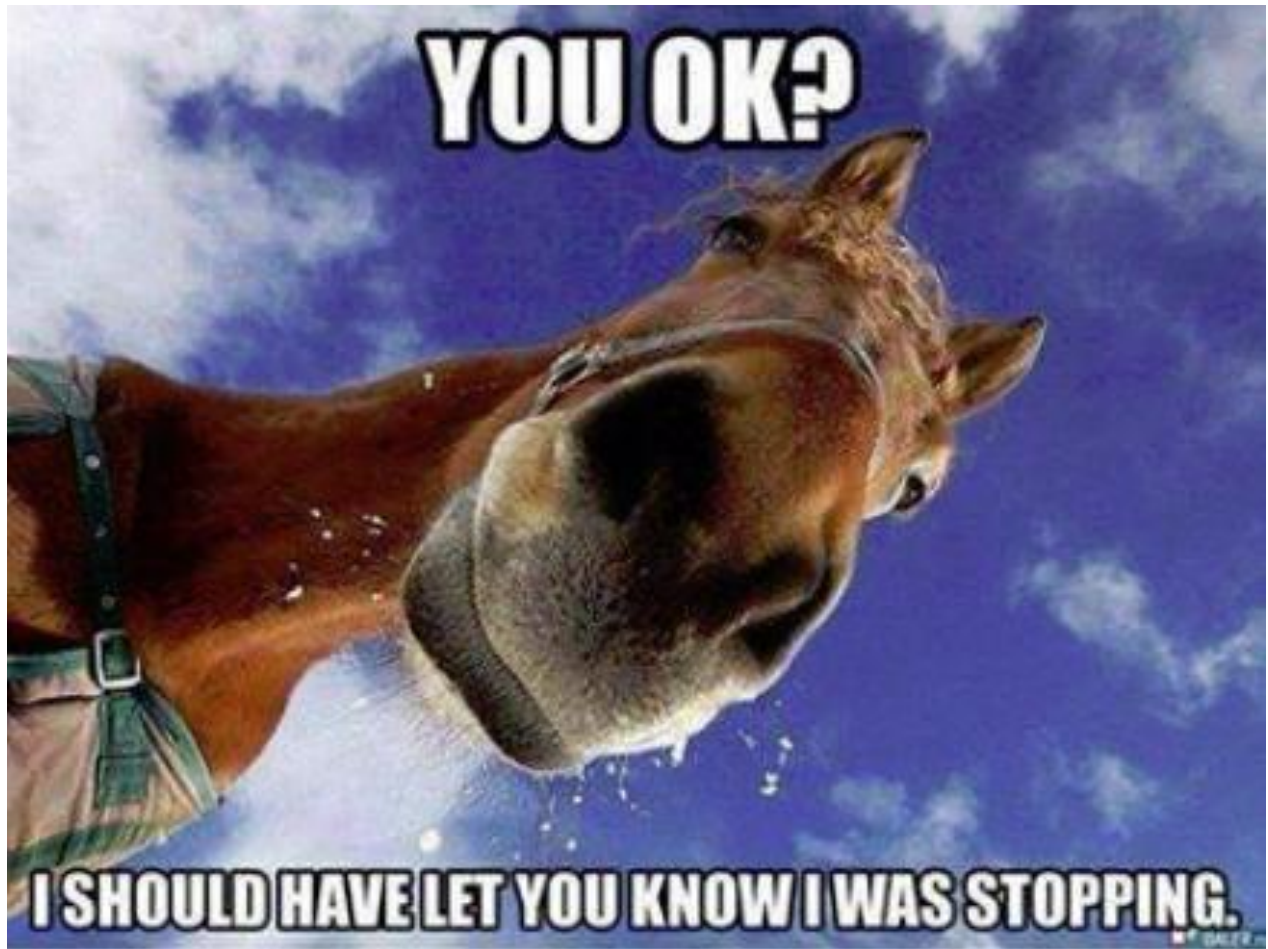


WBTB News

Watch out for brown recluse spiders in your home as temperatures drop

A 5-year-old AL boy was buried today after being bitten earlier this week

WHAT TO LOOK FOR » <http://shout.lt/MnTP>



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<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>
