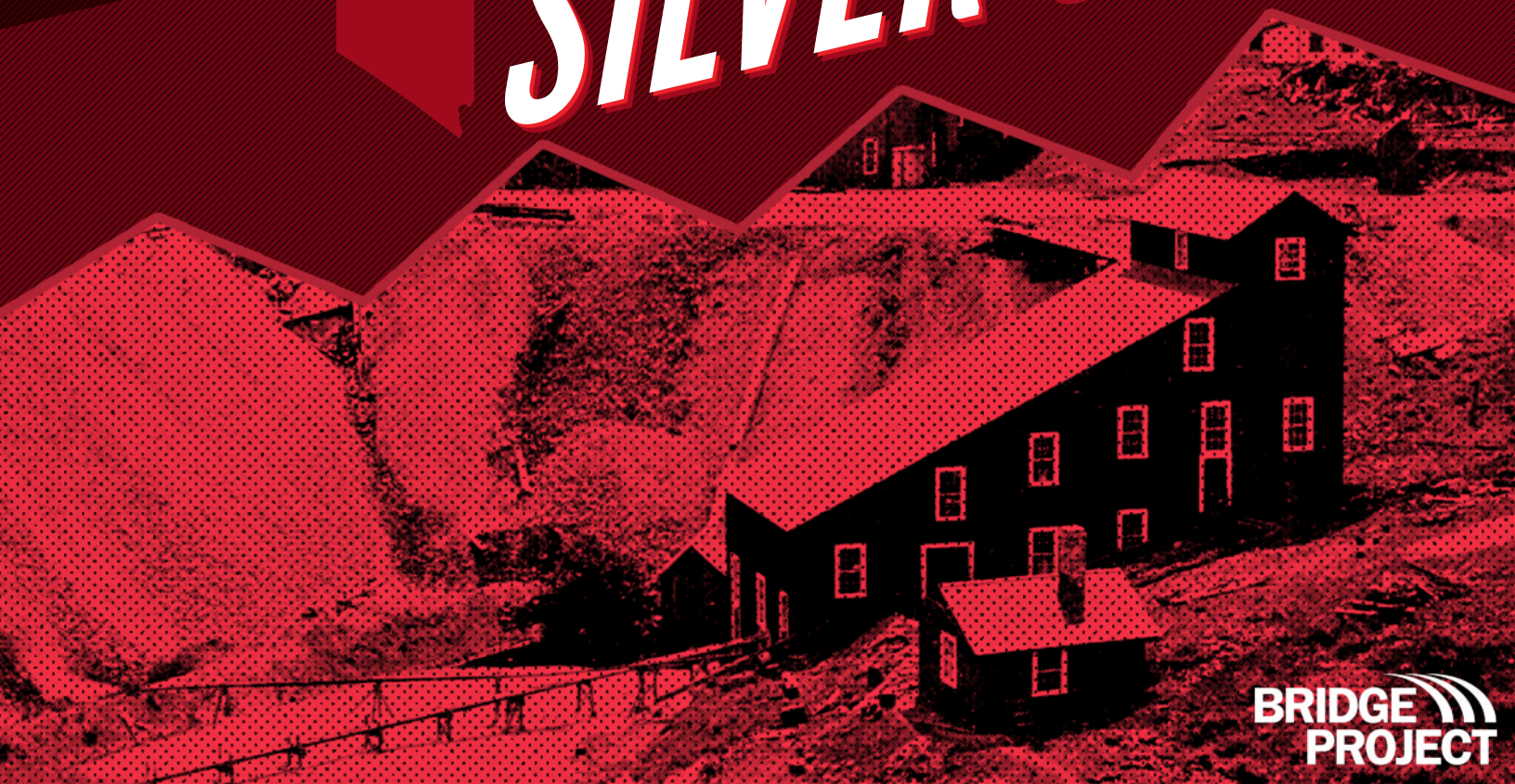




KOCH RUSH IN THE SILVER STATE



KOCH RUSH IN THE SILVER STATE

As Elvis might sing, Charles and David Koch “got a whole lot of money that’s ready to burn,” and, not to be outshone by fellow billionaire political donor and Las Vegas Sands Corporation CEO Sheldon Adelson, they’re using their resources to expand the reach of their industrial-political network across the Silver State.

Koch Industries has assets in Nevada, drawn to the state by natural resources and favorable tax policies. Politically, The Koch brothers have long had a voice in Nevada through the State Policy Network’s Nevada Policy Research Institute (NPRI), and in recent years have sought to move more aggressively into the increasingly important early primary and swing state. The network’s expansion into Nevada includes partnerships with Adelson’s political team, as well as a new corporate location and extensive electoral work by Koch-funded front groups Americans for Prosperity, Concerned Veterans for America, and the LIBRE Initiative.

The Kochs expanded their corporate empire into Nevada with their 2005 purchase of Georgia-Pacific, which maintains a facility in North Las Vegas focused on the manufacture of drywall. The company, whose North Las Vegas facility has spent several recent quarters in violation of the Clean Air Act, was the focus of lawsuits in 2009 when tainted drywall that affected homeowners throughout Nevada and the rest of the country was traced back to Georgia-Pacific, which eventually settled a lawsuit. And in 2014, Koch Business Solutions announced a new Reno facility, coordinated by the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, whose method of connecting businesses to state and local tax incentives to attract them to Nevada had been relentlessly attacked as cronyism by the Koch-affiliated NPRI.

But Koch Industries’ involvement in Nevada pales in comparison to the reach of the brothers’ political empire. NPRI, which has received extensive Koch-network funding as a member of the State Policy Network, has spent years pushing the Kochs’ agenda in the state, attacking the state government as bloated even as it ranked as the “leanest state government in the country,” and lobbying to fight business taxes and cut education spending while the government starved for resources and students struggled. At one point, NPRI suggested offering businesses tax credits to set up on-site schools, such as “Harrah’s High School.” NPRI’s contributions to Nevada’s policy debates have been described by Democrats, Republicans, and independent commentators alike as “idiotic,” “thoughtless,” “snarky sneering,” and “ideological hackery” from “narrow minds.” Political journalist and commentator Jon Ralston once remarked that NPRI’s “overweening hypocrisy” was “polluting the dialogue.”

One focus of the Koch network’s Nevada efforts is a vicious attack on public lands, which polling shows is clearly more of a corporate priority than one held by Nevadans. Together with the American Legislative Exchange Council and the American Lands Council, which received Americans for Prosperity funding, Koch-backed NPRI pushed for the transfer of federally-controlled lands to state governments, where the lands would then be sold to private corporations for whatever their billionaire owners desire; the Kochs, for instance, own several companies focused on natural resource extraction and would love to get their hands on this land. This opportunity for more profits led the Americans for Prosperity affiliate in Nevada to quickly praise the anti-government extremist rancher Cliven Bundy’s refusal to recognize federal land ownership, only to scrub their support after Bundy offered some antiquated (to put it mildly) thoughts on the upside of slavery.

Siding with a slavery sympathizer didn’t dissuade AFP’s further involvement in Nevada politics. It didn’t stop them from interfering in Nevada by voicing support for legislation opening Yucca Mountain up for nuclear waste disposal. And it didn’t affect the involvement of any other Koch-funded front group.

The Koch network has long antagonized Sen. Harry Reid, while at the same time boosting the political ambitions (and coffers) of Representative Joe Heck. When Nevada Republicans made a bid for Reid’s seat in 2010, it was a former NPRI staffer they chose in Sharron Angle, who received support from numerous Koch groups. All the while, the Kochs’ LIBRE Initiative has been building the GOP’s voter rolls through “community events” designed to get the contact information of Latino voters in Nevada under the guise of helping the community, while opposing policies that actually benefit Latinos. Other groups operate in similar ways: AFP endorsed the Ryan Budget, which an independent analysis found would increase Medicare premiums by over \$100 for over half of Nevada beneficiaries, and Concerned Veterans for America supported voucherizing the healthcare veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs, which serves over 225,000 Nevadans.

With the looming retirement of Sen. Reid and Nevada’s swing-state status, Nevadans can only look forward to more of the “Koch Rush in the Silver State” as the 2016 campaign heats up. In Vegas – everyone can be a winner. But if the Kochs have their way, the only winners in Nevada will be the Kochs and their billionaire friends.

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KOCH INDUSTRIES

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC Had A Facility In North Las Vegas. According to the EPA's ECHO Database, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC was located at 11401 US Highway 91, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030. [EPA ECHO Database, accessed [7/22/15](#)]

Koch Business Solutions Opened An Office In Reno. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, "Koch Business Solutions, a shared-services company for subsidiaries of Koch Industries Inc., will open a new satellite applications center in Reno. The announcement was made Thursday at the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada investors luncheon at the Peppermill. The company plans to hire about 20 people in the first year." [Las Vegas Review-Journal, [3/13/15](#)]

Georgia-Pacific

ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum In North Las Vegas Received A Notice Of Violation Of The Clean Air Act On November 21, 2012. [EPA ECHO Database, accessed [7/20/15](#)]

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum In North Las Vegas Received A Fine Of \$16,000 For Violation Of The Clean Air Act On January 9, 2013. [EPA ECHO Database, accessed [7/20/15](#)]

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum In North Las Vegas Received A Fine Of \$16,000 For Violation Of The Clean Air Act On January 17, 2013. [EPA ECHO Database, accessed [7/20/15](#)]

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum In North Las Vegas Was In "Significant Violation" Of The Clean Air Act For 3 Quarters Of 12, A "High Priority Violation." [EPA ECHO Database, accessed [7/20/15](#)]

DRYWALL LAWSUITS

Drywall Was Manufactured In The Las Vegas Area By Georgia-Pacific. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Local building officials have said it would be unusual for drywall to be imported into Las Vegas, since drywall is manufactured in the Las Vegas area by Georgia-Pacific and others. And the Southern Nevada Health District is not aware of any local health problems associated with Chinese drywall, a spokeswoman said Friday." [Las Vegas Sun, 8/21/09]

Nevada Homeowners Were Affected By Tainted Drywall. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Imported Chinese drywall is causing health problems for occupants of homes in two Las Vegas neighborhoods, lawyers charge in a lawsuit filed Thursday. But the builder says Chinese drywall wasn't used in homes named in the lawsuit. Attorneys who handle construction defect lawsuits filed suit in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas against subsidiaries of Miami-based homebuilder Lennar Corp. and drywall manufacturer Georgia-Pacific Corp. of Atlanta. The suit, seeking class-action status for all Nevadans suffering health problems because of imported Chinese drywall, was filed by the law firm Fuller Jenkins on behalf of owners of four homes." [Las Vegas Sun, 8/21/09]

Georgia-Pacific Denied Importing Tainted Chinese Drywall; However A Florida Lawsuit Named Domestically-Manufactured Georgia-Pacific Drywall As Also Tainted. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Also Friday, a Georgia-Pacific spokeswoman said the company does not import drywall from China as it manufactures the product at plants in North America. 'To our knowledge, we have received no complaints similar to those reported for Chinese drywall from any homeowners in Nevada,' Georgia-Pacific spokeswoman Melodie Ruse said. The company, however, was sued in Florida in April by homeowners claiming certain of its American-made synthetic drywall products are also causing corrosion in home components and health problems by allegedly emitting sulfur, methane and other volatile organic chemical compounds." [Las Vegas Sun, 8/21/09]

The Plaintiff's Lawyer Noted That Georgia-Pacific Drywall Taken From Las Vegas Homes Tested Positive For Similar Problems As Tainted Chinese Drywall. According to the Las Vegas Business Press, "Plaintiffs' lawyer Craig Fuller,

of the Fuller Jenkins' La Jolla office, said drywall samples were taken from the homes of plaintiffs' and sent to a lab in Tennessee for testing. The results showed 'the drywall had the characteristics of toxic Chinese drywall,' he added. 'Toxic Chinese drywall emits hydrogen sulfate and other toxic contaminants. Some of the drywall we tested came from Georgia-Pacific,' he said." [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/7/09]

The Plaintiff's Lawyer Suggested That The Byproduct-Using Drywall Manufacturing Process Was Responsible For The Tainted Drywall. Georgia-Pacific According to Las Vegas Business Press, "However, the plaintiffs' attorney said it is possible Georgia-Pacific manufactured its own drywall instead of importing it from China. But he [Craig Fuller] called the company's manufacturing process into question. 'We believe Georgia-Pacific manufactures its own drywall but uses coal fly ash in its content.'" [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/7/09]

Georgia-Pacific Spokeswoman Said That 'Fly Ash' Wasn't Used In Their Drywall, But Said That Synthetic Gypsum Made From Coal Plant Byproduct Was Used. According to Las Vegas Business Press, "[Melodie] Ruse denied that Georgia-Pacific used 'fly ash' in its processing. Fly ash is a byproduct produced when coal is burned to generate electricity. The New York Times reported in December that a 2007 Environmental Protection Agency study found that the ash contains significant amounts of carcinogens. Ruse said Georgia-Pacific uses natural gypsum rock and synthetic gypsum in its wallboard. The synthetic gypsum 'is a byproduct of coal-burning utilities that scrub their exhaust to remove sulfur and sulfate,' she added." [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/7/09]

CBS Testing Showed That Some American Drywalls Had Higher Sulfur Emissions Than Chinese Drywall. According to CBS Evening News, "[Armen] KETERYIAN: Traditionally, drywall was made from the white mineral gypsum. In its pure form, gypsum emits no gas or odor. Bad drywall, however, is darker. We wanted to compare American and Chinese drywall so we purchased random samples of new American-made drywall in six U.S. cities and new Chinese-made drywall in China. We also collected samples of drywall from five damaged homes in the U.S. And had everything sent to the University of Florida to be tested by a team of researchers led by professor Tim Townsend, a scientist and leading expert on the effects of drywall on the environment. His team spent five months running a multitude of tests on the samples we provided. The results were revealing. TIM TOWNSEND: It's not as black-and-white as saying the Chinese drywall is bad and all the drywall is good. KETERYIAN: As expected, the contaminated Chinese samples gave off high levels of sulfur gases. Surprisingly, all but one U.S. sample emitted sulfur gases as well. Not at levels as high as the defective Chinese product, but unexpected. Even more surprising ... TOWNSEND: The were [sic] some American products that we tested that had higher emissions than some of these new Chinese products that we tested." [CBS Evening News, 11/23/09]

Nearly Half Of American Drywall Was Made Of Synthetic Gypsum Produced Via Flue Gas Desulfurization; It Wasn't Regulated. According to Charlotte Observer, "The plaintiffs' attorneys say in court documents that the outgassing may somehow be connected to synthetic gypsum, a form of coal ash produced by the scrubbing process that removes sulfur dioxide from the emissions of coal-fired power plants. Nearly half of American drywall is now made with this synthetic product, known as flue gas desulfurized gypsum or FGD gypsum. Despite its increasing popularity, synthetic gypsum isn't regulated by the federal government. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency supports the reuse of FGD gypsum because it protects the air, recycles waste that would otherwise go to a landfill and creates useful products." [Charlotte Observer, 12/16/10]

An Additional Lawsuit Was Filed Against Georgia-Pacific. According to CBS News, "In addition, three separate lawsuits have been filed against American manufacturers: one against National Gypsum, two others against Georgia Pacific, including one by Jill and Michael Swidler." [CBS News, [11/23/09](#)]

Homeowners In Florida, California, Virginia, South Dakota, And Canada All Had Problems With US-Manufactured Drywall From Companies Including Georgia-Pacific. According to the News-Press, "Brenda Brincku said she knows of homeowners in Lehigh Acres, Fort Myers, and Cape Coral locally, and Orlando, Gainesville, California, Virginia, South Dakota and Canada who have problems with domestic drywall brands that include Georgia Pacific, National Gypsum and USG." [The News-Press, 9/29/10]

Georgia-Pacific Settled A Lawsuit Filed By A Florida Family Regarding Its Drywall

The Swidler Family Filed A Class-Action lawsuit Against GP “Claiming That Drywall Manufactured By The Company Starting In 2004 Under The Name ‘Toughrock’ Is Defective.” According to the Orlando Sentinel, “The couple filed a class-action lawsuit against Georgia-Pacific and 84 Lumber on Aug. 31, claiming that drywall manufactured by the company starting in 2004 under the name ‘ToughRock’ is defective. A spokesman for 84 Lumber said no one was available to respond to the allegations. Georgia-Pacific spokeswoman Melodie Ruse said, “We regret the Swidlers did not contact us in advance of filing their lawsuit.” However, she did not say what the company might have done. Jill Swidler said she and her husband chose not to deal with the company first because it had done nothing to help people in similar plights.” [Orlando Sentinel, 10/21/09]

The Lawsuit Was Settled Out Of Court. According to the Sarasota Herald Tribune, “Two other lawsuits, each involving a single homeowner, have also been filed. One, in South Dakota, is against U.S. Gypsum. The other, filed by a Florida couple against Georgia Pacific, has been settled out of court.” [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 12/16/10]

Koch Business Solutions

Koch Business Solutions Was Set To Open A New Office In Reno, Nevada And Planned To Hire 20 People.

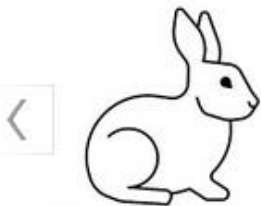
According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Koch Business Solutions, a shared-services company for subsidiaries of Koch Industries Inc., will open a new satellite applications center in Reno. The announcement was made Thursday at the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada investors luncheon at the Peppermill. The company plans to hire about 20 people in the first year.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, [3/13/15](#)]

Las Vegas Review-Journal: “The Reno Location Will Primarily Serve As A Satellite Office Focused On Providing Koch Industries IT Capabilities.” According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “The Reno location will primarily serve as a satellite office focused on providing Koch Industries IT capabilities in applications (development, analytics, support, databases, etc.), cybersecurity, global networks (architecture, WAN, LAN, Voice, etc.), and computer platforms (cloud, virtual, converged).” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, [3/13/15](#)]

The News Was Announced By The Economic Development Authority Of Western Nevada. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “A subsidiary of Koch Industries, the massive chemical and refining conglomerate owned by billionaires Charles and David Koch, will establish an IT office in Reno that will create 20 jobs. The news, announced by the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, comes as [Sen. Harry] Reid begins a 2016 campaign that is likely to be the most hard fought of his political career and certain to draw millions in spending against him paid by the Koch brothers, two of the wealthiest and politically active conservatives in the country.” [Las Vegas Sun, 3/12/15]

- **EDAWN Website: “From Exemptions To Abatements To Deferrals To The Complete Absence Of Taxes, Simply Operating Your Business In Greater Reno-Tahoe Adds To Your Bottom Line.”** According to edawn.org, “From exemptions to abatements to deferrals to the complete absence of taxes, simply operating your business in Greater Reno-Tahoe adds to your bottom line. Nevada was ranked No. 3 Most Business Friendly Tax Climate by the Tax Foundation for 2013.” [edawn.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

EDAWN: “EDAWN Assisted These Companies To Relocate Or Expand Their Business In The Reno-Sparks-Tahoe Area In 2014:” Included Koch.



EDAWN assisted these companies to relocate or expand their business in the Reno-Sparks-Tahoe area in 2014.

[edawn.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

EDAWN: “The State Of Nevada Offers A Variety Of Incentives To Help Qualifying Companies Make The Decision To Do Business In The State.” According to EDawn.org, “The State of Nevada offers a variety of incentives to help qualifying companies make the decision to do business in the state, including sales tax abatements on capital equipment purchases, sales and use tax deferral on capital equipment purchases, abatements on personal and modified business taxes, real property tax abatements for recycling, employee training grants, and Catalyst funding.” [EDawn.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

KBS Director Of Strategy And Innovation Kevin Spiars Was Set To Lecture At The University Of Nevada, Reno September 4, 2015. According to a calendar from the University of Nevada, Reno, Kevin Spiars, Director Strategy and Innovation was set to lecture from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering. [unr.edu, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

KOCH NONPROFIT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN NEVADA

Citizens For A Sound Economy And FreedomWorks

FreedomWorks Used Facebook To Communicate With Nearly 2 Million Conservative Supporters During The 2012 Election Cycle. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “FreedomWorks, a conservative grass-roots organization led by former House Majority Leader Dick Armey, is one of many political groups that use social media. On Facebook, FreedomWorks sends information to nearly 2 million followers. Those messages can be segmented according to what state they live in, said Brendan Steinhauser, director of federal and state campaigns for FreedomWorks. His organization can inform followers about local rallies and urge them to call their representatives about certain legislation or support a certain candidate.” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/4/12]

FreedomWorks.Org Allowed Users To Create Individual Web Pages To Connect With Local Volunteers. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Users also can set up a Web page under freedomworks.org’s Freedom Connector to better connect with volunteers in their region and coordinate rallies.” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/4/12]

FreedomWorks Produced And Distributed Yard Signs For Candidates It Supported. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “For about a dollar apiece, FreedomWorks produces signs for candidates it supports, [Brendan] Steinhauser said. Once they are delivered, volunteers distribute them to build recognition for the candidate.” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/4/12]

Citizens for a Sound Economy Helped Gather Signatures To Put Independent Candidate Ralph Nader On the 2004 Presidential Ballot In States Including Nevada. According to the Dallas Morning News, “A Republican operative with ties to the Bush family and Republican Gov. Rick Perry is helping collect signatures in New Hampshire to put independent candidate Ralph Nader on the November ballot. Dave Carney hired more than two dozen temporary workers to gather signatures for Mr. Nader, saying he believes the effort will boost President Bush’s chances for re-election. [...] Nader forces in New Hampshire had a Wednesday deadline to submit 3,000 signatures to town clerks for verification for the Nov. 2 ballot. The effort was one of several in which GOP-friendly groups have rallied to Mr. Nader’s aid. Conservative groups, such as the anti-tax Citizens for a Sound Economy, have helped gather signatures in Oregon, Nevada, Michigan and Iowa.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/04]

OPPOSITION TO TAXES, INCLUDING CIGARETTE TAXES

CSE “Partnered With Nevadans For Sound Government To Mobilize Thousands Of Conservative, Anti-Tax Activists In Opposition” To A Nevada Tax Increase. According to a press release from FreedomWorks, “Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE) has partnered with Nevadans for Sound Government to mobilize thousands of conservative, anti-tax activists in opposition to a record, \$836 million tax increase enacted last summer. The campaign kicked off with a letter from CSE Chairman Dick Armey sent to more than 50,000 conservative voters in the state. The letter, hitting mail boxes this week, directs concerned taxpayers to sign, and recruit others to sign, an enclosed ‘Axe the Tax’ petition. Just over 51,000 signatures must be collected by mid-May in order to get a repeal measure on the ballot for the 2004 elections.” [FreedomWorks Press Release via archive.org, [4/6/04](#)]

CSE-Nevada Launched A Petition Calling For An Investigation Of The Nevada Supreme Court For “Essentially” Repealing “A Constitutional Amendment Requiring A 2/3 Supermajority In The State Legislature To Pass A Tax Increase.” According to a press release from Citizens for a Sound Economy, “On behalf of our almost 2,000 Nevada

members, Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE) objects to the recent Nevada Supreme Court ruling that essentially repealed a constitutional amendment requiring a 2/3 supermajority in the state legislature to pass a tax increase. The Gibbons Tax Restraint Initiative became part of the state constitution because the voters wanted it. In 1996, they approved it with 70% of the vote. Its purpose is to force legislators to find other means, besides tax increases, to meet the spending obligations they create. Now, with a few strokes of the pen, the Nevada Supreme Court has trampled on the expressed will of the people and removed a significant restraint on government growth. In response to these actions, CSE has launched a petition calling for the state legislature to investigate the actions of the Supreme Court. The response to this petition has been overwhelming, indicating that Nevada citizens are not content to simply allow the Nevada Supreme Court to run roughshod over their constitution.” [Citizens for a Sound Economy Press Release via archive.org, [7/21/03](#)]

- **Citizens For A Sound Economy: “With A Few Strokes Of The Pen, The Nevada Supreme Court Has Trampled On The Expressed Will Of The People And Removed A Significant Restraint On Government Growth.”**

According to a press release from Citizens for a Sound Economy, “On behalf of our almost 2,000 Nevada members, Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE) objects to the recent Nevada Supreme Court ruling that essentially repealed a constitutional amendment requiring a 2/3 supermajority in the state legislature to pass a tax increase. The Gibbons Tax Restraint Initiative became part of the state constitution because the voters wanted it. In 1996, they approved it with 70% of the vote. Its purpose is to force legislators to find other means, besides tax increases, to meet the spending obligations they create. Now, with a few strokes of the pen, the Nevada Supreme Court has trampled on the expressed will of the people and removed a significant restraint on government growth. In response to these actions, CSE has launched a petition calling for the state legislature to investigate the actions of the Supreme Court. The response to this petition has been overwhelming, indicating that Nevada citizens are not content to simply allow the Nevada Supreme Court to run roughshod over their constitution.” [Citizens for a Sound Economy Press Release via archive.org, [7/21/03](#)]

“Along With The Petition, CSE Is...Encouraging Its Members To Contact Their Representatives And Senators To Tell Them That A Record Tax Increase Is Not The Answer To Nevada’s Budgetary Crisis.” According to a press release from Citizens for a Sound Economy, “Along with the petition, CSE is planning additional grassroots activities and encouraging its members to contact their Representatives and Senators to tell them that a record tax increase is not the answer to Nevada’s budgetary crisis. State spending priorities should be examined before the government turns to the citizens for even more money.” [Citizens for a Sound Economy Press Release via archive.org, [7/21/03](#)]

In 2003 CSE-NV Asked Its Members To Contact Their Legislators And Tell Them They Opposed Raising Nevada’s Cigarette Tax. According to a post on the Citizens for a Sound Economy-Nevada website, “The Nevada Legislature is considering legislation that would triple the state cigarette tax! Assembly Bill 204 and Senate Bill 219 include a 70-cent-per-pack increase in the state cigarette tax, raising it from 35-cents to \$1.05-per-pack. Please use this handy link to contact your Nevada legislators and let them know you oppose this tax increase.” [CSE.org/Nevada via archive.org, [3/4/03](#)]

PROMOTED PROTESTS TO OPPOSE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGES

FreedomWorks Promoted Protests In Reno And Carson City To Protest Government Bailouts And Economic Recovery Packages. According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “More than 2,000 demonstrators lined the streets of Carson City and later a few hundred gathered in Reno Wednesday as part of a national grassroots campaign of ‘TEA parties’ organized to protest taxes and government spending. [...] Demonstrators expressed anger about government bailouts and the economic recovery packages that have increased the national debt, aiming most of their ire at President Barack Obama and the Democratic-controlled Congress. [...] Similar ‘TEA parties’ involving tens of thousands of people took place around the country Wednesday, including Las Vegas and Sacramento. They were promoted by FreedomWorks, a conservative nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., and led by former U.S. House Majority Leader Richard Armey, R-Texas, now a lobbyist.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/17/09]

ENCOURAGED YOUNG ADULTS TO STAY OUT OF THE HEALTHCARE EXCHANGES

Conservative Groups Attempted To Persuade Young Adults To Stay Out Of Healthcare Exchanges In An Attempt To Ruin The ACA. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Obamacare opponents have their eye on 20- and 30-somethings also. If they can persuade enough young adults to stay out of the exchanges, maybe they can tank the entire plan. Or so the reasoning goes. They’re arguing that Obamacare will mean extra expenses for some young people. Even with discounts, it may be less costly to pay an annual fine -- provided you stay out of the doctor’s office.” [Las Vegas Sun, 9/1/13]

- **FreedomWorks Compared The ACA To A Military Draft And Encouraged Young Adults To Burn ACA “Draft Cards” In Public.** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “FreedomWorks, a conservative advocacy group, has designed ‘Obamacare draft cards’ and encourages young adults to burn them, preferably in the public square. ‘The whole scheme is enlisting young adults to overpay so other people can have subsidies,’ Dean Clancy, a FreedomWorks vice president, told Washington Post reporter Sarah Kliff. ‘That unfairness reminded us of the military draft.’” [Las Vegas Sun, 9/1/13]

ADVOCATED AGAINST OPEN PRIMARIES

FreedomWorks Executive Vice President, Adam Brandon, Opposed Open Primaries. According to an opinion by FreedomWorks Executive Vice President Adam Brandon for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “After Sen. Thad Cochran’s controversial tactics of recruiting Democrats to secure his nomination in Mississippi’s Republican primary, a national dialogue emerged about the open primary process, in which anyone can cross the aisle to vote in the other party’s election. It’s a terrible system. Primaries are an opportunity for a party to nominate the candidate who will best carry forward its set of ideological principles.” [Adam Brandon - Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/6/14]

- **Brandon: “Political Parties Function Like Private Organizations.”** According to an opinion by FreedomWorks Executive Vice President Adam Brandon for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “In many ways, political parties function like private organizations, complete with dues-paying members. When the party leadership uses these dues to drive turnout for members of an opposing organization, it betrays the trust of the membership and subverts the intended process.” [Adam Brandon - Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/6/14]
- **Brandon: “When There Is A Perception That Elections Are Not Honest, That They Are Being Bought And Sold By Special Interests [...] The Democratic Process Suffers.** According to an opinion by FreedomWorks Executive Vice President Adam Brandon for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “When there is a perception among the public that elections are not honest, that they are being bought and sold by special interests and K Street lobbyists rather than representing the true opinions of voters, the democratic process suffers. This country depends on an engaged, active electorate making informed choices about the candidates.” [Adam Brandon - Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/6/14]
- **Brandon: “Closed Primaries Protect The Integrity Of Elections.”** According to an opinion by FreedomWorks Executive Vice President Adam Brandon for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Closed primaries protect the integrity of elections and make voters feel that their representation is in their own hands, not the tool of political manipulation.” [Adam Brandon - Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/6/14]

Americans For Prosperity

Americans For Prosperity Nevada State Director Adam Jones “Co-Founded The Foundation Of America With Actor John Ratzenberger.” According to Vegas Inc, “Adam Jones is state director of Americans for Prosperity Nevada. He co-founded the Foundation of America with actor John Ratzenberger. Jones previously served as chief of staff for former Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki and held roles with Mitt Romney for President and RedRock Strategies, a Nevada political consulting firm.” [Vegas Inc, [7/20/15](#)]

EXPANSION AND BUILD-OUT IN NEVADA

Americans For Prosperity Registered As Nonprofit Organization Rather Than A Political Action Committee.

According to the Las Vegas Sun Blog, “Democrats have complained that the group [Americans for Prosperity – Nevada] has not registered with the secretary of state as a political action committee. Instead, it is registered as a nonprofit organization, and has not disclosed its funding or board members. Democrats have asked the secretary of state to make a ruling on whether the group violated campaign finance law.” [Las Vegas Sun, 10/24/10]

- **Americans For Prosperity Did Not Respond To Questions About The Group’s Legal Status.** According to the Las Vegas Sun Blog, “[AFP-Nevada State Director Adam] Stryker referred questions about the group’s legal status to national headquarters, which did not respond. The ads so far have targeted two Democrats. The first is incumbent

Sen. Joyce Woodhouse, D-Henderson, who's running against Republican Michael Roberson in Senate District 5. The group attacked her for voting to raise taxes last session." [Las Vegas Sun, 10/24/10]

AFP's Structure Allowed It Not To Disclose "Its Funding Or Board Members." According to the Associated Press, "Democrats are complaining that the group hasn't registered with the secretary of state as a political action committee. Instead, it is registered as a nonprofit organization, and has not disclosed its funding or board members. [Associated Press, 10/24/10]

2010

During The 2010 Election Americans For Prosperity Quietly Implemented "Voter Turnout Operations In Southern Nevada." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "American for Prosperity, a nonprofit political group largely funded by Manhattan tycoons Charles and David Koch, is quietly conducting voter turnout operations in Southern Nevada." [Las Vegas Sun, 10/10/10]

- **The Koch Brothers Saw The Tea Party As A "Desperately Needed Cadre Of 'Boots On The Ground' For Conservatives."** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The Kochs, who made their fortunes in oil, manufacturing and paper products, have spent decades funding conservative think tanks and movements. A recent New Yorker piece detailed their work funding the Tea Party movement, recognizing the upstart activists as a desperately needed cadre of 'boots on the ground' for conservatives." [Las Vegas Sun, 10/10/10]

AFP Funded Field Operations In Nevada To Supplement The Nevada GOP's "Almost Nonexistent" Program. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Americans for Prosperity, which is funded by billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch, has sent mailers attacking two Democratic state Senate candidates. [...] Their organization is funding voter turnout operations in Southern Nevada to bolster the almost nonexistent Nevada Republican Party's ground operation." [Las Vegas Sun, 10/24/10]

2012

Americans For Prosperity Ran A Field Program In Nevada During The 2012 Election. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "To hear some Republicans tell it, the disarray of their state party apparatus isn't much to worry about. [...] And Americans for Prosperity, funded by billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch, has been busy knocking on doors, identifying voters and building the turnout machine that's usually run by the state party." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/20/12]

AFP-Nevada's "Traditional Get-Out-The-Vote Activities Failed -- Badly" In A Vote To Incorporate Laughlin, Nevada. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "If the conservative nonprofit group Americans for Prosperity is poised to be a serious player in the turnout game for Republican candidates this November, it didn't prove itself in the primary election last week. [...] AFP Nevada's first effort to swing an election through traditional get-out-the-vote activities failed -- badly. And it played out in, of all places, Laughlin, where voters were deciding whether to support cityhood. The tone of AFP Nevada's campaign in Laughlin suggested it favored incorporation." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/17/12]

- **"AFP-Nevada Losing A Small, Low-Turnout Campaign...Doesn't Portend Well For The General Election."** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "But of the 1,691 people who actually went to the polls, only 729 voted to incorporate. [...] AFP Nevada losing a small, low-turnout campaign -- against which there was little organized opposition aside from one town father flying an airplane with a banner urging a no vote -- doesn't portend well for the general election." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/17/12]

AFP-Nevada "Hired 100 People" To "Beef Up Conservative Voter Registration" In The State. According to the Associated Press, "Americans For Prosperity, a conservative group, watched in alarm as the Obama campaign and its allies in the labor and immigrants' rights movements continued to dominate in voter registration and canvassing. It hired 100 people through a private vendor to try to beef up conservative voter registration. 'They've had this going on since 2004,' said Adam Stryker, AFP's Nevada director. 'We're definitely up against a formidable foe.'" [Associated Press, 9/22/12]

AFP Paid For TV Ads Mimicking Mitt Romney's Attacks On President Obama. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Republican Mitt Romney's presidential campaign had television ads up slamming Obama for it. The line has made it into nearly every Republican's talking points. And even the outside groups have taken up the mantle. In the days following the

Romney campaign's television ads, the super PAC Restore Our Future had its own version up, and then Americans for Prosperity, a national nonprofit joined suit." [Las Vegas Sun, 6/25/12]

AFP Nevada Ran TV Ads Attacking NV Senate Candidate Shelly Berkley For Supporting The Stimulus Package.

According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Attack: Nevada Senate candidate Shelley Berkley thinks the federal government helped rescue Nevada with the stimulus -- but 'do you feel rescued?' Method of delivery: Packaged by a political advocacy group and brought to you via television broadcast and the online radio site Pandora. Americans for Prosperity, the force behind this ad attacking Berkley, is a familiar face at the conservative family table. The group's widely credited with launching the Republicans to major victories in 2010." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/8/12]

During The 2012 Nevada Elections Conservative Volunteers Called AFP, Not The State GOP. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Right about the time Ron Paul's passionate supporters took over the Nevada Republican Party at a raucous state convention 10 days ago, the phone at the Las Vegas office of Americans for Prosperity began to ring. The callers were potential donors and volunteers -- typically the critical foot soldiers for a party apparatus geared toward electing Republicans. But instead, these willing workers were calling Americans for Prosperity, a political nonprofit organization created outside the regular Republican Party confines to further conservative causes." [Las Vegas Sun, 4/16/12]

- **AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker: "People Want To Donate Their Money To Organizations That Can Deliver On Their Promises."** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "People want to donate their money to organizations that can deliver on their promises,' AFP's Nevada director, Adam Stryker, said of the calls that were peaking at around noon on that convention Sunday. The standard bearer for Republicans this cycle may not be the state party, which is the traditional and seemingly logical organization backing GOP candidates up and down the ticket. Instead, it will be groups like Americans for Prosperity, American Crossroads, the Mitt Romney campaign and Republican National Committee that play a more prominent role in Nevada this cycle." [Las Vegas Sun, 4/16/12]

2014

AFP Opened A New Office In Nevada In April And Announced It Will Hire Two More Executives In The State.

According to Politico, "The most muscular of the groups, Americans for Prosperity, first established a presence here [Nevada] in 2009. It's continually expanded since, opening a new office in April on the western edge of Vegas, out of which four full-time employees work. There's also a full-time field director in Northern Nevada, and AFP is looking to hire two more executives in the state, where it has roughly 50,000 registered activists statewide." [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

AFP Chief Technology Officer Claims The Group's "Build-Out" In Nevada Has "Little To Do With Reid Or Any Other Specific Politician." According to Politico, "[AFP's chief technology officer Adam] Stryker stressed that the build-out has little to do with [Sen. Harry] Reid or any other specific politician. 'Nevada has always been a long-term commitment for us. Our message of economic freedom resonates here better than maybe anywhere in the country.'" [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

AFP's Nevada Chapter Has Been "Filling A Void Of Conservative Grass-Roots Activism" Left By The State Republican Party. According to Politico, "The growing Koch presence in Nevada is all the more notable because the state Republican Party has fallen on hard times, which has led some of the state's most active volunteers and biggest donors to turn to AFP. 'Americans for Prosperity's Nevada chapter has really been filling a void in terms of conservative grass-roots activism in Nevada,' said Grant Hewitt, a Nevada GOP consultant. [...] AFP, according to Hewitt, has 'made an incredible effort at volunteer recruitment and voter contact. ... it sure looks like they're building for something bigger, and you have to figure [Sen. Harry] Reid is high on their list.'" [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

2016

AFP-Nevada Announced That Its State Director, Jack St. Martin, Will Be Stepping Down From His Position At The End Of March 2015. According to a web post from AFP-Nevada, "Today, Americans for Prosperity Nevada announced that Jack St Martin, AFP Nevada's State Director will be stepping down from his position effective March 30." [AFP-Nevada post via AmericansForProsperity.org, [3/26/15](#)]

- **AFP-Nevada Regional Director Mark Lucas: "As Nevada State Director, Jack Was A Tireless Advocate In Advancing The Cause Of Freedom."** According to a web post from AFP-Nevada, "AFP Regional Director Mark Lucas released the following statement: 'We thank Jack for his hard work and commitment. As Nevada State Director,

Jack was a tireless advocate in advancing the cause of freedom. We thank him for his contributions and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors,' Lucas said. 'Americans for Prosperity remains committed to its activists in the state and looks forward to continuing the fight for free-market principles here in Nevada.'" [AFP-Nevada post via AmericansForProsperity.org, [3/26/15](#)]

Donald Trump's Presidential Campaign Chose Between Two Ex-AFP Staffers To Run His Nevada Campaign. According to Ralston Reports, "GOP frontrunner Donald Trump, who has made cracking down on illegal immigration the centerpiece of his rise to the top of the field, has hired a young Hispanic activist to helm his Nevada effort. Charles Munoz, 26, who helped organize the Americans for Prosperity chapter in the state, has been tapped to run Trump's nascent effort in Nevada. The Washington Post first reported the hiring Tuesday. Munoz, who was not available to comment, was selected after a small number of interviews conducted in Nevada two weeks ago by the Trump campaign, including campaign boss Corey Lewandowski, whose political roots are in AFP. Among those also considered was another ex-AFPer, Nick Vander Poel, a longtime GOP activist." [Ralston Reports, [8/26/15](#)]

- **The Trump Campaign Hired Charles Munoz, Former AFP-NV Deputy State Director, To Run His Nevada Campaign.** According to the Associated Press, "The campaign announced the hiring of Charles Munoz, former deputy state director at Americans For Prosperity's Nevada chapter, as his Nevada state director this week and has brought in more people in New Hampshire and South Carolina." [Associated Press, [8/26/15](#)]
- **Munoz Helped Organize Nevada's AFP Chapter.** According to Ralston Reports, "GOP frontrunner Donald Trump, who has made cracking down on illegal immigration the centerpiece of his rise to the top of the field, has hired a young Hispanic activist to helm his Nevada effort. Charles Munoz, 26, who helped organize the Americans for Prosperity chapter in the state, has been tapped to run Trump's nascent effort in Nevada." [Ralston Reports, [8/26/15](#)]

ALLEGATIONS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS IN NEVADA

During The 2012 Elections, AFP "May Have Triggered A State Law That Could Open Its Donor List To The Public." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Taking advantage of a complex web of federal laws, the group, founded and financed by billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch, has successfully kept its donors secret. But when AFP decided to wade into a Nevada Senate primary in June, it may have triggered a state law that could open its donor list to the public." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/22/12]

- **AFP "Sent Mailers" Targeting A Democratic Assemblyman That Were "Clearly Designed To Influence An Election".** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "In this case, AFP sent mailers into Atkinson's district just before the June 6 primary election, with his picture and accusations that he worked for special interests and sought a \$1 billion electricity rate increase. The mailers didn't say 'vote against' Atkinson; rather, they urged voters to call his office and tell him what they thought of his record. But Miller has aggressively enforced the concept in Nevada that such mailers are clearly designed to influence an election and that the money associated with producing them should be reported." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/22/12]

AFP Nevada State Director Adam Stryker Called The Claim "A Baseless Complaint." According to a letter to the editor written by AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Las Vegas Sun, "A baseless complaint was used to fuel speculation about the future of our organization. The truth behind the Nevada Democratic Party's complaint is that the allegations made are without merit, without support and with apparent disregard for campaign finance law." [Adam Stryker – Las Vegas Sun Letter to the Editor, [8/7/12](#)]

- **Stryker: AFP "Will Not Be Deterred From Such Baseless Attacks."** According to a letter to the editor written by AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Las Vegas Sun, "Despite the games and partisan politics, Americans for Prosperity will not be deterred from such baseless attacks. Our state is sinking into despair, with the highest unemployment rate and highest foreclosure rate in the country." [Adam Stryker – Las Vegas Sun Letter to the Editor, [8/7/12](#)]

The Nevada Secretary Of State “Referred Complaints Against Americans For Prosperity To The Attorney General’s Office.” According to the Associated Press, “Nevada’s secretary of state has referred complaints against Americans for Prosperity to the attorney general’s office for prosecution of alleged violations of state campaign finance laws.” [Associated Press, 10/10/12]

Nevada’s Secretary Of State “Filed A Civil Lawsuit Against Americans For Prosperity, Alleging The Republican Conservative Group Violated State Election Laws.” According to the Associated Press, “Nevada’s top election official has filed a civil lawsuit against Americans for Prosperity, alleging the Republican conservative group violated state election laws by not registering in the state or filing donor contribution reports. The suit filed in state court in Carson City late Friday by Secretary of State Ross Miller claims the group founded by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch engaged in ‘express advocacy’ against Kelvin Atkinson, a state Senate candidate who won both the Democratic primary in June and the November general election.” [Associated Press, 12/2/12]

- **AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker: Complaint Is “Politically Motivated.”** According to the Associated Press, “In a statement Saturday, Adam Stryker, AFP state director, said the complaint filed by the attorney general’s office on behalf of the Democratic secretary of state is politically motivated. ‘The secretary of state has made it clear his ideology conflicts with that of AFP, and this is not the first time his position has been used to harass those with whom he disagrees,’ Stryker said. ‘The attorney general’s office’s resources unfortunately are being misused to advance Secretary Miller’s partisan agenda.’” [Associated Press, 12/2/12]
- **Stryker: AFP Expects “This Charge To Be Dismissed In Court.”** According to the Associated Press, “In a statement Saturday, Adam Stryker, AFP state director, said the complaint filed by the attorney general’s office on behalf of the Democratic secretary of state is politically motivated. [...] ‘We fully expect this charge to be dismissed in court, as all frivolous complaints should be. AFP will not be intimidated from continuing with its good work of advancing economic freedom for all Americans.’” [Associated Press, 12/2/12]

District Judge Robert Estes Ruled “Americans For Prosperity Was Not Required To Register With The Secretary Of State’s Office.” According to the Associated Press, “Senior District Judge Robert Estes said Americans for Prosperity was not required to register with the secretary of state’s office or file donor contribution reports as argued in the civil lawsuit filed by Democratic Secretary of State Ross Miller. Americans for Prosperity is funded by conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch.” [Associated Press, 11/7/13]

- **AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker: Ruling Is “A ‘Victory For Free Speech.’”** According to the Associated Press, “Adam Stryker, Nevada spokesman for AFP, hailed the ruling Wednesday as a ‘victory for free speech’ and the rights of everyone ‘to talk about their public officials and issues of public concern without fear of prosecution.’” [Associated Press, 11/7/13]

SUPPORT FOR STORING NUCLEAR WASTE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

AFP-Georgia Reposted A Press Release From Rep. Tom Graves Touting His EXPAND Act, “An All-Of-The-Above Energy Independence Plan For The United States.” According to a press release posted on AFP-Georgia’s website, “Today, U.S. Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA-14) and 18 other representatives introduced the Energy Exploration and Production to Achieve National Demand (EXPAND) Act, an all-of-the-above energy independence plan for the United States.” [Rep. Tom Graves Press Release via americansforprosperity.org/georgia, 1/20/14]

The EXPAND Act “Opens Yucca Mountain To Begin Receiving Nuclear Waste.” According to a press release posted on AFP-Georgia’s website, “EXPAND Act highlights: Approves permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic and opens more of the Outer Continental Shelf for production, including areas in the Gulf, Atlantic, and Pacific. Opens the Coastal Plain of ANWR, approves the Keystone XL Pipeline, and opens Yucca Mountain to begin receiving nuclear waste.” [Rep. Tom Graves Press Release via americansforprosperity.org/georgia, 1/20/14]

OPPOSITION TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

AFP Chief Technology Officer Op-Ed: “The Average Nevada Premium Went Up 179 Percent For 2014 As Obamacare Went Into Effect...The Largest Average Increases In The Entire Country.” According to an opinion by

AFP Chief Technology Officer and former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Rate increases like this would normally elicit outrage, yet Obamacare has so skewed our perceptions of health care’s price tag that these hikes look halfway decent in comparison to last year’s. The average Nevada premium went up 179 percent for 2014 as Obamacare went into effect. Our state saw the largest average increases in the entire country.” [Adam Stryker – Reno Gazette-Journal, [8/18/14](#)]

AFP-Nevada Volunteers Doorbelled Households On Obamacare, Taxation, Spending And Partisan Affiliation To Get Information For Koch National Database. According to Politico, “A half-dozen young staffers and volunteers wearing sleek technical golf shirts and vintage-looking v-neck tees emblazoned with AFP’s stylized torch logo were lugging coolers out to their cars for an afternoon of door-knocking in the 100-degree heat. Each was equipped with an iPad featuring an app called ‘360 Walk’ that created efficient walk routes between households deemed to have persuadable voters and provided an interactive script asking questions about Obamacare, taxation, spending and partisan affiliation. While there were no scripted questions about Reid, the answers would be fed back into a master national database maintained by the Koch operation and used by its groups for political organizing in the midterms, during which the Koch network aims to spend \$290 million, and 2016, when that figure is expected to be even larger.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

AFP Ran An Ad In Nevada That Used “Alarming Warnings” About Healthcare Reform. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “An ad from Patients First, a project of the conservative Americans for Prosperity, uses alarming warnings that have become increasingly common from those opposed to health care reform. The ad asks viewers to consider what will happen to their family’s health care if Washington gets involved, and says, ‘Do you trust Washington with your life?’” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/9/09]

- **Patients First Spokeswoman Amy Menefee: AFP Focused “On Senators We Feel Need To Hear From Their Constituents Who Oppose Government-Centered Health Reform.”** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “We are concentrating on senators we feel need to hear from their constituents who oppose government-centered health reform,” said Patients First spokeswoman Amy Menefee. ‘Obviously Sen. Reid is an important player, so that’s why we advertised in Nevada.’” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/9/09]
- **Patients First Was A Project Of Americans For Prosperity.** According to Politifact, “After the hearing, Patients First, a project of the conservative advocacy group Americans for Prosperity, issued a news release that played up the possibility that people who didn’t buy health coverage could end up in prison.” [Politifact, [9/29/09](#)]

AFP Chief Technology Officer And Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker: “ObamaCare Was Advertised As The Solution To Unaffordable Health Care.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “ObamaCare was advertised from day one as the solution to unaffordable health care. This promise was so central to the law that Washington formally named it the ‘Affordable Care Act.’ The law’s success, therefore, must be judged by whether it’s making Nevada’s health care cheaper.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: “The Average Health Insurance Plan Available On The Silver State Exchange Will Increase By Slightly Less Than 10 Percent.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “On Friday, the Nevada Division of Insurance released preliminary insurance rates for 2015. The Department estimates that the average health insurance plan available on the Silver State exchange will increase by slightly less than 10 percent. Of the five companies from which we can choose, only one is lowering its rates.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: These Increases “Would Normally Be Seen As A Burden” But “ObamaCare Has So Skewed Our Perception Of Health Care’s Price Tag” That Nevadans Are Unaffected. According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Rate increases like this would normally be seen as another burden that Nevadans can’t afford, especially in this rough economy. Yet ObamaCare has so skewed our perceptions of health care’s price tag that these hikes look halfway decent in comparison to last year’s.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: Nevada “Saw The Largest Average Increases” In Healthcare Premiums In The Country. According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “The average Nevada premium went up 179 percent for 2014 as ObamaCare’s mandates went into effect, pushing typical premiums for 27-year-olds to more than

\$3,300 and to nearly \$10,000 for 64-year olds. Our state saw the largest average increases in the entire country.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: Premium Increases Are A “Result Of ObamaCare’s So-Called ‘Essential Health Benefits.’” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “When we started paying for this overpriced insurance earlier this year, our only hope was that such spikes would be a one-time thing. We hoped that affordable health insurance might finally arrive in 2015. The Division of Insurance largely killed that dream on Friday -- most of our premiums are going up again. But we shouldn’t be surprised. This is the natural and necessary result of ObamaCare’s so-called ‘essential health benefits’ mandates that force us to buy policies that cover services we don’t need or can’t afford.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: “Majority Of Us Will Never Use These And Other Services Forced On Us By The Law.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “ObamaCare requires that men purchase insurance policies that cover maternity and newborn care. So must a 75-year-old grandmother. Unless the laws of nature change or human biology suddenly evolves, the majority of us will never use these and other services forced on us by the law.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: The ACA Has “More Than 11,000 Pages Of Such Rules” That “Force Insurance Companies To Sell Expensive, One-Size-Fits-All Policies.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “No matter under ObamaCare. Its mandates and regulations -- there are already more than 11,000 pages of such rules -- force insurance companies to sell expensive, one-size-fits-all policies that are incapable of adapting to individual medical needs. Instead of being able to choose what works best for a Nevada family on a Nevada budget, we have to purchase products and services dictated by bureaucrats 2,500 miles away.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: The ACA’s “Skyrocketing Premiums May Return By 2017.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “These restrictive regulations will only make health care more expensive in the coming years, too. A recent study by the Medical Industry Leadership Institute found that last year’s skyrocketing premiums may return by 2017, when the law will be fully implemented and its various exemptions expire.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: “Cheapest Individual Plans, According To The Study, Could Nearly Double In Price.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “The cheapest individual plans, according to the study, could nearly double in price -- a 94 percent jump, to be precise -- over the next three years. The cheapest family plans won’t be spared either, potentially rising from an average \$8,600 to \$12,800 over the same period. That’s over a quarter of the average Nevada family’s pre-tax income -- and it’s only paying for a barebones insurance plan.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: “The Average Deductible For The Cheapest ObamaCare Plans Is Already 40 Percent Higher” Than A Year Ago. According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “That’s just the premiums, too. At \$5,080, the average deductible for the cheapest ObamaCare plans is already 40 percent higher than similar plans offered a year ago. Many of our neighbors here in Nevada have also discovered that cost-sharing requirements are also worse, leaving us to pay 20 percent of all medical costs even after we pay our plan’s deductibles.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

Stryker: “Nevadans’ Health Insurance Is More Limited Yet Less Affordable Than Ever Before.” According to an opinion by AFP Chief Technology Officer and Former AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker for the Elko Daily Free Press, “No matter where you look, Nevadans’ health insurance is more limited yet less affordable than ever before. Last Friday’s announcement shows that it’s only going to get worse for most of us in 2015.” [Adam Stryker – Elko Daily Free Press, 8/7/14]

EDUCATION

Support For School Vouchers

AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle: “Nevada Has Nearly Tripled Student Spending” But “Student Performance Has Gone In The Opposite Direction.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Nevada public schools are constantly increasing their budgets, funded by your tax dollars, but somehow none of it is actually making its way into the classroom. In fact, while Nevada has nearly tripled student spending - inflation adjusted - student performance has gone in the opposite direction.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: “Money Is Going To Pad The Salaries Of Top Administrators.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “That’s because the money is going to pad the salaries of top administrators, not to the kids or teachers who need it most. In 2012 alone, the Clark County School District had more than 2,400 administrators and bureaucrats making six-figure salaries.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: Only One-Third Of Tested Students “Are Proficient In Math And Reading” And The Nevada “School System Was Graded ‘D’ On The State’s Report.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Today, only a third of Nevada fourth- and eighth-grade students are proficient in math and reading, according to the National Assessment of Education Progress. This year the school system was graded ‘D’ on the state’s ‘chance for [academic] success’ index - the lowest possible ranking by the Quality Counts report.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: Nevada’s “Graduation Rate Is The Third-Lowest In The Nation.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “With students performing so poorly, it’s no wonder the state’s graduation rate is the third-lowest in the nation. Our public schools are miserably failing their students, and what makes it all even more tragic is that so many students have no way out.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: “Nevada Public Schools Have A Monopoly On Service.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Nevada public schools have a monopoly on service. Whereas most burger joints face competition from multiple restaurants in the same city - if not the same block - Nevada public schools do not.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: “Many Parents Can’t Afford Private School.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “While private schools exist, many parents simply can’t afford private school tuition, especially when they already have to pay taxes to the public school.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: “The Lack Of Alternative Schools” Has Hurt School Performance. According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “The lack of alternate schools means there is little incentive for Nevada public schools to reform their practices and replace underperforming teachers or reward good teachers who are fed up and looking for work elsewhere. Perhaps that’s why the National Council on Teacher Quality gave Nevada a D- for ‘delivering well-prepared teachers’ and a D+ for ‘retaining effective teachers.’” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: “There’s More Than Enough Reason To Believe Our Schools Have More Than Enough Funding.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Nevada’s schools have a real problem, but throwing more money into a broken system won’t fix the real problem. There’s more than enough reason to believe our schools have more than enough funding right now based on states that do better with less.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

Moyle: School Choice “Empowers Parents” And Adds The “Benefit Of Competition.” According to an opinion by AFP-Nevada State Director Zachary Moyle for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “School choice not only empowers parents but brings the added benefit of competition, forcing administrators to actually improve outcomes for their students rather than simply meeting their administrative demands. We need education choice in Nevada so parents can be empowered to find the best school for their child rather than be told this is the best we can do.” [Zachary Moyle – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/24/14]

FOCUS ON REDISTRICTING

AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker: “Redistricting Is On The Line” In Nevada For The 2010 Election.

According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Adam Stryker, director of Americans for Prosperity’s Nevada chapter, said the group advocates free markets and lower taxes, echoing Tea Party goals. [...] Not only will the state face a massive budget deficit, but ‘redistricting is on the line. All those things are important,’ he said.” [Las Vegas Sun, 10/24/10]

Direct Mailers Sent Out By AFP-Nevada Were “Part Of An Effort To Influence Legislative Redistricting.” According to the Associated Press, “The ads are part of an effort to influence legislative redistricting during the 2011 legislative session. Lawmakers will redraw Assembly and Senate districts and carve up Nevada’s congressional districts, a process done every 10 years following a census.” [Associated Press, 12/24/10]

CONSTRUCTION DEFECT REFORM

AFP-Nevada State Director Jack St. Martin: “We Applaud The State Legislature For Standing On The Side Of Middle-Class Families, Rather Than With Trial Lawyers And Special-Interest Lobbyists, To Pass Construction Defect Reform.” According to a press release from AFP-Nevada, “Americans for Prosperity State Director Jack St. Martin released the following statement in response to passage of the Homeowner Protection Act of 2015, a bill to curb frivolous lawsuits over construction defects: ‘We applaud the state legislature for standing on the side of middle-class families, rather than with trial lawyers and special-interest lobbyists, to pass construction defect reform. This vital piece of legislation will curb frivolous lawsuits and create relief for middle-class Nevadans everywhere.’” [AFP-Nevada Press Release, [2/20/15](#)]

St. Martin: “The Cost Of Defending Frivolous Defect Lawsuits Has, For Years, Strangled The Home Building Industry, Cost Thousands Of Good-Paying Jobs, And Contributed To Nevada’s Record-Breaking Unemployment Rate.” According to a press release from AFP-Nevada, “Americans for Prosperity State Director Jack St. Martin released the following statement in response to passage of the Homeowner Protection Act of 2015, a bill to curb frivolous lawsuits over construction defects: [...] The cost of defending frivolous defect lawsuits has, for years, strangled the home building industry, cost thousands of good-paying jobs, and contributed to Nevada’s record-breaking unemployment rate. This bill has been a priority for AFP Nevada. We’re excited to bring meaningful reform to millions of Nevadans St. Martin said.” [AFP-Nevada Press Release, [2/20/15](#)]

ANTI-LABOR ACTIVITY

AFP-Nevada “Prais[ed] Senate Majority Leader Michael Roberson For His Leadership On The School Union Bill... Which Would Prevent School Administrators From Forming A Union.” According to a press release from AFP-Nevada, “Today, Americans for Prosperity Nevada is praising Senate Majority Leader Michael Roberson for his leadership on the School Union Bill. Yesterday, Roberson introduced a bill, SB 241, which would prevent school administrators from forming a union.” [AFP-Nevada Press Release, [3/12/15](#)]

AFP-Nevada State Director Jack St. Martin On School Union Bill: “At A Time When Nevada’s Public Schools Are Ranked Last In The Nation, It Makes No Sense For Administrators To Organize For Higher Pay.” According to a press release from AFP-Nevada, “AFP Nevada State Director Jack St. Martin released the following statement: ‘AFP Nevada applauds Michael Roberson for his leadership on this important legislation. At a time when Nevada’s public schools are ranked last in the nation, it makes no sense for administrators to organize for higher pay. Students, not administrators, are the ones who deserve more. This money would be better spent on children and improving our failing education system,’ St. Martin said.” [AFP-Nevada Press Release, [3/12/15](#)]

GOV. BRIAN SANDOVAL

Phillips: “We’re Opposing” Gov. Brian Sandoval’s “Bigger-Government Policies,” Which “Could Harm Republicans In That State For A Long Time.” According to an interview with AFP President Tim Phillips in the National Journal, “Nevada is perplexing. Gov. [Brian] Sandoval and some in the legislature have chosen, for whatever reason, to go after bigger-government policies. They’re going after tax increases and more spending. We’re opposing it, and it could harm Republicans in that state for a long time. They finally get a majority and what do they do with it?” [National Journal, [3/15/15](#)]

AFP-Nevada “Condemned” Gov. Brian Sandoval’s “Proposed Restructuring Of The State’s Business License Fee,” Which Was “Projected To Raise More Than \$437 Million To Fund K-12 Education Programs” Over Two Years. According to the Associated Press, “The bill is [Gov. Brian] Sandoval’s proposed restructuring of the state’s business license

fee, and it's projected to raise more than \$437 million to fund K-12 education programs over the next two years. [...] Conservative groups including the Nevada Policy Research Institute and Americans for Prosperity have condemned the plan as harmful for businesses, while state controller Ron Knecht and treasurer Dan Schwartz said they were disappointed their alternatives haven't been seriously considered." [Associated Press, [4/21/15](#)]

AFP Ran Robocalls Against Republican Governor Brian Sandoval After He Made A Budget Deal. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The governor and leaders of both parties, hamstrung by the state Supreme Court, have transformed an awful budget into a bearable one. [...] Americans for Prosperity has started robocalls to get people to call [Gov. Brian] Sandoval." [Las Vegas Sun, 6/3/11]

AFP Attacked Republican Governor Brian Sandoval After He Announced A Budget Deal. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "As [Gov. Brian] Sandoval announced the budget deal, Americans for Prosperity unleashed a robocall slamming him: 'He promised us he would balance the budget without new taxes, and not only is he going back on his word, now he is leading the charge for more spending.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 6/5/11]

- **AFP-Nevada State Director Adam Stryker: AFP Membership "Feels It 'Got Stabbed In The Back.'"** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Adam Stryker, Nevada director of Americans for Prosperity, said his membership feels it 'got stabbed in the back on this one.' 'They want (the lawmakers) to know there are ramifications for their vote,' he said." [Las Vegas Sun, 6/5/11]

ATTACKS ON FEDERAL & PUBLIC LANDS

Americans For Prosperity Endorsed A New Mexico "Transfer Of Public Land Act." According to Think Progress, "The state of New Mexico sees \$6.1 billion in consumer spending stimulated by the outdoor recreation industry, as well as more than 68,000 jobs every year. Nevertheless, New Mexico State Rep. Yvette Herrell (R) and State Sen. Richard Martinez (D) introduced the Transfer of Public Land Act in early 2013, calling on the federal government to turn 23 million acres of New Mexico's public lands over to the state by the end of 2015. It also would create a public lands transfer task force to study the process of taking ownership of these federal lands. Jumping into this fray is the Koch-backed conservative group Americans for Prosperity, which called the bill 'an exciting change' and urged its members to call the state legislature to express support." [Think Progress, [3/11/13](#)]

Think Progress: "ALEC And Americans For Prosperity Have Been Fanning The Fire Under These Efforts To 'Reclaim' Federal Public Lands." According to Think Progress, "ALEC and Americans for Prosperity have been fanning the fire under these efforts to 'reclaim' federal public lands." [Think Progress, [3/11/13](#)]

AFP-NV Offered Early Support For Nevada Rancher Cliven Bundy's Stand-Off With The Federal Government, Then Scrubbed That Support From Their Social Media Accounts When Bundy's Racist Views Came To Light

Cliven Bundy Was A Rancher Who Refused To Pay His Grazing Fees On Federal Land And Didn't Recognize Sovereignty Of Federal Government. According to the Atlantic, "Twenty-one years ago, rancher Cliven Bundy stopped paying his grazing fees. Bundy does not recognize federal authority over land where his ancestors first settled in the 1880s, which he claims belongs to the state of Nevada. The Bureau of Land Management disagreed and took him to federal court, which first ruled in favor of the BLM in 1998. After years of attempts at a negotiated settlement over the \$1.2 million Bundy owes in fees failed, federal land agents began seizing hundreds of his cattle illegally grazing on public land last week." [Atlantic, [4/14/14](#)]

Bundy: "I Believe This Is A Sovereign State Of Nevada... I Abide By All Of Nevada's State Laws. But I Don't Recognize The United States Government As Even Existing." According to the Atlantic, "His personal grievance with federal authority doesn't stop with the BLM, though. 'I believe this is a sovereign state of Nevada,' Bundy said in a radio interview last Thursday. 'I abide by all of Nevada state laws. But I don't recognize the United States government as even existing.'" [Atlantic, [4/14/14](#)]

AFP-Nevada Posted Multiple Memes To Social Media Promoting Bundy's Standoff With The Bureau Of Land Management. According to Media Matters, "Two of its local affiliates, Americans for Prosperity Nevada and Americans for Prosperity Colorado, have become active boosters of Bundy's actions. AFP Nevada's Facebook page posted a graphic

attacking the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for spending 'one million dollars' to enforce the court order to round up Bundy's cattle on federal land. Another photo attacked the Bureau for creating a designated 'First Amendment Area' for protesters to gather in near the property. On its Twitter page, AFP Nevada is more strident in its support of Bundy and in attacking the federal government. AFP Nevada has promoted the hashtag #BundyBattle, which supporters are using to showcase their message. In one tweet, AFP Nevada posted a graphic attacking the cattle round up and said they had a "bone to pick" with the Bureau of Land Management. Another AFP Nevada tweet attacked the 'First Amendment Area' with a photo of cow manure and the caption "This is what we think about 'First Amendment Areas'." AFP Nevada also promoted as a 'must read' a blog post from conservative pundit Dana Loesch where she described the standoff as 'harassment' from the federal government. The group also accused the BLM of 'strategically regulating hard-working Americans out of business.'" [Media Matters, [4/11/14](#)]

- **After Rancher Cliven Bundy's "Racist Views Came To Light," AFP-Nevada "Started Scrubbing Its Online Messages Offering Praise For Bundy And His Radical Campaign."** According to The Rachel Maddow Show's The MaddowBlog on MSNBC's website, "A little over a year ago, right-wing rancher Cliven Bundy and some of well-armed friends forced a dangerous confrontation with federal law enforcement. Cooler heads prevailed when the Obama administration, in the interest of public safety, chose not to escalate the situation, and thankfully no one was hurt. But Bundy quickly became a cause celebre in far-right circles, celebrated by Fox News and Republican officials, right up until the rancher's racist views came to light. Conservatives who were cheering Bundy on quickly discovered the problems with celebrating an unhinged activist who claimed to be an expert on 'the negro' and who believes black people were 'better off as slaves.' Soon after, the Nevada affiliate of the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity started scrubbing its online messages offering praise for Bundy and his radical campaign." [MSNBC.com, [7/1/15](#)]

LIBRE Initiative

NEVADA WORK

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza: "There Is A Trend In Nevada That Is Actually Favorable To Republicans But They Have To Capitalize" On It. According to an interview of LIBRE Initiative executive director Daniel Garza on Press Play with Madeleine Brand, "It is, but you know what's interesting is that Brian Sandoval actually received 70% of the vote, and flipped the Senate and the House in Nevada with the Latino vote, for the first time since the 1920s that that's happened in Nevada. This is a state, only one of two states that actually the Latino vote went higher for Mitt Romney in the previous cycle, California being the other state. So there is a trend in Nevada that is actually favorable to Republicans but they have to capitalize." [Daniel Garza – Press Play with Madeleine Brand via KCRW, [6/23/15](#)]

Las Vegas Sun: "Michael Barrera, Western Regional Director Of The Libre Initiative, Said The Occupy Wall Street Movement Should Lay Off Corporations And Focus Their Fury On Big Government." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Michael Barrera, western regional director of the Libre Initiative, said the Occupy Wall Street movement should lay off corporations and focus their fury on big government. 'The government should not be picking winners and losers; it should be the free market that should pick winners and losers,' Barrera said. 'We've got to let the free markets decide what's best for us.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 5/31/12]

Partnership With Other Koch Organizations

LIBRE Held A Townhall Event With American Principles In Action In Las Vegas As Part Of A Campaign To "Encourage Latinos To Voice Their Support Of Conservative Values." According to an American Principles in Action press release, "Nevada Hispanics, an initiative of American Principles in Action, and The Libre Initiative, will hold a townhall event Thursday, June 28 in Las Vegas, Nevada with Rosario Marin, the 41st Treasurer of the United States. Ms. Marin is the only U.S. Treasurer ever born outside U.S. borders. The event is part of a new effort to engage Latinos on issues ranging from immigration to free-market entrepreneurship. Dubbed 'Your Vote is Your Voice: Vote Your Values,' the campaign will encourage Latinos to voice their support of conservative values." [American Principles in Action Press Release via Hispanic PR Wire, 6/28/12]

- **ProPublica: American Principles In Action Received \$107,259 From The Center To Protect Patient Rights And Americans For Prosperity.** According to data from ProPublica, the Center to Protect Patient Rights donated

\$100,000 to American Principles in Action and Americans for Prosperity donated \$7,259 to American Principles in Action. [ProPublica, [2/14/14](#)]

LIBRE In Northern Nevada Worked Out Of An Americans For Prosperity Office During The 2012 Election.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, “Just a few storefronts down from the Romney headquarters is an office of Americans for Prosperity. That’s where Edward Vento works as the northern Nevada field director for the Libre Initiative, a nonpartisan campaign to woo Latinos to conservatism. Vento said Latino voters identify strongly with ‘economic prosperity and less government regulation,’ yet have been turned off by the strong anti-immigrant rhetoric common in today’s GOP.” [San Jose Mercury News, [9/90/12](#)]

LIBRE Hosted A “Gas Can Man: Million Can March” Event In Reno With Americans For Prosperity To Protest Rising Gasoline Prices. According to a LIBRE Initiative video, “Today The LIBRE Initiative in conjunction with American Commitment and Americans for Prosperity sponsor ‘Gas Can March’ to offer Nevadans Gasoline at \$1.84 per gallon. Like all Americans around the country, Nevadans continue to pay high gas prices because Washington fails to expand American energy production that will lower energy costs, grow our economy and create much needed jobs. LIBRE calls on Washington to address the price at the pump and remove the bureaucratic red-tape that prevents companies from exploring and developing energy that will help grow our economy and allow Americans to keep more money in their pockets.” [LIBRE Initiative video via YouTube, [10/18/12](#)]

Expansion and Build-Out In Nevada

2014: LIBRE Initiative Has Committed “Significant Resources” To Nevada, Including Opening A New Office In The State And Two Full-Time Staffers. According to Politico, “And the LIBRE Initiative, which seeks to spread fiscal conservatism among Hispanics, has also committed significant resources to Nevada since first setting up shop here in 2012. Back then, it shared space in AFP’s Vegas office, but this year it moved into a new office of its own across the street from a wedding venue called the ‘Elvis Chapel.’ An April ribbon-cutting was attended by at least one GOP congressional candidate, and the group now has two full-time staffers and a growing volunteer base in the state.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

LIBRE Has Been “Building Meaningful Relationships With Hispanics Since 2011 In States Like Nevada.”

According to BuzzFeed, “LIBRE is a group backed by billionaires Charles and David Koch. They’ve been providing services and building meaningful relationships with Hispanics since 2011 in states like Nevada, Florida, Colorado, Texas, and Arizona — and they’re doing this all while espousing conservative principles to a key demographic of voters in person, in print, and online.” [Buzzfeed, [3/12/15](#)]

Electoral Tactics And Strategy In Nevada

UNV Associate Professor And Brookings Fellow David Damore: “Very Few People Listen To You If You Say You Want To Deport You And Your Family,” So LIBRE’s Strategy Might Not Necessarily Be To Win The Latino Vote, “Just Not Losing It 3 To 1.” According to the Washington Post, “But the question remains, [David] Damore said, whether their effort will pay off. The immigration stance of Republican candidates will be key, he said: ‘Very few people listen to you if you say you want to deport you and your family.’ LIBRE’s strategy, he said, is not necessarily winning the Latino vote, ‘just not losing it 3 to 1,’ as Republicans did in 2012.” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

Two Percent Of Ad Messaging Between January And September 2012 On Two Spanish-Language TV Stations In Las Vegas Came From The LIBRE Initiative. According to the Columbia Journalism Review, “The stats—culled from data the stations put in their public inspection files and presented in pie chart form—show that between January and September 20, 2012, on Roman’s two Spanish-language TV stations in Las Vegas [...] Thirty-seven percent of ad messaging has been ‘red,’ including 13 percent from both the Republican National Committee and the outside spending group Crossroads (it’s not clear whether this is the super PAC, the 501(c)(4) offshoot or both), 5 percent from the conservative nonprofit American Principles in Action, 4 percent from the Romney campaign, and 2 percent from the nonprofit Libre Initiative.” [Columbia Journalism Review, [9/27/12](#)]

LIBRE Aired Its “Share The Dream” TV Ad Campaign In Las Vegas. According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “The LIBRE Initiative, a national non-partisan and non-profit organization that provides U.S. Hispanic communities with the tools to prosper, launches Share the Dream, a campaign featuring the stories of four children of immigrants and the common thread that led them to succeed in the United States. The bilingual, broadcast, digital and social media campaign, aims to inspire others to achieve the American Dream and embrace the principles that lead to prosperity in America. The television

ads featuring LIBRE's Executive Director, Daniel Garza, and LIBRE National Spokesperson, Rachel Campos-Duffy, will begin broadcasting today in the following television markets: Albuquerque, NM; Miami, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Las Vegas, NV and San Antonio, TX." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release via Targeted News Service, 1/6/14]

LIBRE Official: "You Still Earn Votes By Getting Out Into The Community." According to Las Vegas Sun, "Neither party can take the (Hispanic) vote for granted," said Ronald Najaro, Southwest region spokesman for the Libre Initiative, an organization partly funded by Charles and David Koch that is pro-immigration reform and promotes conservative economic policy to Hispanics. 'You still earn votes by getting out into the community,' Najaro said. 'Latinos are a swing vote up for grabs. Democrats have done a great job of investing heavily and doing outreach and community events in the past, but now it's the conservative side that is doing more outreach and they were able to swing the election their way.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/14]

2012: The Conservative Group Nevada Hispanics Launched A Campaign Called "Your Vote Is Your Voice: Vote Your Values," That Was "Designed To Turn Out Latino Voters" During The 2012 Elections. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "A coalition of conservative groups has launched Nevada Hispanics, a new civic engagement organization throwing down the gauntlet with Democrats for the coveted Hispanic vote. [...] The current campaign from Nevada Hispanics, 'Your Vote is Your Voice: Vote Your Values,' focuses on the November general election and is designed to turn out Latino voters. However, Nelson Santiago, the organization's spokesman, said the group is here to stay and will remain active after the election." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/31/12]

- **"Your Vote Is Your Voice" Was "Also Affiliated With Conservative Groups Americans For Prosperity; The Libre Initiative...And The Congress Of Racial Equality."** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The current campaign from Nevada Hispanics, 'Your Vote is Your Voice: Vote Your Values,' focuses on the November general election and is designed to turn out Latino voters. However, Nelson Santiago, the organization's spokesman, said the group is here to stay and will remain active after the election.[...] The campaign is also affiliated with conservative groups Americans for Prosperity; the Libre Initiative, which focuses on economic policy; and the Congress of Racial Equality, a civil rights organization founded in 1942 that has progressively moved toward more conservative positions. Michael Barrera, western regional director of the Libre Initiative, said the Occupy Wall Street movement should lay off corporations and focus their fury on big government." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/31/12]

2012: LIBRE Aired A Spanish-Language Ad In Nevada That They Described As "A Call To Action To The Hispanic Community." According to the Huffington Post, "A right-leaning organization and a Latina pitch woman have picked up the argument that businesses can be built without government help. This time Cecilia Aldana, a Peruvian-American business woman, is making the case -- in an ad titled 'Cecilia y su sueño Americano' (Cecilia and her American Dream) -- that she, her family and her employees built her clinic and medical billing and accounting services companies without government help. And, she makes the claim in Spanish. The 60-second ad, funded by the LIBRE Initiative will air in Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Virginia. In a statement, LIBRE described it as call to action to the Hispanic community to 'protect our dream and our freedom.'" [Huffington Post, [9/15/12](#)]

Events In Nevada

Religious Outreach

LIBRE Participated In A Nevada Hispanic Pastors Panel In 2014. According to the LIBRE Initiative website, "LIBRE at the Nevada Hispanic Pastors Panel Thursday, Apr 10, 2014 - 09:00 AM | Thursday, Apr 10, 2014 - 02:00 PM. LIBRE will be participating in a panel that brings both pastors and faith leaders for an engaging discussion on the importance of civic engagement." [TheLibreInitiative.com, accessed [7/10/15](#)]

Driver's Education Outreach

LIBRE Organized A Driver's Ed Test Prep Session For Latinos In Nevada In An Attempt At "Warming The Hearts And Winning The Votes Of Latinos" For Republicans. According to the Washington Post, "For Republicans, the road to warming the hearts and winning the votes of Latinos may begin at a Las Vegas flea market. On a recent morning, inside the Eastern Indoor Swapmeet Las Vegas, a group funded by the billionaire Koch brothers helped 250 Latinos — some of them undocumented immigrants — pass the Nevada driver's test. The LIBRE Initiative, an expanding grass-roots organization now operating in nine states, organized the four-hour test prep session to teach the rules of the road in Spanish — no tome y

maneje (no drinking and driving), el límite de velocidad es sesenta y cinco millas por hora (the speed limit is 65 miles per hour).” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

Breitbart: “The LIBRE Initiative, A Group Funded By The Koch Brothers, Was Attempting To Help 250 Latinos, Some Of Whom Were Illegal Immigrants, To Pass The Nevada Driver’s Test.” According to Breitbart, “Establishment Republicans are now championing getting illegal immigrants driver’s licenses. At the Eastern Indoor Swapmeet Las Vegas, the LIBRE Initiative, a group funded by the Koch brothers, was attempting to help 250 Latinos, some of whom were illegal immigrants, to pass the Nevada driver’s test.” [Breitbart, [5/1/15](#)]

- **Breitbart: “If Illegal Immigrants Gain Driver’s Licenses, It Could Well Undermine The Nation’s Security.”** According to Breitbart, “If illegal immigrants gain driver’s licenses, it could well undermine the nation’s security, as the 9/11 Commission pointed out, asserting, ‘Secure identification should begin in the United States. The federal government should set standards for the issuance of birth certificates and sources of identification, such as drivers licenses. Fraud in identification documents is no longer just a problem of theft. At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists.’” [Breitbart, [5/1/15](#)]

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza: LIBRE Has Sponsored Four Driving License Classes In Nevada So Far, “With Licensed Instructors, And Hundreds Of Attendees -- Each Event Filled To Capacity.” According to an op-ed by LIBRE Initiative executive director Daniel Garza for La Voz, “For example, when our Nevada team learned that 70 percent of those who take the test for the state’s Spanish language written drivers test were failing, they decided to do something about it. This is a real concern for immigrants and Latinos across the state -- who rely on the ability to drive themselves to get to that job or class that is crucial to their American Dream. LIBRE has sponsored four classes (so far) with licensed instructors, and hundreds of attendees -- each event filled to capacity. One attendee was a mother who had previously been unable even to obtain the drivers’ manual, and had already failed the test once. With LIBRE’s help, she was able to pass the test -- allowing her to get to work and take her children to school far more easily.” [Daniel Garza - La Voz, [6/24/15](#)]

Immigration Reform Outreach

LIBRE Initiative Volunteers Ran A Phone Bank In Nevada To “Campaign For Immigration Reform.” According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a non-partisan and non-profit national grassroots organization that works to advance the principles of economic freedom in the U.S. Hispanic community, held phone banks this past Saturday, August 24th, to promote LIBRE’s ESTAMOS CONTIGO campaign for Immigration reform. Volunteers in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, and Virginia placed thousands of calls to urge respondents to visit the ESTAMOS CONTIGO interactive page and send an electronic letter to their Representative and Senators to support reforming our broken Immigration system this year.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release via Targeted News Service, 8/27/13]

- **ESTAMOS CONTIGO Was A LIBRE Project In Support Of “Immigration Reform That Will Lead To A More Prosperous United States.”** According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “ESTAMOS CONTIGO supports the immigrants, job creators, community leaders and all who stand for Immigration reform that will lead to a more prosperous United States.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release via Targeted News Service, 8/27/13]

Youth & Education Outreach

LIBRE Had A Booth At The University Of Nevada-Reno “Friday Fest” Student Organization Fair. According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “The LIBRE Initiative, a non-profit and non-partisan national grassroots organization that works to promote the principles of economic freedom within the U.S Hispanic community, participates in ‘Friday Fest,’ UNR’s annual student organization fair. LIBRE will have a booth where students can learn about LIBRE, our message, and our ‘ESTAMOS CONTIGO’ (We are With You) campaign for immigration reform.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [8/29/13](#)]

LIBRE Hosted A “Youth Essay Contest” At Nevada State College In 2012 With The Essay Topic “Why Are Free Markets Important To Achieve The American Dream?” According to the LIBRE Initiative website, “We want to hear from you! The LIBRE Initiative is providing Nevada State College (NSC) students the opportunity to put in essay form the benefits of free markets for a chance to win a \$1000 scholarship and NSC will match that to make it \$2,000! Eight entries will win. In a free market system, opportunities aren’t limited by who you are or where your family comes from. You’re only

limited by your imagination! Economic freedom empowers families to decide what is best for them instead of allowing the government to control their lives.” [TheLibreInitiative.com, accessed [7/10/15](#)]

LIBRE Honored Eight “LIBRE Scholars” At Nevada State College In 2014. According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a non-profit, non-partisan, national grassroots organization that works to equip the U.S. Hispanic Community with the tools to prosper, will host a special luncheon to honor the recipients of the LIBRE Initiative’s Scholarship program at Nevada State College for the 2013-2014 fiscal academic school year. The eight ‘LIBRE Scholars’ to be honored were each awarded one-thousand dollar scholarships last fall, and come from diverse areas of study in the fields of elementary education, history, biology, environmental science, pre-nursing and speech pathology. LIBRE will host a luncheon to congratulate the scholarship recipients and LIBRE Executive Director; Daniel Garza will present the Nevada State College Foundation with a symbolic check for the ‘LIBRE Scholars’ program as well as address those attending.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [3/11/14](#)]

LIBRE Co-Hosted Screenings Of A Documentary About School Choice In Nevada. According to the Nevada Policy Research Institute website, “In celebration of National School Choice Week, NPRI, RISE Education Resource Center and The Libre Initiative are excited to host a free screening of ‘The Ticket’ in Reno and Las Vegas. ‘The Ticket’ highlights why we need parental choice in schooling and is directed by documentary filmmaker Bob Bowdon, maker of ‘The Cartel.’” [NPRI.org, accessed [7/10/15](#)]

LIBRE Sponsored Events Intended To Serve As Contact-Gathering For Republicans

Washington Post: “Everyone Who Came” To LIBRE’s Nevada Driver’s Test Prep “Was Asked To Leave Their Names And Contact Information Under A Big Blue Sign That Read, ‘Limited Government, Unlimited Opportunities.’” According to the Washington Post, “At the drivers’ test prep class on Sunday, the crowd applauded a video touting the American Dream and showing the journey of Garza, the son of a migrant worker from Mexico who went on to work in the White House for President George W. Bush. Rosana Romero, a popular anchor at the local Spanish-language station in Las Vegas, Mundo-Fox, which joined in sponsoring the Sunday event, greeted people as they arrived. Spanish-language TV stations have been reporting on the free classes and interviewing LIBRE officials. Everyone who came was asked to leave their names and contact information under a big blue sign that read, ‘Limited government, Unlimited opportunities.’” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

A Nevada Resident, Salvador Garnica, Said He Appreciated The Help With Passing The Driving Exam But “He Wasn’t About To Support Republicans: ‘They Are For The Rich.’” According to the Washington Post, “Salvador Garnica, 44, an electrician who is a permanent resident originally from Mexico, has flunked the test four times. He said that after listening to an instructor explain in Spanish for four hours everything from the right of way at roundabouts to lane -changes, he finally felt ready to pass. He was grateful for the help and the festive atmosphere at the flea market, where a dozen people who took the class won gift certificates in a raffle. But Garnica also raised the challenge for LIBRE and other Republican efforts to win over Hispanics. While he appreciated the help, he wasn’t about to support Republicans: ‘They are for the rich,’ he said.” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

Latino Community Opposition To LIBRE

LIBRE Had Planned To Be A Top Sponsor Of The Cesar Chavez Festival In Las Vegas Until Local Activists And Lawmakers Protested, Including A Grandson Of Cesar Chavez, Alejandro Chavez. According to Buzzfeed, “LIBRE had planned to be a top sponsor of the Cesar Chavez Festival in Las Vegas later this month. That decision sparked a protest from local activists and lawmakers. When the flier with the LIBRE Initiative logo came out, five groups and local councilman Isaac Barron reached out to event organizers. Barron said he either wanted his name off the flier or LIBRE’s. It got so serious that Alejandro Chavez — a grandson of Cesar Chavez’s — got involved, telling organizers, ‘It would be a disrespect to the family because LIBRE Initiative do not represent what Cesar Chavez fought for, he was a union leader and they do anti-union and anti-collective bargaining messaging.’ The festival dropped LIBRE from the event’s sponsors.” [Buzzfeed, [3/12/15](#)]

Chavez: It Would Be A Disrespectful “Because LIBRE Initiative Do Not Represent What Cesar Chavez Fought For, He Was A Union Leader And They Do Anti-Union And Anti-Collective Bargaining Messaging.” According to Buzzfeed, “It got so serious that Alejandro Chavez — a grandson of Cesar Chavez’s — got involved, telling organizers, ‘It would be a disrespect to the family because LIBRE Initiative do not represent what Cesar Chavez fought for, he was a union leader and they do anti-union and anti-collective bargaining messaging.’ The festival dropped LIBRE from the event’s sponsors.” [Buzzfeed, [3/12/15](#)]

Labor Council For Latin American Advancement President Hector Sanchez: “It’s Unacceptable That An Organization That Claims To Support The Latino Community Is Attacking Latino Candidates.” According to BuzzFeed, “It’s unacceptable that an organization that claims to support the Latino community is attacking Latino candidates,” said Labor Council For Latin American Advancement president Hector Sanchez, who works to increase Latino representation in government. “We are the most underrepresented group when it comes to public office, to have them going after Latino candidates is an attack on the Latino community.” [Buzzfeed, [3/12/15](#)]

Major Hispanic Publication La Voz Contributor David Conde: “The Libre Agenda Is To Use A Soft Sale To Convert Latinos To The Republican Agenda.” According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “One of the more recent Koch brothers funded conservative organizations is the Libre Initiative founded by Daniel Garza in 2011. This 501(c)4 entity is supposedly non-partisan, but given the fact that Mr. Garza is a former Republican political operative, it is not surprising that part of the Libre agenda is to use a soft sale to convert Latinos to the Republican agenda.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Conde: What “Peaked My Interest” In The Libre Initiative Was Their Source Of Funding. According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “I initially heard of the Libre Initiative as a grassroots organization in Nevada that helps Latinos with securing driver licenses, do their taxes, offer English classes, hold festivals, etc. What peaked my interest was that this non-partisan organization was bankrolled to the tune of 10 million dollars or more since 2011 by the Koch brothers, a set of billionaires that have supported only the most conservative Republican candidates and political causes.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Conde: The LIBRE Agenda “Does Not Appear Central To The Interests Of The Majority In The Latino Community.” According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “According to its website, the Libre Initiative ‘is dedicated to informing the U.S Hispanic community about the benefits of a constitutionally limited government, property rights, rule of law, sound money supply and free enterprise through a variety of community events, research, and policy initiatives that protect our economic freedom.’ The mandate does not appear central to the interests of the majority in the Latino community who is struggling to make ends meet.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Conde: “That Forced Ideology Is Necessary To Secure The Blessings Of The Koch Money.” According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “That forced ideology is necessary to secure the blessings of the Koch money that funds the organization. The Libre Initiative is based in McAllen, Texas but operates in at least 7 other Latino populated states including Colorado and other political battlegrounds.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Conde: Given His Migrant Worker Background, “You Would Think That Garza Would Dedicate His Non-Profit Work To Making A Difference In That Area.” According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “It is curious that Daniel Garza anchors his personal story to being a migrant worker with immigrant parents. Coming from the horrible living conditions that characterizes the life of a migrant, you would think that he would dedicate his non-profit work to making a difference in that area.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Conde: Garza’s Work With LIBRE “Shows A Tragic Disregard For His Own Story.” According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “For Daniel Garza to advocate a second class status for immigrants in America shows a tragic disregard for his own story. He also came out of the immigrant community and yet he and his parents can now exercise the rights and privileges of full residency and citizenship.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

- **Conde: Garza Is “Shutting The Door After You Are In.”** According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “[Garza] also came out of the immigrant community and yet he and his parents can now exercise the rights and privileges of full residency and citizenship. To then turn around and try to deny the opportunity for others to achieve was his family has done says a lot about shutting the door after you are in. ‘No se vale,’ this is not right.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Conde: It Makes It Worse To “Hide A Political Agenda Under The Friendly Face Of A Community Helper.” According to an opinion by contributor David Conde for La Voz, “On top of that, to hide a political agenda under the friendly face of a community helper is even worse as it very much looks like votes are being bought by calculated kindness. Latinos have worked too hard and invested so much to achieve power and a prominent place at the political table. It is true that the Republican Party needs to do a lot to capture its share of the Latino vote in the next national election. But to do it under the false pretense of helping people is unacceptable.” [David Conde – La Voz, [6/10/15](#)]

Opposition To The Affordable Care Act

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza: “The Affordable Care Act Penalizes The Hispanic-American Community In Nevada In Several Serious Ways.” According to an op-ed by Daniel Garza for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “But the joke is on Hispanics and Latinos like myself. Beyond the faulty launch of the federal website, the Affordable Care Act penalizes the Hispanic-American community in Nevada in several serious ways. The law was supposed to help us, but it actually makes affordable and quality health care even harder to find.” [Daniel Garza - Las Vegas Review-Journal, 2/4/14]

Garza: “A Recent Analysis By Forbes Concludes That The Average 27-Year-Old’s Health Care Premium Has Spiked By 328 Percent For Men And 127 Percent For Women In Nevada Since Obamacare Took Effect.” According to an op-ed by Daniel Garza for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Obamacare will simply be too expensive for many Hispanics. The problem for us stems from the law’s over-reliance on the young. This directly affects the Hispanic-American community because we are significantly younger than the average American. In fact, our median age is 27—the age that’s most severely harmed by the Affordable Care Act’s premium increases. This is either an unfortunate coincidence or a cruel joke. Either way, it couldn’t be worse for Hispanics’ financial health. A recent analysis by Forbes concludes that the average 27-year-old’s health care premium has spiked by 328 percent for men and 127 percent for women in Nevada since Obamacare took effect.” [Daniel Garza - Las Vegas Review-Journal, 2/4/14]

Failure To Support Latinos

LIBRE Did Not Challenge Republican-Led Legislation In Nevada That “Would Make It More Difficult For Undocumented Immigrants To Work In Construction By Penalizing Their Employers.” According to BuzzFeed, “While LIBRE helps immigrants pass their driver’s tests, which helps them get to work, Democrats and Latino advocates say the group is silent when it comes to Republican-led legislation in Nevada that would make it harder for immigrants to live in the state. One such bill in the assembly, AB 133, introduced by state Assemblyman Ira Hansen, would make it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to work in construction by penalizing their employers. Critics say if LIBRE really has the best interest of Nevada immigrants at heart, they would fight legislation like this. Garza said the group has limited resources but doesn’t rule out taking on Republicans. He noted they’ve already slammed Marco Rubio over sugar subsidies, for example.” [Buzzfeed, [3/12/15](#)]

LIBRE Southwest Spokesperson Ronald Najarro: “In Nevada, A Person On Welfare Can Claim A Salary Of As Much As \$31,527 Per Year.” According to an opinion by LIBRE Southwest spokesman Ronald Najarro for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “The Cato study shows that in 35 states, welfare actually pays more than minimum wage. Those states include Nevada, where recipients on public assistance can expect to earn \$14.34 an hour—or almost twice the federal minimum wage. For many, this is no-brainer, and the thought of a low-skilled, minimum-wage job pales in comparison with the ease of free money without the long hours. But the ramifications of this go deeper than the pocketbook, affecting self-worth and crushing the entrepreneurial spirit to seek a better life on your own terms — away from dependency. Incentivizing people to depend on the government through programs such as welfare, without a path to employment, is troublesome to society and a betrayal of the American dream. Right now, welfare recipients in 11 states can earn more than the pretax salary of a first year teacher. In 39 states, they receive more than a starting wage for a secretary, and in the three most generous states, a person on welfare can take home a salary higher than that of an entry-level computer programmer. In Nevada, a person on welfare can claim a salary of as much as \$31,527 per year.” [Ronald Najarro – Las Vegas Review Journal, [9/9/13](#)]

LIBRE Failed To Strongly Condemn Donald Trump’s Comments on Immigrants

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza Variouslly Called Donald Trump’s Comments On Immigrants “A Distraction,” “Unkind,” “Insensitive,” “Wrong On Policy,” And “Sensationalism” While Defending Trump’s Free Speech Rights

BuzzFeed: The Goal Of Groups Like The LIBRE Initiative Is To Show Latinos That The Republican Party “Is Not The Enemy,” But They Worry Donald Trump “Is Ruining That.” According to BuzzFeed, “Latinos on the left worry about the LIBRE Initiative, a Koch-funded project that’s doing real on-the-ground work in Hispanic churches and communities, all while espousing conservative principles in literature and on Latino media. GROW Elect, an effort started in California and expanding to Southwest states, helped dozens of Latino Republicans get elected in 2014, often in Hispanic

districts. The goal with these projects is clear: showing that the Republican Party is not the enemy. And Trump, these Republicans worry, is ruining that.” [BuzzFeed, [7/10/15](#)]

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza On Donald Trump: “He’s Just Wrong On Policy. Flat-Out. It’s Unkind And It Mischaracterizes The Contributions Of The Entire Immigrant Community.” According to CNN, “Conservative groups unaffiliated with the official party that coordinate Latino outreach efforts are speaking out against Trump’s characterization of immigrants. ‘He’s just wrong on policy. Flat-out. It’s unkind and it mischaracterizes the contributions of the entire immigrant community,’ said Daniel Garza, executive director of the Libre Initiative. ‘They’ve brought wealth to America and ingenuity and innovation. The fact that Donald Trump is wrong both on sentiment and policy has allowed the Latino left to pile on. And there’s something valid about what they’re saying, that this is wrong in both content, style and policy.’” [CNN, [7/4/15](#)]

Garza On Trump: “It’s A Distraction, A Major Distraction...It’s Not The Narrative You Want Driving The National News.” According to BuzzFeed, “Since his announcement, Oliver-Méndez said, Trump has been mentioned at least once or twice in practically every newscast with very few exceptions on the three major networks MRC Latino monitors: Univision, Telemundo, and MundoFox. ‘It’s a distraction, a major distraction,’ said LIBRE’s executive director, Daniel Garza. ‘It’s not the narrative you want driving the national news.’ But he said Trump has created a realignment within the immigration debate, where the bombastic businessman represents the extreme fringe and other presidential candidates are able to emerge as the adults in the room.” [BuzzFeed, [7/10/15](#)]

Garza: “Donald Trump’s Comments About Immigration Were Wrong, And They Were Insensitive.” According to a post by Daniel Garza on Facebook, “Donald Trump’s comments about immigration were wrong, and they were insensitive. I’ve criticized those comments in a range of news outlets, but I wanted to share my thoughts here as well.” [Daniel Garza – LIBRE Initiative Facebook, [7/10/15](#)]

Garza: While Trump Is “A Businessman And Entertainer Who Has Gotten Ahead Through Sensationalism” And “Has The Same Free Speech Rights” As Any American, “His Words Have Consequences.” According to a post by Daniel Garza on Facebook, “First of all, while it is understood that Mr. Trump is a businessman and entertainer who has gotten ahead through sensationalism – even built a brand and career around it – his words have consequences. Yes, he has the same free speech rights as any other American, and he’s entitled to speak his mind as he chooses to, but Americans are also free to express their vehement disagreement with the ideas and sentiments expressed by Mr. Trump – and they have rightly done so.” [Daniel Garza – LIBRE Initiative Facebook, [7/10/15](#)]

Garza: Trump’s “Words Are Unkind And They Mischaracterize The Contributions Of The Entire Immigrant Community Over Generations.” According to a post by Daniel Garza on Facebook, “As to the comments themselves, Mr. Trump’s words are unkind and they mischaracterize the contributions of the entire immigrant community over generations. People like my parents and grandparents have brought – and they continue to bring – wealth, ingenuity, and innovation to America. If the day ever comes when hard-working and industrious people from around the globe no longer seek to come here, that is when we should worry. More than worry – we should be genuinely fearful.” [Daniel Garza – LIBRE Initiative Facebook, [7/10/15](#)]

Garza Suggested That Trump Was Actually A Liberal

Garza: In The Past Trump Has “Spoken Positively About Huge Tax Increases, Government-Run Health Care, Higher Consumer Taxes, And More,” And Donated To Hillary Clinton. According to a post by Daniel Garza on Facebook, “Until recently, Mr. Trump did not present himself as a leader of the conservative movement. In the past he’s spoken positively about huge tax increases, government-run health care, higher consumer taxes, and more. He’s donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to candidates and elected officials of both parties – including Hillary Clinton – and to charities such as the Clinton Foundation. (And at this point, there’s no indication that Mrs. Clinton, her family Foundation, Senator Harry Reid, or others, have any plans to return his donations.)” [Daniel Garza – LIBRE Initiative Facebook, [7/10/15](#)]

NATIONAL FAILURE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

2012: LIBRE Initiative Policy Director Jose Mallea: For Hispanic Voters Immigration Is “A Secondary Issue.”

Jose Mallea: For Hispanic Voters Immigration Is “A Secondary Issue.” According to the Palm Beach Post, “But Jose Mallea, former campaign manager for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio and now regional director for the Libre Initiative, a conservative national policy organization, said the Republican ticket’s economic appeal will reach Hispanics. The immigration issue for Hispanic voters [is] ‘a secondary issue,’ Mallea said. ‘I don’t think it’s going to be the most important thing to influence their vote.’” [Palm Beach Post, [8/31/12](#)]

Mallea: Instead Of Talking About “Immigration, And The Dream Act,” LIBRE “Is An Effort To Talk About Economic Freedom, Opportunity, The American Dream, And Government Over-Reach.” According to the Miami Herald, “A new poll from a new Republican-leaning group called the Libre Initiative finds that Hispanic voters are unhappy with the country’s direction, pessimistic about their kids’ futures and suspicious about what government can do to foster the American dream. ‘We’re getting in front of Hispanics with a different message than you’ve been hearing,’ said Jose Mallea, Libre Initiative’s national coordinator. ‘The Democrats want to talk about immigration, and the Dream Act,’ Mallea said. ‘This is an effort to talk about economic freedom, opportunity, the American dream, and government over-reach.’” [Miami Herald, [4/10/12](#)]

2012: Executive Director Daniel Garza Attacked Obama’s Executive Order to Stop Deporting DREAMers As “Pandering,” “Dangerous,” And Questioned Whether It Would Have Any Economic Benefit.

Garza Attacked Obama’s Executive Order As “Pandering” and “Dangerous.” According to Garza: “Immigration policies should be market driven, not politically motivated. The foundation of individual liberty is rule of law, not what is politically expedient. More importantly, federal immigration reform must be hammered out by those elected by the people to be our voice in Congress, not the act of one person. It is pandering, it is dangerous, and it is not the American way.” [FoxNews Latino, [6/12/12](#)]

Garza Criticized Obama’s Executive Order to Stop Deporting DREAMers Because It Was “It’s Hard To Tell” If It Would Have Any Economic Benefit. According to Garza: “While the policy shift is set to benefit an estimated 800,000 immigrant youth, it’s hard to tell if this initiative is in the least a partial solution to reversing the economic crisis.” [FoxNews Latino, [6/12/12](#)]

Garza Attacked DACA Executive Order As “Obvious Political Posturing,” “Brazen Attempt To Collect Votes In An Election Year Undermines The Rule Of Law.” According to Garza: “But what is worse than the obvious political posturing to a critical voting bloc, is that this brazen attempt to collect votes in an election year undermines the rule of law.” [FoxNews Latino, [6/12/12](#)]

Garza Attacked Obama’s Executive Order To Stop Deporting Young, Undocumented Immigrants As “Politically Driven.” According to Garza: “For many of us who are immigrants, or sons and daughters of immigrants, we value the American Dream, an opportunity to prosper in a country that values the rule of law. From what I have read thus far, this new initiative intends to partially achieve the goals of the so-called DREAM Act. It seems - given the timing and targeted constituency - a politically driven attempt to turn attention away from the lagging economy affecting the country at large, particularly Hispanics.” [FoxNews Latino, [6/12/12](#)]

June 2012: Garza Announced That LIBRE Initiative Opposed DACA Executive Order For DREAMers Because It Did Not Honor Legislative Process. According to Garza: “The White House announced that it will stop deporting and begin granting work permits to young undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children and have since led law-abiding lives. Had the legislative process been honored rightly, I too would have cheerfully given my personal endorsement of the rule change. However, we don’t get to change law based on personal prerogatives because we are all, as Americans, duty bound to honor the legislative process outlined in our constitution. It was poorly done and political headwinds are sure to follow the president’s actions, which compromise an effective long-term policy approach to a desperately needed reform.” [FoxNews Latino, [6/12/12](#)]

August 2014: LIBRE Claimed To Support Immigration Reform But That Obama’s Executive Orders Would Result In Unintended Consequences, Said “Doing An Executive Action Will Make Things Worse”

LIBRE Claimed To be “Generally Supportive Of Comprehensive Immigration Reform.” According to Politico, “LIBRE, which is generally supportive of comprehensive immigration reform, has sought to distance itself from AFP and Pearce.” [Politico.com, [8/19/14](#)]

LIBRE Predicted President Obama's Deportation Executive Order Would Result In "Unintended Consequences."

According to Politico, "It objected to the characterization that it opposed the deportation executive order, which was popular in the Hispanic community, though it did issue a statement criticizing Obama for signing the order, which it predicted would result in 'unintended consequences,' while Garza also called it 'not helpful' in an appearance on Fox News." [Politico.com, [8/19/14](#)]

Campos-Duffy: With "Doing An Executive Action Will Make Things Worse. According to an interview of LIBRE national spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy on Fox & Friends, "What ended up happening is it exposed, really, for anyone who had any doubts that the border wasn't secure, they saw that when all these Central American children were able to make it over. And now we have the crisis within the Middle-East, um and threats to the homeland from ISIS – so his [President Obama's] idea of immigration reform, which was legalization, citizenship, first and border security later really isn't that appealing to Americans anymore. I think they really want border security first. And then I think its really clear that the most powerful members of Congress, both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, want to find a compromise. But I think for him the immigration issue is always about politics. [...] Doing an executive action will make things worse, especially when we know there's a solution everyone can agree on." [Fox & Friends via YouTube, [9/8/14](#)]

September 2014: LIBRE Initiative Criticized Obama's Delay of Expanded Executive Action on Immigration Reform

The LIBRE Initiative Criticized President Obama For Delaying His Executive Actions On Immigration Reform.

According to Nevada's KTNV Action 13, "President Obama is under fire for back-pedaling on a promise he made early this summer to reform the immigration system by executive action. [...] Now the President's promise will have to wait until after the mid-term elections, and that's not sitting well with local immigration reform activists. 'Once again, the Hispanic community is being victim to political ploys,' said Ronnie Najaro of The Libre Initiative." [KTVN Action News, [9/6/14](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Executive Director On President Obama's Decision To Postpone Immigration Reform: "His Latest Indecision...Erodes Any Hope Of A Permanent, Bipartisan Immigration Solution During This Administration."

According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, "Today the White House announced that the president will not follow through on his prior commitment to revise enforcement of Immigration laws. Instead, he will announce changes after the midterm elections - out of concern for the political ramifications of any announcement. Daniel Garza, Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative released the following statement: 'Listening to President Obama make his case for executive action one was led to believe that he was driven by a deep-seated conviction that he was acting on behalf of those seeking to come out of the shadows - and to place the dignity of the individual above all. He said he wanted to do what was best for the nation's economy, to alleviate market forces and honor the integrity of borders. Instead, he is driven strictly by political outcomes. His latest indecision also further undermines the trust of the American people - which has been reflected in his falling approval rating - and erodes any hope of a permanent, bipartisan Immigration solution during this administration.'" [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [9/8/14](#)]

LIBRE's Brian Faughnan On Congress Enacting Immigration Reform: "From Our Point Of View, Conservatives And Republicans Need To Look At The Long-Term Interests Here."

According to Slate, "I checked in with Libre's Brian Faughnan, asking first whether Libre wanted Obama to issue an executive order to stop deportations. [...] But why would Republicans act, when they've just seen that doing nothing in the House led to Latino voters souring on the president? 'We believe that it's the right thing to do,' said Faughnan. 'I think you can look at instances in the past where conservatives have looked at perhaps a short-term political gain that turned out to be in the long term, politically damaging. From our point of view, conservatives and Republicans need to look at the long-term interests here.'" [Slate, [9/10/14](#)]

LIBRE's Brian Faughnan On LIBRE's Position On Using Executive Order To Stop Deportation: "We Believe That Executive Action Comes With Negative Repercussions, Unforeseen Consequences."

According to Slate, "I checked in with Libre's Brian Faughnan, asking first whether Libre wanted Obama to issue an executive order to stop deportations. 'We believe that executive action comes with negative repercussions, unforeseen consequences,' said Fahnan. 'We saw that with the situation on the border this summer. From our point of view, the best answer is always going to be to have a broad immigration reform package and enact it. We don't take a position on the timetable, but we've called for that.'" [Slate, [9/10/14](#)]

LIBRE's Brian Faughnan On Immigration Reform: "The House Laid Out A Series Of Principles. It's Up To Congress And The President To Figure Out How To Handle That."

According to Slate, "I checked in with Libre's

Brian Faughnan, asking first whether Libre wanted Obama to issue an executive order to stop deportations. [...] OK, and asking what of Republicans? ‘We don’t presume to dictate to Congress how it should be handled,’ said Faughnan. ‘The House laid out a series of principles. It’s up to Congress and the president to figure out how to handle that.’” [Slate, [9/10/14](#)]

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza On Latinos: “They Wanted Congress And The President To Work In A Bipartisan Way On Immigration Reform.” According to a LIBRE press release, “Daniel Garza, Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative, released the following statement: [...] ‘They wanted Congress and the president to work in a bipartisan way on Immigration reform.’” [LIBRE Press Prelease, [9/10/14](#)]

October 2015: LIBRE National Spokesperson On Need For Immigration Reform: “A Pathway To Citizenship Already Exists. It’s Called Our Immigration System”

Campos-Duffy: “When You Say A Pathway To Citizenship, There’s A Pathway That Exists. It’s Called Our Immigration System.” According to a speech Rachel Campos-Duffy gave to The Latino Voter Outreach Midwest Conference, “What the House is proposing is simply to legalize them, and when you say a pathway to citizenship, there’s a pathway that exists. It’s called our immigration system. And you can go, again this is a perfect example of what we talk about with tone. [...] When Democrats say ‘a path to citizenship,’ usually, and this is my interpretation, I think they mean a special pathway where they come to the front of the line. When I hear ‘pathway to citizenship’ for, um, by Republican candidates, I think they mean that the pathway exists and you can, you have the same access, once you’re legalized, you have the same access as everybody else to go through the citizenship process. But now, how do Republicans tell Hispanics that? They say, you go to the back of the line. Doesn’t that sound like the back of the bus? I mean, we mean the same thing. We’re saying the same thing. Exactly the same thing. Why couldn’t we just say, as Republicans, the pathway exists, and you have the same opportunity as everybody else to be a part of, become a citizen by entering, you know the pathway to immigration—I mean, to citizenship?” [Rachel Campos-Duffy Speech – Latino Voter Outreach Midwest Conference via YouTube.com, [10/15/13](#)]

Campos-Duffy : “We Want Immigration Reform That Lets The Free Market, Not Unions, Decide The Number And Kind Of Guest Workers And Visas America’s Businesses And Farms Need.” According to a speech Rachel Campos-Duffy gave to The Latino Voter Outreach Midwest Conference, “We want, we want immigration reform that lets the free market, not unions, decide the number and kind of guest workers and visas America’s businesses and farms need.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy Speech – Latino Voter Outreach Midwest Conference via YouTube.com, [10/15/13](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Has Repeatedly Attacked Undocumented Immigrants as “Illegals,” And “Illegal Immigrants”

National Spokesman for LIBRE Initiative Authored Op-Ed Using Term “Illegal Immigrants.” According to Rachel Campos Duffy: In light of the news from Washington, D.C., about divisions over immigration reform, it is hard to believe that there was at one point an immigration issue that brought Democrats and Republicans together: what to do about the children of illegal immigrants already living in the United States. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [8/11/14](#)]

Rachel Campos-Duffy Said She Doesn’t Know “How Many Millions Of Illegals Are Living In This Country”

Campos-Duffy: “I Don’t Know What The Number Is Now They Say Of How Many Millions Of Illegals Are Living In This Country.” According to a speech Rachel Campos-Duffy gave to The Latino Voter Outreach Midwest Conference, “Now what do we do about the 11 million or so, whatever—I don’t know what the number is now they say of how many millions of illegals are living in this country.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy Speech – Latino Voter Outreach Midwest Conference via YouTube.com, [10/15/13](#)]

Newsmax: “President Barack Obama’s Plan To Barrel Ahead With An Executive Order Granting Amnesty To Millions Of Illegal Immigrants Is A Slap In The Face To Hispanics, Says Rachel Campos-Duffy, Spokeswoman For The LIBRE Initiative And Former Star Of MTV’s ‘The Real World.’”- According to Newsmax, “President Barack Obama’s plan to barrel ahead with an executive order granting amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is a slap in the face to Hispanics, says Rachel Campos-Duffy, spokeswoman for the LIBRE Initiative and former star of MTV’s ‘The Real World.’ ‘It proves that Obama has never been about caring about the Hispanic community or caring about the things that they want to have done,’ Campos-Duffy said Wednesday on ‘The Steve Malzberg Show’ on Newsmax TV.” [Newsmax, [11/5/14](#)]

Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellow Fernando Espuelas: LIBRE “Opposes A Hike In The Minimum Wage, Supports ‘Voter ID Laws’ That Suppress The Hispanic Vote, And Even Pushed The GOP’s Big Lie That ‘Illegals’ Were Voting And Impacting” Elections. According to an opinion by Univision Network Host and Aspen Institute Fellow Fernando Espuelas in The Hill, “But that’s not all. Libre also opposes a hike in the minimum wage, supports ‘voter ID laws’ that suppress the Hispanic vote, and even pushed the GOP’s big lie that ‘illegals’ are voting and impacting electoral outcomes.” [Fernando Espuelas – The Hill, [4/1/15](#)]

November 2014: After Obama Announced Expanded Executive Action on Immigration, LIBRE Initiative Attacked It

Daniel Garza “Wouldn’t Say Whether He Supports Obama Taking Executive Action On Immigration.” According to VOXXI, “Garza, who wouldn’t say whether he supports Obama taking executive action on immigration, said many Republicans worry that the president will be ‘overstepping his authority’ if he takes action on immigration. ‘They want long-lasting bipartisan reform, not with one person deciding what should be the remedy,’ he said about Republicans.” [VOXXI, [11/5/14](#)]

LIBRE Policy Director Jorge Lima on Obama’s Executive Action: “While Many Welcomed The Relief, The Hispanic Community Is Not Blind To The Potential Negative Impacts,” Such As It Possibly Being Overturned And Encouraging More Immigrants To Enter Or Remain In The U.S. According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, “The president’s unilateral move is no substitute for the sort of legislative Immigration reform Latinos are calling for. While many welcomed the relief, the Hispanic community is not blind to the potential negative impacts of the president’s actions - it is temporary, leaves many out, may be overturned in court, and may encourage more immigrants to enter or remain in the U.S. in violation of our laws. This is a serious problem - one that was foreseeable and should have been avoided. If the president wants to earn and keep the support of the Latino community, he needs to start truly listening to their concerns and seek bipartisan solutions.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [12/12/14](#)]

Campos-Duffy On DACA: “The Executive Order Is Not Something That Hispanics Wanted.” According to Newsmax, “Ironically, Campos-Duffy said, The Libre Initiative — a nonpartisan, nonprofit group that advances the principles and values of economic freedom to empower the U.S. Hispanic community — is for reform. [...] ‘It’s not good for Latinos. The impression [Obama is] creating is very troubling and terrible for Latinos who really rightfully deserve to have credit for being hardworking and entrepreneurial because they are [...] The executive order is not something that Hispanics wanted.” [Newsmax.com, [2/17/15](#)]

VIDEO: LIBRE National Spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy Called Obama’s Executive Order And DACA An “Illegal Move” Said “Executive Order For DACA Caused An Influx Of Tens Of Thousands Of Children From Central America.” According to a CNN interview transcript with Rachel Campos-Duffy, “CAMPOS-DUFFY: ‘The president’s executive order, another illegal move that he made this last summer, and executive order for DACA caused an influx of tens of thousands of children from Central America, and it freaked people out. That’s what happened.’” [CNN Transcript, [11/9/14](#); CNN Transcript, [11/9/14](#)]

Libre Initiative National Spokesperson Blamed President Obama’s Original DACA Executive Order from 2012 to Protect DREAMers from Deportation As Cause of Central American Border Crisis in 2014

VIDEO: LIBRE Initiative National Spokesperson Attacked President Obama for “Unintended Consequences” of DACA, Said “He Did DACA. He Used An Executive Order, And Again, It Created This Chaos. It Was What Started The Whole Influx Of Children From Central America Over Into The Border. According to the transcript of an interview with Rachel Campos-Duffy on the *Malzberg Show* on NewsMax.com, “Everybody sort of agreed that the children were the innocent victims in this whole situation and there was a lot of consensus among the most powerful members of the House, Cantor and Boehner and Paul Ryan that in the very least, we could come up with a solution for the dreamers. And as soon as that started to ferment and come into fruition, it started to look like it was going to happen, what does the president do? He did DACA. He used an executive order, and again, it created this chaos. It was what started the whole influx of children from Central America over into the border and what did that do? That, again, right when the House was ready to deal with the idea of a big immigration reform bill, it ruined everything. It scared everybody. And they were like, wait a minute. There’s a lot of unintended consequences to DACA and it created a, really, a stop there.” [NewsMax – *Malzberg Show*, [2014](#)]

LIBRE Initiative National Spokesperson: “I Just Kept Thinking About The Children At The Border, And How His DACA Order Caused That.” According to Breitbart: “This summer’s border crisis was a good illustration of the problems of the President’s approach, according to Campos-Duffy, who said it showed the ‘unintended consequences’ of his decision to expand the protections under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) to the ‘most sympathetic group’ of immigrants — the ‘DREAMers,’ those brought here illegally by their parents while they were young children — instead of letting Congress continue to work on legislation. She said Obama’s actions were ‘completely politically motivated and not helpful to what the DREAMERS actually wanted,’ and sharply criticized its lack of certainty and how it created incentives for parents to send their children on the long, dangerous journey alone, where they suffered from heat, dehydration, and hunger and were all too often abused and sexually assaulted along the way — if they even survived the trip. ‘I just kept thinking about the children at the border, and how his DACA order caused that, and how he refused to visit the border and see what his policies had wrought...he wouldn’t even go and visit them, he refused to come and got a pass from the press on that.’” [Breitbart, [11/28/14](#)]

Campos-Duffy: DACA “Ruined” Immigration Reform Progress In Congress And “Scared Everybody” Because There Were “A Lot Of Unintended Consequences” To It. According to the transcript of an interview with Rachel Campos-Duffy on the *Malzberg Show* on NewsMax.com, “Everybody sort of agreed that the children were the innocent victims in this whole situation and there was a lot of consensus among the most powerful members of the House, Cantor and Boehner and Paul Ryan that in the very least, we could come up with a solution for the dreamers. And as soon as that started to ferment and come into fruition, it started to look like it was going to happen, what does the president do? He did DACA. He used an executive order, and again, it created this chaos. It was what started the whole influx of children from Central America over into the border and what did that do? That, again, right when the House was ready to deal with the idea of a big immigration reform bill, it ruined everything. It scared everybody. And they were like, wait a minute. There’s a lot of unintended consequences to DACA and it created a, really, a stop there.” [NewsMax – *Malzberg Show*, [2014](#)]

Campos-Duffy On President Obama: “I Can Assure You That This Is A President That Is Very Adept At Using Race To Cause Division, And He Is Very Smart About That.” According to the transcript of Rachel Campos-Duffy’s appearance on Newsmax TV, “CAMPOS-DUFFY: I can assure you that this is a president [President Obama] that is very adept at using race to cause division, and he is very smart about that.” [Newsmax.com – *Newsmax TV*, [11/20/14](#)]

VIDEO: Campos-Duffy On President Obama: “I Can Assure You That This Is A President That Is Very Adept At Using Race To Cause Division, And He Is Very Smart About That.” According to the transcript of Rachel Campos-Duffy’s appearance on Newsmax TV, “CAMPOS-DUFFY: I can assure you that this is a president [President Obama] that is very adept at using race to cause division, and he is very smart about that.” [Newsmax TV, [11/20/14](#)]

VIDEO: LIBRE Initiative National Spokesperson Attacked President Obama, Said Expansion of DACA Was “All About Politics,” Said President Obama Wanted “Racial Division” Between Hispanic Community and Congress. According to Campos-Duffy: CAMPOS-DUFFY: For him, all of this is about politics. MALZBERG: Sorry to interrupt, but we only have a minute. Along those lines, that this is about politics. Is he setting up the Republicans and how will the Hispanic community (again, I hate that term) react if they defund this and there’s a government shutdown? Will they be blamed? CAMPOS-DUFFY: You know, it’s hard to say. My fear as a conservative Hispanic who is very excited about the 10 points we gained with the Hispanic community in the midterms, I would hate to see some of those gains rolled back by having some of our most crazy elements come out and make this a racial thing, because that is what he wants. He wants division. [NewsMax – *Malzberg Show*, [2014](#)]

Campos-Duffy: The Obama Administration “Created More Racial Divisiveness By Pitting Hispanics Against Americans Of Good Will Who Were Calling For Border Security To Be A Part Of The Plan.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “If the Obama administration truly cared and had the best interest of Hispanic immigrants at heart, they would have worked harder to find common ground and bipartisan buy-in on something as important as immigration reform. They would not have created more racial divisiveness by pitting Hispanics against Americans of good will who were calling for border security to be a part of the plan at a time of heightened national concern.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: “The Democrats’ All Or Nothing Approach To Immigration Created The Gridlock That Opened The Door To Executive Action And The Result May Not Be Good For Hispanics Or America’s Race Relations In The Long Run.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “Here again, the political and electoral calculations of the Obama Administration superseded important and incremental immigration reform that would have helped undocumented immigrants. The Democrats’ all or nothing approach to immigration created the gridlock that

opened the door to executive action and the result may not be good for Hispanics or America's race relations in the long run." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Official Said Obama's Executive Order "Proves That Obama Has Never Been About Caring About The Hispanic Community."

VIDEO: Spokeswoman For The LIBRE Initiative Rachel Campos-Duffy: President Obama's Plan For An Executive Order On Immigration "Proves That Obama Has Never Been About Caring About The Hispanic Community." According to Newsmax, "President Barack Obama's plan to barrel ahead with an executive order granting amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is a slap in the face to Hispanics, says Rachel Campos-Duffy, spokeswoman for the LIBRE Initiative and former star of MTV's 'The Real World.' 'It proves that Obama has never been about caring about the Hispanic community or caring about the things that they want to have done,' Campos-Duffy said Wednesday on 'The Steve Malzberg Show' on Newsmax TV." [Newsmax, [11/5/14](#)]

Rachel Campos-Duffy: "I Don't Understand How Something This Complex Can Be Decreed." According to Breitbart, "'I don't understand how something this complex can be decreed,' continued Campos-Duffy. She called the executive orders a 'poke in the eye' against Congressional Republicans, the latest in a troubling line of executive orders covering issues like Obamacare, marijuana prosecutions, DACA, etc., where every time Obama has taken this step, 'he kills the chance of finding a compromise,' and makes it even more challenging for any bipartisan legislation to happen." [Breitbart, [11/28/14](#)]

Campos-Duffy On Obama's Executive Order: "If You Don't Include Border Security, You're Just Going To Have Another Wave Of Undocumented People Coming Across The Border?" According to Breitbart, "One of LIBRE's significant concerns, shared by many other conservatives, is the lack of border security measures in Obama's plan. 'If you don't include border security, you're just going to have another wave of undocumented people coming across the border,' said Campos-Duffy. 'What do we do to stem the flow of more people coming?'" [Breitbart, [11/28/14](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy: Obama's Immigration Executive Action Is "A Temporary Fix, It's Only As Good As Long As This President Is President." According to Breitbart, "Breitbart Texas interviewed Rachel Campos-Duffy, The LIBRE Initiative's National Spokesperson and wife of Republican Congressman Sean Duffy, and shared her organization's concerns about Obama's executive orders. 'The concern that we have at LIBRE is, because because [sic] it's a temporary fix, it's only as good as long as this president is president, and can be overturned by a court, or by another president,' she said. 'As Hispanics, we want immigration reform, but we want it done right.' Campos-Duffy characterized immigration as a 'very complex, arcane issue' and the President could not expect to 'with a wave of your pen solve all of the problems.'" [Breitbart, [11/28/14](#)]

December 2014: LIBRE Initiative Attacked Negative Impacts of DAPA

Jorge Lima on Obama's Executive Action: "While Many Welcomed The Relief, The Hispanic Community Is Not Blind To The Potential Negative Impacts" Such As It Possibly Being Overturned And Encouraging More Immigrants To Enter Or Remain In The U.S. According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, "The president's unilateral move is no substitute for the sort of legislative Immigration reform Latinos are calling for. While many welcomed the relief, the Hispanic community is not blind to the potential negative impacts of the president's actions - it is temporary, leaves many out, may be overturned in court, and may encourage more immigrants to enter or remain in the U.S. in violation of our laws. This is a serious problem - one that was foreseeable and should have been avoided. If the president wants to earn and keep the support of the Latino community, he needs to start truly listening to their concerns and seek bipartisan solutions." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [12/12/14](#)]

February 2015: LIBRE Claims "Loopholes" In Executive Actions Could Let Undocumented Immigrants Get Tax Refunds, Commit Voter Fraud

Rachel Campos-Duffy Accused Democrats Of Purposely Placing A Voting Loophole In The Immigration Executive Order For Their "Own Political Gains." According to an interview with Rachel Campos-Duffy on the *Malzberg Show*, "MALZBERG: But more importantly, this voting loophole, I mean that's no accident. That's pre-planned so that the Demo— 'cause, 'cause I believe, and you tell me if I'm wrong, 90-percent of the people who will fall under this executive order, if not more, would be Democrats. CAMPOS-DUFFY: Correct, but let's be clear, this isn't something, this loophole, or this problem

in the executive order is not something that Hispanics wanted. MALZBERG: Oh no, no, no, I understand that. It's what the Democrats want— CAMPOS-DUFFY: It's what they want. And again, using our community for their own political gains." [Malzberg Show via YouTube.com, [2/17/15](#)]

Rachel Campos-Duffy Opinion Headline: "Executive Order Loopholes Fuel Stereotypes, Hurt Latinos." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: President Obama's Executive Action On Immigration "Includes Loopholes Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Potentially Collect Tax Refunds And Commit Voter Fraud." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Recent revelations that President Obama's executive action on immigration includes loopholes allowing undocumented immigrants to potentially collect tax refunds and commit voter fraud are fueling outrage — even among Americans who overwhelmingly support reforming our antiquated immigration system." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: President Obama's Executive Action On Immigration Creates "The Impression That Hispanic Immigrants Come To America For A Free Ride." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Recent revelations that President Obama's executive action on immigration includes loopholes allowing undocumented immigrants to potentially collect tax refunds and commit voter fraud are fueling outrage — even among Americans who overwhelmingly support reforming our antiquated immigration system. It's also creating the impression that Hispanic immigrants come to America for a free ride, and nothing could be further from the truth." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: Under The Executive Order, "Even Undocumented Immigrants Who Didn't Pay Taxes Would Be Eligible For Tax Refunds For Up To Three Years Back If They Could Prove They Worked Off The Books." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Last week, in an embarrassing admission, IRS Commissioner, Jon Koskinen confirmed that the White House never contacted the agency to inquire about potential tax consequences of granting new social security numbers to four million undocumented immigrants who qualified for the program. He also confirmed that under the executive order – issued in November — even undocumented immigrants who didn't pay taxes would be eligible for tax refunds for up to three years back if they could prove they worked off the books during those years." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: "Secretaries Of State In Numerous States, Including Kansas And Ohio, Say The Executive Action Will Make It Easier For Those Participating In The Program To Commit Voter Fraud." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Meanwhile, Secretaries of State in numerous states, including Kansas and Ohio, say the executive action will make it easier for those participating in the program to commit voter fraud and that their states do not have the tools or laws to prevent it." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy On Immigration Executive Order: "It's Debatable Whether These Mistakes Are Intentional Or Merely The Byproduct Of Hastily Putting Together A Political Solution To Our Immigration Problem." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Recent revelations that President Obama's executive action on immigration includes loopholes allowing undocumented immigrants to potentially collect tax refunds and commit voter fraud are fueling outrage — even among Americans who overwhelmingly support reforming our antiquated immigration system.[...] It's debatable whether these mistakes are intentional or merely the byproduct of hastily putting together a political solution to our immigration problem." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: Instead Of An Executive Order, "There Could Have Been A Proper Debate On... How To Address Issues Such As Tax Credits, Social Security Numbers, Or Other Critical Questions." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Had there been a greater emphasis on negotiating a compromise on immigration, there could have been a proper debate on difficult issues such as how immigrants would become right with the law and how to address issues such as tax credits, social security numbers, or other critical questions. Instead, today they are a default position because of a poorly thought out executive order." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: "This Executive Action Is Having The Perverse Effect Of Turning Some Fair Minded Americans Against Immigration." According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, "Either way, this executive action is having the perverse effect of turning some fair minded Americans against immigration and misrepresenting the true motivations of hard-working Hispanic immigrants." [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: “The Truth Is, Most Undocumented Immigrants Come Here For Economic Opportunity And The American Dream. They Aren’t Seeking Tax Credits Or Handouts.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “The truth is, most undocumented immigrants come here for economic opportunity and the American Dream. They aren’t seeking tax credits or handouts.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: “Many Immigrants Do Not Even Desire U.S. Citizenship, Preferring A Work Visa That Would Allow Them To Work Seasonally And To Legally Cross The Border Into Their Home Country As Needed.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “The truth is, most undocumented immigrants come here for economic opportunity and the American Dream. They aren’t seeking tax credits or handouts. They seek permission to stay in the U.S. to work, and in some cases to pursue citizenship. Indeed, many immigrants do not even desire U.S. citizenship, preferring a work visa that would allow them to work seasonally and to legally cross the border into their home country as needed.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: “There Was Actually Bipartisan Support In Congress For Work Visas... But The White House’s Electoral Goals Trumped The Agreement And ‘A Path To Citizenship’ Became A Dealbreaker For Democrats.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “The media has failed to report the fact that there was actually bipartisan support in Congress for work visas and a deal could have been struck on that issue, but the White House’s electoral goals trumped the agreement and ‘a path to citizenship’ became a dealbreaker for Democrats.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: “By Granting 4 Million Undocumented Immigrants Social Security Numbers That Can Potentially Be Misused Through Loopholes,” Obama Is “Reinforcing Negative Stereotypes Of Latinos And All Immigrants.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “By granting 4 million undocumented immigrants social security numbers that can potentially be misused through loopholes in our tax code and voting laws, President Obama is poisoning the waters of public perception and reinforcing negative stereotypes of Latinos and all immigrants.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Campos-Duffy: If The Administration “Had The Best Interest Of Hispanic Immigrants At Heart,” They Would Have Eliminated “Loopholes That Create The Potential And Appearance Of Fraud And Abuse.” According to an opinion by Rachel Campos-Duffy in The Daily Caller, “If the Obama administration truly cared and had the best interest of Hispanic immigrants at heart, they would have worked harder to find common ground and bipartisan buy-in on something as important as immigration reform. [...] Just as importantly, prior to moving forward on a controversial executive action, they would have taken the time to ensure that systems were put in place to eliminate loopholes that create the potential and appearance of fraud and abuse.” [Rachel Campos-Duffy – DailyCaller.com, [2/20/15](#)]

Daniel Garza: Republicans Should Only Repeal Obama’s Executive Actions If They Have Alternative Proposals

LIBRE Initiative Executive Director Daniel Garza Said Stopping Obama’s Executive Actions On Immigration “Wouldn’t Necessarily Be A Problem” If Republicans Introduced Bills “That Also Address The Undocumented Immigrant Population.” According to the Huffington Post, “Their best hope is that 2016 Latino voters, most of whom support Obama’s actions to keep some undocumented immigrants from being deported, will see it that way, too. [...] Getting rid of the executive actions wouldn’t necessarily be a problem if Republicans introduced immigration reform bills that would also address the undocumented immigrant population, said Daniel Garza, executive director for The LIBRE Initiative. ‘If you don’t agree with the president’s executive action, great -- repeal it, stop it,’ Garza said. ‘But you have to propose alternatives. That’s the problem.’” [Huffington Post, [2/12/15](#)]

Garza: “If You Don’t Agree With The President’s Executive Action, Great -- Repeal It, Stop It...But You Have To Propose Alternatives. That’s The Problem.” According to the Huffington Post, “Getting rid of the executive actions wouldn’t necessarily be a problem if Republicans introduced immigration reform bills that would also address the undocumented immigrant population, said Daniel Garza, executive director for The LIBRE Initiative. ‘If you don’t agree with the president’s executive action, great -- repeal it, stop it,’ Garza said. ‘But you have to propose alternatives. That’s the problem.’” [Huffington Post, [2/12/15](#)]

March 2015: LIBRE Initiative Executive Director: DAPA Is “Executive Overreach”

VIDEO: Garza: “We Have Made Our Feelings Known About DAPA, The Other One... That We Felt Was Executive Overreach.” According to testimony from LIBRE executive director Daniel Garza before the Senate Homeland Security and

Government Affairs Committee, “DANIEL GARZA: ‘We have made our feelings known about DAPA, the other one, that we felt was-’ SEN. GARY PETERS: ‘DAPA?’ GARZA: ‘DAPA, right, exactly, that we felt was executive overreach. That the President must have the permission and consent of congress before moving on a policy that confers benefits onto anyone. That that is the role of lawmakers and that he should respect that role. So that there isn’t opportunity for rescinding that law so that folks do not enlist and then they’re exposed to deportation possibility. And they’re victims of a good-faith effort on their part.’” [Daniel Garza – Testimony to the Senate, [3/26/15](#)]

Headline: “DHS Funded – While Real Immigration Reform is Delayed.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [3/4/15](#)]

LIBRE: Congress Is Focused On The President’s Executive Actions Even Though “The Legal Process Is Expected To Take Months,” And Not Discussing More Reform. According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, “Yesterday the House joined the Senate in passing a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the remainder of the fiscal year. The measure is a ‘clean’ bill, which will not have any effect on the president’s executive orders on Immigration – one of which is now being challenged in court. It is not clear if or when this order will be implemented, as the legal process is expected to take months. Meanwhile, attention in Washington is focused on the legal process regarding these orders, with Congressional leaders and the president largely waiting for the courts to rule before discussing Immigration reform legislation again.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [3/4/15](#)]

April 2015: LIBRE Executive Director Said He Supported 2012 DACA And Is Against Rescinding DACA Or DAPA, Despite Strong Criticism of DACA in 2012

Daniel Garza Said He “Supports The Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program But From The 2012 Guidelines.” According to Latin Post, “Garza noted he supports the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program but from the 2012 guidelines. He admits there is a still concern about DACA since it was imposed directly by the executive branch, specifically President Barack Obama. Since people have ‘in good faith’ applied for DACA, Libre Initiative is against rescinding the program and wants to preserve it.” [Latin Post, [4/28/15](#)]

Garza Said That “Since People Have ‘In Good Faith’ Applied For DACA, Libre Initiative Is Against Rescinding The Program And Wants To Preserve It.” According to Latin Post, “Garza noted he supports the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program but from the 2012 guidelines. He admits there is a still concern about DACA since it was imposed directly by the executive branch, specifically President Barack Obama. Since people have ‘in good faith’ applied for DACA, Libre Initiative is against rescinding the program and wants to preserve it. The Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program, which was announced by Obama in November 2014 but not yet implemented, also has its concerns from the organization.” [Latin Post, [4/28/15](#)]

Garza Said “The Problem With” The Deferred Action For Parental Accountability (DAPA) Program “Is That It Doesn’t Honor Our System Of A Republic.” According to Latin Post, “The Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program, which was announced by Obama in November 2014 but not yet implemented, also has its concerns from the organization. ‘The problem with [DAPA] is that it doesn’t honor our system of a republic,’ said Garza. ‘We elected our congressmen and our senators, and, as a president, you have to execute the law based on the consent and will of and approvals of Congress, and when you don’t do that, you circumvent the process and put us in a position we’re at now where a court may rescind or eliminate DACA or DAPA and then expose all these folks that signed on in good faith.’” [Latin Post, [4/28/15](#)]

Garza: A President Has “To Execute The Law Based On The Consent And Will Of ...Congress,” Not Doing That “Circumvents” The Process And Puts Us In This Position “Where A Court May Rescind Or Eliminate DACA Or DAPA.” According to Latin Post, “The Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program, which was announced by Obama in November 2014 but not yet implemented, also has its concerns from the organization. ‘The problem with [DAPA] is that it doesn’t honor our system of a republic,’ said Garza. ‘We elected our congressmen and our senators, and, as a president, you have to execute the law based on the consent and will of and approvals of Congress, and when you don’t do that, you circumvent the process and put us in a position we’re at now where a court may rescind or eliminate DACA or DAPA and then expose all these folks that signed on in good faith.’” [Latin Post, [4/28/15](#)]

For More Information On The LIBRE Initiative, View Our Report, “Kochs’ LIBRE Initiative Is Harmful To Hispanic Community” at <http://bp21.co/libre>

ATTACKED WORKERS

March 2008: ALEC Ranked Nevada As The 11th Best State For Economic Competitiveness. According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “The American Legislative Exchange Council has ranked Nevada as the 11th best state in country for ‘economic competitiveness.’ The report, ‘Rich States, Poor States,’ noted Nevada’s lack of personal, business or inheritance taxes, low property taxes, few public employees and its ‘right-to-work’ status for the ranking. The report was written by Dr. Arthur Laffer, a nationally recognized economist, and Stephen Moore of the Wall Street Journal.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/13/08]

- **ALEC Said Nevada “Should Reduce Its Workers’ Compensation Costs, Lower Its Minimum Wage, And Do More To Protect Against Frivolous Lawsuits.”** According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “The authors said Nevada has high sales and other taxes and should reduce its workers’ compensation costs, lower its minimum wage and do more to protect against frivolous lawsuits.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/13/08]

ALEC Ranked Nevada As The State With The 7th Best Economic Outlook “Because It Has No Corporate Or Personal Income Taxes, No Estate/Inheritance Levies, The Lowest Ratio Of Public Employees Per Capita And Is A Right-To-Work State.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “A Washington think tank that advocates limited government and free market policies has ranked Nevada among the top 10 states with the best economic outlook because of its tax structure and regulatory environment. The American Legislative Exchange Council, a Washington, D.C., group that provides state lawmakers with guidelines on free-market policies, ranked Nevada No. 7 among the states with a rosy economic outlook because it has no corporate or personal income taxes, no estate/inheritance levies, the lowest ratio of public employees per capita and is a right-to-work state.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/14/09]

ALEC Ranked Nevada As The Tenth Most Economically Competitive State In 2015. According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “Nevada clung to the top 10 in a national think tank’s measure of economic competitiveness. The state’s No. 10 ranking in the American Legislative Exchange Council’s ‘Rich States, Poor States’ study was a downgrade from No. 8 in 2014.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 4/8/15]

NEVADAN CRITICISM OF ALEC

Las Vegas Citylife: “Corporations And Corporate And Industrial Trade Groups Formed ALEC And Still Appear To Control The Group’s Policy-Making, Legislation-Writing Apparatus.” According to Las Vegas Citylife, “For years, liberal interest groups have slagged the American Legislative Exchange Council as a front for right-wing legislators and their supporters among the corporate elite. And with good reason. Corporations and corporate and industrial trade groups formed ALEC and still appear to control the group’s policy-making, legislation-writing apparatus.” [Las Vegas Citylife, 5/16/13]

Las Vegas Citylife: “The History Of ALEC” Includes “Privatizing Education, Ditching Workers Safety And Environmental Protections, Thwarting Efforts To Develop Alternative Energy, Blocking Gun Control.” According to Las Vegas Citylife, “Privatizing education, ditching workers safety and environmental protections, thwarting efforts to develop alternative energy, blocking gun control -- the history of ALEC is a history of the modern right and its successes and failures.” [Las Vegas Citylife, 5/16/13]

Las Vegas Citylife: “ALEC’s Record Of Legislative Success In Nevada Is Dismal.” According to Las Vegas Citylife, “While the ProgressNow report reveals many financial and legislative connections between ALEC, its corporate supporters and Nevada’s legislators, it also reveals a curious contradiction. For all the alleged influence of this ‘shadowy’ and ‘secretive’ group, ALEC’s record of legislative success in Nevada is dismal. Of 20 proposed bills that were, ProgressNow argues, based on ‘model bills’ that are distributed around to state legislators at ALEC’s annual national meetings, since 2007 only one has passed into law in Nevada: the Foster Child Scholarship Program Act of 2007. That bill gave state-supported scholarships to foster children which they could use to attend private or religious k-12 schools.” [Las Vegas Citylife, 5/16/13]

ALEC TIES TO NEVADAN ELECTED OFFICIALS

Republican Attorney General Candidate Barbara Cegavske Supported More Stringent Disclosure On Gifts To Elected Officials. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “They are from different political parties, but the two candidates for Nevada secretary of state agree on at least one issue: State laws governing what financial information must be disclosed by elected officials need to be strengthened. Both state Sen. Barbara Cegavske, a Republican, and state Treasurer Kate Marshall, a Democrat, said they would start by pushing to amend state law to explicitly define what constitutes a gift to an elected official.” [Las Vegas Sun, 1/26/14]

Cegavske Was A Member Of The American Legislative Exchange Council, Which “Provide Her Hotel Rooms And Meals At Biannual Meetings.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “For instance, [Barbara] Cegavske said that she’s a board member of two policy groups: the Education Commission on the States and the American Legislative Exchange Council. These groups provide her hotel rooms and meals at biannual meetings.” [Las Vegas Sun, 1/26/14]

Cegavske Did Not Disclose The ALEC Hotels And Meals “Because The State Pays Dues To Each, So She Said She Does Not Believe The Expenses Are Gifts.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “She [Barbara Cegavske] did not disclose these expenses on her own financial disclosure form because the state pays dues to each, so she said she does not believe the expenses are gifts.” [Las Vegas Sun, 1/26/14]

Former Nevada Chief Deputy Secretary Of State Dennis Myers: “The Nevada Legislature Has Been Donating Money For Years” To ALEC. According to a column by former Nevada Chief Deputy Secretary of State Dennis Myers for the Pahrump Valley Times, “The Kochs (their father helped start the John Birch Society) have laid out money for political organizations like Americans for Prosperity, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC, to which the Nevada Legislature has been donating money for years) and Freedom Works, plus the Tea Party movement. In their business activities, they have also laid out additional millions to pay fines for corporate polluting. The two kinds of spending are not unrelated - they would surely like to turn the political clock back to the days when industry was less regulated and polluting was winked at.” [Dennis Myers- Pahrump Valley Times, 3/26/14]

Republican State Sen. James Settelmeyer Was The New ALEC Representative For Nevada. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Nevada’s new ALEC representative, Republican Sen. James Settelmeyer, says he doesn’t oppose decreasing emissions or seeing more new energy sources. But he said there ‘needs to be a balance’ in how the government implements its policies.” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/4/14]

ALEC TIED TO ATTEMPTS TO TAKE CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS

Sen. Martin Heinrich: “These Type Of Land-Grab Schemes Are As Old As The Railroads. But The Chief Salesman... The American Lands Council, Is Having Some Success Pitching State Legislators On ‘Model Legislation.’” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “These types of land-grab schemes are as old as the railroads. But the chief salesman for this latest land seizure campaign, the American Lands Council, is having some success pitching state legislators on ‘model legislation’ to enable these transfers.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

- **Sen. Heinrich: “The Legislation Was Drafted With The Help Of The Conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, Which Receives Financing From The Utility Industry And Fossil-Fuel Producers.”** According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “The legislation was drafted with the help of the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, which receives financing from the utility industry and fossil-fuel producers.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Sen. Martin Heinrich: “The Campaign To Transfer To The States Or Even Sell Off Our Shared Lands Should Not Be Mistaken For The Mainstream Values Of Westerners.” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “Bundy does not represent the West, however. And the campaign to transfer to the states or even sell off our shared lands should not be mistaken for the mainstream values of Westerners whose way of life depends on the region’s land and water.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Sen. Heinrich: “The Costs Of Managing These Lands Could Bankrupt State Governments.” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “The costs of managing these lands could bankrupt state governments. More than \$3.9 billion was appropriated for federal wildfire management alone for fiscal 2014. The only way states could foot

the bill for administering these public lands would be to raise taxes or sell or lease large expanses to developers and other private interests, including oil, gas, timber and mining companies.” [Sen. Martin Henrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Sen. Heinrich: “The Only Way States Could Foot The Bill For Administering These Public Lands Would Be To Raise Taxes Or Sell Or Lease Large Expanses To Developers And Other Private Interests.” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Henrich for the New York Times, “The costs of managing these lands could bankrupt state governments. More than \$3.9 billion was appropriated for federal wildfire management alone for fiscal 2014. The only way states could foot the bill for administering these public lands would be to raise taxes or sell or lease large expanses to developers and other private interests, including oil, gas, timber and mining companies.” [Sen. Martin Henrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

ALEC ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY NEVADA’S “GROWING SOLAR MARKET”

Las Vegas Sun Headline: “Nevada Environmentalists Keeping Close Eye On Think Tank Backed By Kochs.” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/4/14]

Las Vegas Sun: “For Nevada, The ALEC-Backed Legislation Could Provide Barriers To The State’s Growing Solar Market.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “For Nevada, the ALEC-backed legislation could provide barriers to the state’s growing solar market, said Elizabeth Ouzts, a spokeswoman for Environment America. The state is currently on track to have 25 percent of its electricity come from renewables by 2025. But advocates are hoping for more faster.” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/4/14]

Nevada’s Former ALEC Representative Barbara Cegavske “Wasn’t Surprised That ALEC Was Coming Under Attack” From Environmentalists And Said “Some Of Us Believe In Al Gore And Some Of Us Don’t.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The state’s former ALEC representative, Secretary of State-elect Barbara Cegavske, wasn’t surprised that ALEC was coming under attack from environmental groups. ‘Some of us believe in Al Gore and some of us don’t,’ she said.” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/4/14]

Freedom Partners

Freedom Partners Senior Policy Adviser Andy Koenig: Nevada’s 2015 “Tax Freedom Day” Is April 20th. According to an opinion by Freedom Partners senior policy adviser, Andy Koenig, for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Nevada’s real tax day isn’t tomorrow. It’s April 20. On that day, Nevada taxpayers finally have made enough to pay their tax burden for the year, according to the Tax Foundation. Starting the next day, you actually get to keep your income. This holiday has been dubbed ‘Tax Freedom Day.’ It’s nothing worth celebrating. It takes more than 100 days this year before your earnings are truly yours. That’s roughly a third of your income that never makes it into your pocket. You’re likely spending more on taxes than on food, clothing, and housing — combined.” [Andy Koenig – Reno Gazette-Journal, [4/13/15](#)]

Freedom Partners Senior Policy Adviser Andy Koenig Opinion Headline: Ex-Im Bank A Diservice To Most Businesses, Taxpayers. [Andy Koenig – Las Vegas Review-Journal, [7/19/15](#)]

Total Ex-Im Bank Supported Exports From NV Since 2007 Totaled \$165 Million. According to a database from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, “The total export value from Nevada since 2007 has been \$419 million.” [Export-Import Bank of the United States, Accessed [7/22/15](#)]

Nevada Has 32 Total Exporters Including 21 Small Businesses. According to a database from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, “Nevada has 32 total exporters including 21 small businesses.” [Export-Import Bank of the United States, Accessed [7/22/15](#)]

The Top NV Export Industries Are Administrative, Management and Support Services, Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing and Sales, And Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. According to a database from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, “The top Nevada export industries are Administrative, Management and Support Services, Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing and Sales, And Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.” [Export-Import Bank of the United States, Accessed [7/22/15](#)]

Concerned Veterans For America

EXPANSION AND BUILD-OUT IN NEVADA

2014: CVA Announced It Will Hire A Full-Time Local Director In Nevada. According to Politico, “The Koch-backed veterans outreach group Concerned Veterans for America has four employees in Nevada. While only one is full-time, it’s looking to hire a full-time local director ‘to oversee and execute the organization’s grass-roots efforts in Nevada.’” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

EVENTS

2015: CVA-NV Co-Sponsored A Community Health Fair For Veterans In Las Vegas. According to PRLog, “On Saturday, March 21, in one place at one time, Las Vegas businesses, non-profits, and various experts will come together in support of veterans, service members and their families to promote healthy living and healthy lifestyles. The Spring Health & Wellness Fair at the Horses4Heroes Community Equestrian Center at Tule Springs is presented by Horses4Heroes, Concerned Veterans for America, Nevada chapter, and the Las Vegas Health & Fitness Chamber of Commerce. The event, held from 9 am to 2 pm, is free and open to the public. Park admission fee of \$6 per car is waived for those with military ID.” [PRLog.org, [3/18/15](#)]

VETERANS AFFAIRS PRIVATIZATION EFFORTS

Nevada Veterans Made Use Of VA Benefits

VA: 225,933 Veterans, \$1.16 Billion In VA Expenditures In Nevada. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2013 State Summary for Nevada, “o Number of veterans: 225,933 o VA expenditures in Nevada: \$1.6 billion • Compensation and pensions: \$642 million • Medical and construction programs: \$808 million • Insurance and indemnities: \$14.5 million • General operating expenses: \$13.5 million o Number of veterans receiving disability compensation or pension payments: 40,666 o Number of Nevadans using GI Bill® or other VA education benefits: 7,861 o Number of home loans in Nevada backed by VA guarantees: 8,960 o Value of Nevada home loans guaranteed by VA: \$1.9 billion o Number of VA life insurance policies held by Nevada residents: 6,889 o Value of VA life insurance policies held by Nevada residents: \$79 million o Number of Nevada participants in VA vocational rehabilitation: 1,005 o Number of headstones and markers provided for graves of Nevada veterans and survivors: 3,024” [Department of Veterans Affairs, [9/14](#)]

Veterans In Nevada Were Admitted To Inpatient Care 7,996 Times In Fiscal Year 2013, And To Outpatient Care 1.1 Million Times. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2013 State Summary for Nevada, “o Inpatient admissions, statewide, fiscal year 2013: 7,996 o Sierra Nevada (including Reno): 4,074 o Southern Nevada (including Las Vegas): 3,922 o Outpatient visits, statewide, fiscal year 2013: 1.1 million” [Department of Veterans Affairs, [9/14](#)]

Concerned Veterans for America Criticized The VA

Concerned Veterans For America CEO Pete Hegseth Was Critical Of Increased VA Funding. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “But the leader of a veterans organization that launched a cross-country bus tour Oct. 4 in Las Vegas to raise awareness about the claims backlog said the money is appreciated, but he isn’t convinced that throwing money at the problem will fix it. ‘You’re throwing more funds at a dysfunctional system,’ said Pete Hegseth, CEO of Concerned Veterans for America. ‘That’s been the gold-plated solution forever.’” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 10/23/13]

Hegseth: “Backlog Has Persisted Because The VA Operates In A ‘Culture Of Mediocrity.’” According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “The VA’s budget has increased by 40 percent since 2009, yet the claims backlog has persisted because the VA operates in a “culture of mediocrity” that lacks accountability, he [Pete Hegseth] said at the onset of the tour. The result, Hegseth said, has been larger bonuses for employees who don’t perform well and multimillion-dollar computer systems that don’t work.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 10/23/13]

Hegseth: The VA Has “Failed To Meet Its Funding-Based Goals” Before. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “During a tour stop in Lynchburg, Va., [Pete] Hegseth noted the VA previously received \$500 million to expedite the claims process with a digitized system but still has failed to meet its funding-based goals.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 10/23/13]

Hegseth: The VA “Received More Funding To Complete Less Of A Task And Still Didn’t Meet Their Internal Goals.” According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “[Pete Hegseth] He cited fresh statistics released Monday by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Through Aug. 29 in fiscal year 2013, which ended Sept. 30, the VA completed 1.17 million claims, nearly 100,000 fewer than VA benefits managers had planned to complete. In the same period, the VA received 1.04 million new claims, 272,000 fewer than VA budget planners had anticipated. So the VA benefits offices received more funding to complete less of a task and still didn’t meet their internal goals, Hegseth said.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 10/23/13]

CVA Claimed, “Progress In Reducing The Backlog Is A Mirage” That Has Led To “A Backlog In Appeals.”

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Concerned Veterans for America reports, however, that the VA’s reported progress in reducing the backlog is a mirage because claims processors rushed to deny claims with little review. The result: a backlog in appeals.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 10/23/13]

CEO Of Concerned Veterans For America Pete Hegseth: “Nobody’s Actions Are Being Held Accountable” At The VA. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “With their sights set on reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs, leaders of a nonprofit veterans advocacy group came to Las Vegas on Thursday night to launch the first of more than a dozen policy forums for their state chapters. [...] ‘The problem is not only the backlog but the long waits, the coverups and the preventable deaths. And nobody is being fired for this, nobody’s actions are being held accountable and fired on the spot,’ said Pete Hegseth, CEO for Concerned Veterans for America, which with the organization’s Nevada chapter held the forum, billed as Preserving Promises to Nevada’s Veterans.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/21/14]

CVA Worked To “Promote Legislation Called The VA Management Accountability Act.” According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “That is why [Pete Hegseth] he said Concerned Veterans for America is working with House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., to promote legislation called the VA Management Accountability Act. ‘We’re going to call on the VA to report more and disclose more,’ Hegseth said. ‘The problem is no accountability, no transparency and no flexibility. That’s what needs to change.’” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/21/14]

Concerned Veterans for America Introduced The Veterans Independence Act

Concerned Veterans For America Released Its Final VA Report, Recommending Reforms Collectively Titled “The Veterans Independence Act.” According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “Today, Concerned Veterans for America’s (CVA) Fixing Veterans Health Care Taskforce released its final policy report focusing on reforms to the delivery of veterans’ health care. The reforms, which are collectively entitled the Veterans Independence Act, will be unveiled and discussed at CVA’s Fixing Veterans Health Care summit today in Washington, D.C. The full report can be viewed here.” [Concerned Veterans For America Press Release, [2/26/15](#)]

CVA Recommended Converting The Current “VHA Integrated Health Care System” Into A Government-Chartered Non-Profit Corporation. According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “The Veterans Independence Act would make four key reforms to the delivery of veterans health care: 1. Separate the VHA’s payor and provider functions and convert the current VHA integrated health care system into a government-charted [sic] nonprofit corporation.” [Concerned Veterans For America Press Release, [2/26/15](#)]

CVA Recommended Creating “A Premium-Support Private Insurance Option For Eligible Veterans Who Want To Access Care In The Private Sector.” According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “The Veterans Independence Act would make four key reforms to the delivery of veterans health care: [...] 2. Create a premium-support private insurance option for eligible veterans who want to access care in the private sector.” [Concerned Veterans For America Press Release, [2/26/15](#)]

CVA’s “Proposed Premium Support System” Forces “Most Veterans To Pay Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Private Health Care.” According to a FAQ on Fixing Veterans Health Care from Concerned Veterans for America, “Q: Why does the proposed premium support system force most veterans to pay out-of-pocket costs for private health care? Didn’t veterans earn free health care through their military service? A: Many veterans are already forced to pay co-pays through the current VA health care system for certain medical services. Cost-sharing is already in effect in the current system. In fact, under the Veteran Independence Act, veterans who use the independent VACO will not have to pay any copays or deductibles.” [FAQ – cv4a.org, accessed [2/26/15](#)]

CVA's "Proposed Premium Support Plan Bases Its Level Of Premium Support Based On Level Of Disability, Whether Or Not A Veteran Served In A Combat Zone, And Financial Need" Rather Than Giving "All Veterans The Same Level Of Premium Support." According to a FAQ on Fixing Veterans Health Care from Concerned Veterans for America, "Q: Why is the level of premium support different for each priority group of veterans? Why not just give all veterans the same level of premium support? A: The VA health care system was originally created to serve service-connected disabled veterans. Additionally, the priority group system was created by Congress to ensure that those veterans with higher disability ratings received a higher priority for care within the VA health care system in addition to the higher levels of benefits associated with a higher disability rating. Therefore, in keeping with the Taskforce's principle of reform to reorient the VA health care system back towards its original mission of caring the veterans with service-connected disabilities, the proposed premium support plan bases its level of premium support based on level of disability, whether or not a veteran served in a combat zone, and financial need." [FAQ – cv4a.org, accessed [2/26/15](#)]

CVA: The Plan Would Save Money "Through The Introduction Of Cost-Sharing And Tightening Enrollment Eligibility Requirements." According to a FAQ on Fixing Veterans Health Care from Concerned Veterans for America, "Q: Your fiscal modeling says this plan will save money for the VA. How? A: Through the introduction of cost-sharing and tightening enrollment eligibility requirements." [FAQ – cv4a.org, accessed [2/26/15](#)]

The VIA Was Opposed By Other Veterans Groups

Stars And Stripes: "Most Veterans Service Organizations Skipped" The CVA Event "And Have Generally Been Cool To Privatization Plans." According to Stars and Stripes, "Most veterans service organizations skipped the [CVA] event and have generally been cool to privatization plans." [Stars and Stripes, [2/26/15](#)]

Paralyzed Veterans Of America Deputy Executive Director Sherman Gillums Jr.: "The Protections Veterans Now Have In The VA System, Particularly When Health Care Goes Awry, Do Not Exist In The Private Sector." According to Stars and Stripes, "'The protections veterans now have in the VA system, particularly when health care goes awry, do not exist in the private sector,' Paralyzed Veterans of America deputy executive director Sherman Gillums Jr. said in a statement. 'Privatizing health care for veterans will create a cottage industry for ambulance chasers who will be the only available option for veterans with medical malpractices cases.'" [Stars and Stripes, [2/26/15](#)]

Stars And Stripes: CVA "Also Reached Out To Other Veterans Service Organizations. In A Sign Of The Early Response The Report Is Receiving, Almost None Attended." According to Stars and Stripes, "[Pete] Hegseth said his group invited [Sec. Bob] McDonald, whom CVA has routinely criticized, and he declined. They also reached out to other veterans service organizations. In a sign of the early response the report is receiving, almost none attended." [Stars and Stripes, [2/26/15](#)]

USA Today: CVA's Proposed Reforms, "If Enacted Into Law, Would Affect America's Roughly 22 Million Veterans Dramatically... Repercussions Would Be Even More Profound For Future Veterans." According to USA Today, "The reform measures, if enacted into law, would affect America's roughly 22 million veterans dramatically, especially the 8.5 million enrolled for care through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Repercussions would be even more profound for future veterans. Concerned Veterans for America, a conservative non-profit, sponsored the study called "Fixing Veterans Health Care" amid a crisis in VA health-care services." [USA Today, [2/26/15](#)]

One-Fifth Of Future Veterans Would Not Be Eligible For VA Care Under The CVA Plan. According to USA Today, "Nearly one-fifth of future veterans — those in the lowest VA benefit levels, Priorities 7 and 8 — would not be eligible under the new system." [USA Today, [2/26/15](#)]

USA Today: "The American Legion Made Clear...That It Would Not Back The Plan, Saying It Opposes Privatization And Vouchers As A Long-Term Solution." According to USA Today, "The American Legion made clear in a statement Thursday that it would not back the plan, saying it opposes privatization and vouchers as a long-term solution." [USA Today, [2/26/15](#)]

Paralyzed Veterans Of America Press Release: "Paralyzed Veterans Of America Also Joins Experts In The Private Sector Who Point To Limited Experience In Treatment Of Veterans With Unique Needs." According to a press release from Paralyzed Veterans of America, "Paralyzed Veterans of America also joins experts in the private sector who point to the limited experience in treatment of veterans with unique needs related to post-traumatic stress disorder, prosthetics, conditions related to toxic exposure in war zones, or traumatic brain injury. Some providers have openly admitted the private

sector is not prepared to provide specialized services for a deluge of patients with complex conditions, such as spinal cord injury and disease.” [Paralyzed Veterans of America Press Release, [2/27/15](#)]

Paralyzed Veterans Of America: “Some Providers Have Openly Admitted The Private Sector Is Not Prepared To Provide Specialized Services For A Deluge Of Patients With Complex Conditions.” According to a press release from Paralyzed Veterans of America, “Paralyzed Veterans of America also joins experts in the private sector who point to the limited experience in treatment of veterans with unique needs related to post-traumatic stress disorder, prosthetics, conditions related to toxic exposure in war zones, or traumatic brain injury. Some providers have openly admitted the private sector is not prepared to provide specialized services for a deluge of patients with complex conditions, such as spinal cord injury and disease.” [Paralyzed Veterans of America Press Release, [2/27/15](#)]

PVA Director Homer Townsend: “The Problems With Privatizing VA Care Are... Obvious To Those Of Us Who Have Tried Private Sector Alternatives And Found Them Incomparable To VA Health Care. Our Choice Is VA.” According to a press release from Paralyzed Veterans of America, “The report presents several intriguing recommendations that should prompt further discussion and perhaps even more debate. The problems with privatizing VA care are not so obvious to those whose link to VA is limited to receiving outpatient care, filling drug prescriptions and getting flu shots every year,’ [Homer] Townsend said. ‘But it’s obvious to those of us who have tried private sector alternatives and found them incomparable to VA health care. Our choice is VA, and we want to ensure that it remains a viable choice.” [Paralyzed Veterans of America Press Release, [2/27/15](#)]

Iraq War Veteran Jon Soltz: What CVA Wants “Is The Privatization Of Veterans’ Care: Fight For Your Country And Get A Voucher.” According to an opinion by VoteVets’s Jon Soltz, an Iraq War Veteran, in the Huffington Post, “There is no doubt that veterans shouldn’t have to rely on the VA for everything. But what Republican candidates, backed by the Koch-brothers-funded Concerned Veterans for America, talk about is the beginning of the end of the pact we make with our veterans to give them the care they need. What they want is the privatization of veterans’ care: Fight for your country and get a voucher.” [Jon Soltz – Huffington Post, [3/27/15](#)]

Soltz: “What This Would Do Is Severely Underfund The Department, Leaving Veterans Out In The Cold When It Comes To Many Of Their Service-Connected Injuries.” According to an opinion by VoteVets’s Jon Soltz, an Iraq War Veteran, in the Huffington Post, “What this would do is severely underfund the department, leaving veterans out in the cold when it comes to many of their service-connected injuries. For example, VA centers are often equipped to deal with amputations and traumatic brain injuries in a way that a local doctor or hospital might not be.” [Jon Soltz – Huffington Post, [3/27/15](#)]

Soltz: “VA Centers Are Often Equipped To Deal With Amputations And Traumatic Brain Injuries In A Way That A Local Doctor Or Hospital Might Not Be.” According to an opinion by VoteVets’s Jon Soltz, an Iraq War Veteran, in the Huffington Post, “What this would do is severely underfund the department, leaving veterans out in the cold when it comes to many of their service-connected injuries. For example, VA centers are often equipped to deal with amputations and traumatic brain injuries in a way that a local doctor or hospital might not be.” [Jon Soltz – Huffington Post, [3/27/15](#)]

Soltz: “If We Voucherize The System, Local VA Centers And Hospitals Would Be Forced To Shutter Their Doors.” According to an opinion by VoteVets’s Jon Soltz, an Iraq War Veteran, in the Huffington Post, “For example, VA centers are often equipped to deal with amputations and traumatic brain injuries in a way that a local doctor or hospital might not be. But if we voucherize the system, local VA centers and hospitals would be forced to shutter their doors. For veterans in need of specialized care -- both physical and mental -- they may not have an able caregiver to turn to in their area.” [Jon Soltz – Huffington Post, [3/27/15](#)]

Soltz: “The VA, Despite The Bad Press, Continues To Far Outpace Private Care In National Customer Satisfaction Surveys. Veterans Like The Care They Get At The VA. A Lot.” According to an opinion by VoteVets’s Jon Soltz, an Iraq War Veteran, in the Huffington Post, “Furthermore, the VA, despite the bad press, continues to far outpace private care in national customer satisfaction surveys. Veterans like the care they get at the VA. A lot.” [Jon Soltz – Huffington Post, [3/27/15](#)]

Soltz: “Closing The VA Is The First Step Toward Ending Other Popular Programs Like Medicare. In Fact, That’s What This Whole Fight Is About.” According to an opinion by VoteVets’s Jon Soltz, an Iraq War Veteran, in the Huffington Post, “Closing the VA is the first step toward ending other popular programs like Medicare. In fact, that’s what this whole fight is about.” [Jon Soltz – Huffington Post, [3/27/15](#)]

At A Senate Hearing CVA “Pushed For Its Own Proposal, Which Would Largely Privatize VA Health Care... The VA Has Rejected The Proposal And No Other Veterans Service Organization Has Supported It.” According to Stars & Stripes, “Concerned Veterans for America pushed for its own proposal, which would largely privatize VA health care and raise co-pays for newer veterans in exchange for more flexibility to use private care. The VA has rejected the proposal and no other veterans service organization has supported it.” [Stars & Stripes, [5/13/15](#)]

Prominent Republicans Supported The VIA

CNN: Sen. Marco Rubio Supported CVA’s Proposed Reforms. According to CNN, “A task force organized by Concerned Veterans for America said the VA should begin offering subsidized private insurance to veterans and transform its healthcare department into a nonprofit corporation instead of a government agency. The move comes in response to the scandal involving healthcare delays and data manipulation at VA facilities first reported by CNN. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, supported the proposed reforms, saying VA healthcare could improve by adopting the competition and flexibility of private healthcare.” [CNN, [2/26/15](#)]

Sun Times: “Sarah Palin Pushes For Koch Backed VA Voucher System Plan.” According to the Sun Times, “Sarah Palin pushes for Koch-backed VA voucher system plan: Sarah Palin is reigniting her call to ‘clean house’ at the Department of Veterans Affairs, this time with a video on Facebook lending support to a push from the Koch brothers to privatize the agency and go to a voucher system.” [Sun Times, [3/25/15](#)]

Jeb Bush “Voiced Support” For “The Effort To Privatize Parts Of The VA System,” Which Was “A Priority Of The Koch Brothers-Backed Group, Concerned Veterans For America.” According to the Wall Street Journal, “Last month in New Hampshire, Mr. Bush voiced support for 2014 legislation that allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they experience long wait times or live more than 40 miles from the closest VA hospital. ‘I know it has a pejorative for some, but I’m all in on the voucher thing,’ he said at a March house party in Dover. ‘No one’s suggesting we shut down the VA system. But the simple fact is the VA doesn’t look like it’s made any effort to [let] veterans know that this is available to them. And the number of people taking advantage of this is very, very low.’ The effort to privatize elements of the VA system is a priority of the Koch brothers-backed group, Concerned Veterans for America, which in February called for creating a ‘premium-support private insurance option’ for current veterans and limiting eligibility requirements for future veterans.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/8/15](#)]

The Skanner News: “Influenced By The Deep Pockets Of The Koch Brothers – And Their Front Organization ‘Concerned Veterans For America’ – Republicans Are Joining A Campaign To Kill Off VA Healthcare.” According to The Skanner News, “America’s military personnel risk their lives to defend our liberties. In return Americans make a commitment to take care of veterans. Part of that commitment is funding veterans’ health care. That’s been an untouchable promise for decades. But now, influenced by the deep pockets of the Koch brothers – and their front organization, ‘Concerned Veterans for America’ – Republicans are joining a campaign to kill off VA healthcare.” [Skanner News, [4/18/15](#)]

For More Information On Concerned Veterans For America, View Our Report, “The Vets Group That Fights Against Veterans” at <http://bp21.co/vets>

American Lands Council

BACKGROUND

The American Lands Council Was Created To “Secure Local Control Of Public Lands.” According to the American Lands Council’s website, “American Lands Council is a non-profit organization of individuals, counties, business, and organizations that was formed in 2012. The Mission of the American Lands Council is to secure local control of western public lands by transferring federal public lands.” [AmericanLandsCouncil.org, [accessed 6/18/15](#)]

Utah State Representative Ken Ivory Created ALC In 2012 To “Secure And Defend Local Control Of Land Access.” According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “Ivory created the American Lands Council, a tax-exempt nonprofit, in 2012, along with Elko, Nev., County Commissioner Demar Dahl at a brief meeting at Salt Lake City International Airport. According to its mission statement, the group ‘channels the cooperative efforts of state and local governments, businesses, organizations, and

individuals to secure and defend local control of land access, land use, and land ownership through: I. Education; II. Political Persuasion; III. Legislation (Local, State and National); IV. Litigation.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [5/19/14](#)]

Political Research Associates’ Eric Ethington: Led By Rep. Ken Ivory, Utah Passed “A Bill Forcing The U.S. Government To Turn Over Control Of Federal Lands To The State Of Utah” Three Years Ago. According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “It’s been three years since Utah state Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, who heads the American Lands Council (ALC), convinced his fellow lawmakers to pass a bill forcing the U.S. government to turn over control of federal public lands to the state of Utah.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Ethington: The American Lands Council Said The Land Transfer Was “Necessary To Allow For Oil And Gas Drilling” To “Fund Public Education.” According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “Originally, the American Lands Council touted the public-lands takeover as necessary to allow for oil and gas drilling on those lands that would help fund public education.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Ethington: The ALC Has “Started To Use Environmental-Conservation Language.” According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “But over the past year, the ALC and its advocates have started to use environmental-conservation language, arguing that Utah, rather than the United States, would be much better suited to care for the environment.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Ethington: A Bipartisan Poll Found “52 Percent Oppose The State Takeover Of Public Lands.” According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “A bipartisan research team conducted a poll in 2014 that showed 52 percent oppose the state takeover of public land. The ALC needs to win the hearts and minds of the public and as many elected officials as possible in Western states.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

ALC Formed In 2012 As A Response To The US National Forest Service’s Travel Management Plans. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, “The appeals go through the regional U.S. Forest Service office but Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins is the decision-maker, Fuell said. Meanwhile, [Elko County Commissioner Demar] Dahl said counties that will fight against travel management plans have organized into the American Lands Council, with a goal of getting 100 counties to join.” [Elko Daily Free Press, 4/13/12]

- **The Plans Would Restrict Off-Road And Cross-Country Travel By Motorized Vehicle, And Close Some Roads From Public Use.** According to the Elko Daily Free Press, “The decision designates roughly 906 miles of roads and trails that weren’t authorized before as National Forest System roads and trails, according to the U.S. Forest Service. [Mountain City District Ranger Wendy] Fuell said roughly 224 miles of roads will be closed and a quarter of them are at the request of landowners. Those closures block travel through private property, but Fuell said one of her focuses ‘right off the bat’ will be to continue working with landowners to allow more roads to be open. The plan eliminates cross-country travel by motorized vehicles.” [Elko Daily Free Press, 4/13/12]
- **The ALC Was Set To “Work Against Travel Plans” And On The Issue Of Whether To Designate The Sage Grouse As An Endangered Species.** According to the Elko Daily Free Press, “They will work against travel plans and on the sage grouse issue. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has to decide whether sage grouse should be on the endangered species list by the end of September 2015. [Demar] Dahl said the coalition has raised money and hired Utah state legislator Ken Ivory as executive director.” [Elko Daily Free Press, 4/13/12]

KOCH TIES

Denver Post: “Despite Big-Money Backing From The Likes Of Billionaires Charles And David Koch, The ALC Is Likely To Be Severely Outnumbered In Denver On Wednesday.” According to the Denver Post, “Among the coalition representing more than 30 sportsmen’s conservation groups and outdoor industry leaders gathering at noon Wednesday to protest attempts by some Western states to take over federally managed public lands, don’t expect to meet anyone from the American Lands Council. That’s the group founded by Utah state Rep. Ken Ivory to coordinate advocacy and lobbying for federal-to-state land transfers throughout the West similar to Ivory’s Transfer of Public Lands Act signed into Utah law in 2012. And despite big-money backing from the likes of billionaires Charles and David Koch, the ALC is likely to be severely outnumbered in Denver on Wednesday on the west steps of the State Capitol.” [Denver Post, [2/25/15](#)]

Strata Policy

The Firm Hired By The Utah Legislature To “Wrest Control” Of Federal Lands In Utah “Has Strong Ties To The Billionaire Koch Brothers.” According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “A Logan-based think tank hired by the Utah Legislature to promote the state’s legal efforts to wrest control of 32 million acres of public land from the federal government has strong ties to the billionaire Koch brothers, the petrochemical giants who spend millions to fight green-based energy programs and to elect candidates who favor their causes.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [6/29/15](#)]

Ethington: Lawmakers In Utah “Committed Up To \$2 Million In Taxpayer Dollars” To Change Utahans Minds About Federal Land Ownership. According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “So, on June 16, Utah lawmakers committed up to \$2 million in taxpayer dollars and hired two groups to launch PR campaigns aimed at convincing Utahns and various elected officials that a state takeover of federal lands is an idea whose time has come.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Ethington: One Firm, “Strata Policy, Is Run By Randy Simmons And Ryan Yonk” Who Both “Teach At Utah State University, An Institution That Receives \$170,000 Per Year...From The Conservative Koch Brothers.” According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “The first of the two firms, Strata Policy, is run by Randy Simmons and Ryan Yonk. Both Simmons and Yonk teach at Utah State University, an institution that receives \$170,000 per year (the fifth highest in the nation) in donations from the conservative Koch brothers.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Ethington: Until Recently “Simmons Was Listed As The School’s Charles G. Koch Professor Of Political Science” And Still “Serves As A Senior Fellow” At A Koch Research Center. According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “Until 2013, [Randy] Simmons was listed as the school’s Charles G. Koch Professor of Political Science, and he oversees the Koch Scholars program. (A number of USU students—working for Strata—will be brought in to work on the contract.) Simmons also serves as a senior fellow at the Koch- and ExxonMobil-funded Property & Environment Research Center.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Ethington: Yonk “Has Written Several Working Papers For The Mercatus Center.” According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “In addition to his work at USU, [Ryan] Yonk has written several working papers for the Mercatus Center, a conservative think tank whose founder has received more than \$30 million from the Kochs.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

PERC

The Property And Environment Research Center Released A Report Saying That State-Managed Lands Were More Profitable Than Federally Managed Lands. According to an editorial by the Elko Daily Free Press, “To the contrary, a report issued by the Property and Environment Research Center last week clearly shows that state-trust lands are more profitable than federally managed lands.” [Editorial - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/4/15]

Americans For Prosperity

AFP Contributed To The Lands Council, Which Tried To “Wrest Control Of Vast Swaths Of Land From The Federal Government And Turn Them Over To The States.” According to the Los Angeles Times, “The Lands Council’s goal is grand but simple: to wrest control of vast swaths of land from the federal government and turn them over to the states. At stake are hundreds of millions of dollars, even billions, that could be made off land administered by the federal government. The big-dollar opportunities include oil leases in Utah grassland, all-terrain vehicle tourism in Arizona and rare-earth mineral mining in Nevada. [...] Americans for Prosperity, the group backed by the conservative Koch brothers, contributes to the Lands Council, though in 2013, the last year for which records were available, the council took most of its \$200,000 from membership dues, including public entities such as county commissions.” [Los Angeles Times, [5/10/14](#)]

Americans For Prosperity Donated To The American Lands Council. According to High Country News, “Council members include 46 county boards of commissioners, who pay heavy dues with taxpayer dollars, as well as private interests, including Canyon Construction, a mining construction company, the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association and Deseret Power.

Americans for Prosperity, a powerful dark-money group founded by the billionaires Charles and David Koch, is also a member of the group.” [High Country News, 10/27/14]

The American Lands Council Listed Americans For Prosperity As A Bronze Member. According to an archived version of the American Lands Council website, the Americans for Prosperity is a bronze member of the ALC. [archive.AmericanLandsCouncil.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

- **ALC Removed Their Members List From The Organization’s Website.** An updated version of the ALC website no longer lists the organization’s members. [AmericanLandsCouncil.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]
- **Americans For Prosperity Paid An Annual Membership Fee Of \$500.** According to the American Lands Council website, a bronze business membership costs an annual fee of \$500. [AmericanLandsCouncil.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

Kent County News’s Liza Field: Industry Giants Created “Faux-Patriotic Front Groups” Like ALC And AFP To Resemble A “Common Man Movement.” According to an opinion by Liza Field in the Kent County News, “Western state citizens, according to surveys, actually favor their nearby federal lands - commons accessible to all and a major draw for tourism. So in the effort to resemble a ‘common man’ movement itself, the coalition tries to hide its industry-giant self behind a fog of faux-patriotic front groups like ‘The American Land Council’ and the Kochs’ ‘Americans for Prosperity.’” [Liza Field – Kent County News, 5/14/15]

American Legislative Exchange Council

The American Prospect: The “Chief Funders” Of ALEC Were “Archconservative Energy Magnates Charles And David Koch.” According to the American Prospect, “ALEC’s agenda, befitting the concerns of its chief funders, the archconservative energy magnates Charles and David Koch, is to bolster corporations’ interests without publicly disclosing those corporations’ influence on the bills ALEC task forces produce.” [American Prospect, [2/4/14](#)]

American Lands Council President and Utah State Representative Ken Ivory’s Rhetoric On Land Transfer Resembled “Language Put Out By The American Legislative Exchange Council.” According to the High Country News, “Ivory’s rhetoric, meanwhile, resembles the language put out by the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, a consortium of corporations that produces ‘model’ legislation for ultra-conservative state lawmakers across the country. Federal ownership of the land ‘prevents the states from accessing the abundant natural resources contained on those lands,’ ALEC claims in one such model. ‘This resolution seeks to remedy this situation.’” [High Country News, 10/27/14]

Kent County News’s Liza Field: Koch Funded ALEC Crafted “Forest-Removal Model Legislation” And Posted It Online For Legislative Members To Promote. According to an opinion by Liza Field in the Kent County News, “The private American Legislative Exchange Council, funded by BP, ExxonMobil, Koch Industries and various multinational interests, crafted the forest-removal model legislation posted on its website for its lawmaker members to promote.” [Liza Field – Kent County News, 5/14/15]

Salt Lake Tribune Columnist Paul Rolly: American Land Council President and Utah State Representative Ken Ivory Spent Large Amounts Of Campaign Money On ALEC Related Expenses. According to an opinion by columnist Paul Rolly for the Salt Lake Tribune, “It seems that Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, knows on which side his bread is buttered. In a previous financial-disclosure statement, he noted that all but \$422.60 of his \$4,183 campaign expenditures were for expenses related to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) or the Council of State Governments (CSG).” [Paul Rolly - Salt Lake Tribune, [10/30/14](#)]

- **Rolly: Ivory Has Used ALEC As An Opportunity To Sell Memberships To The ALC.** According to an opinion by columnist Paul Rolly for the Salt Lake Tribune, “[Ken] Ivory has made a living by going around the country selling memberships to his American Lands Council, which advocates state control over lands owned by the federal government, while sponsoring legislation to put federally owned acres under state control. A spawning ground for much of his drum beating has been ALEC and other conservative groups that provide a stage for his sales pitch. So why not spend campaign contributions on junkets to help spread the word?” [Paul Rolly - Salt Lake Tribune, [10/30/14](#)]

ALC's Ken Ivory First Presented The Public-Lands Transfer Bill For A "Vote In ALEC's Energy, Environment, And Agriculture Task Force... Whose Voting Members At The Time Included... The American Chemistry Council."

According to the American Prospect, "The legislation that would become Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act—the inaugural move in what The Salt Lake Tribune dubbed a 'new Sagebrush Rebellion'—first made an appearance in a 2011 meeting of the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, which works with state lawmakers to draft 'model legislation.' [...]"

According to the records of its 2011 meeting, which took place in Scottsdale, Arizona, Ken Ivory, a Republican state representative from Utah, sponsored the public-lands transfer bill—then titled the Disposal and Taxation of Public Lands Act—for a review and vote in ALEC's Energy, Environment, and Agriculture Task Force, whose voting members at the time included representatives from Peabody Energy, the American Gas Association, and the American Chemistry Council. Ivory says he envisioned state control of public lands as a means for funding local schools, health care, and infrastructure."

[American Prospect, [2/4/14](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News: Koch Industries, Which "Owns One of the Largest Formaldehyde Producing Companies In the Country" Is A "Founding Partner Of The American Chemical Council's Formaldehyde Panel."** According to the Bangor Daily News: "Koch Industries, run by billionaire brothers and major conservative donors Charles and David Koch, owns one of the largest formaldehyde producing companies in the country, according to ProPublica. It also is a founding partner of the American Chemical Council's Formaldehyde Panel, which testified against the DEP's proposed formaldehyde rule back in January." [Bangor Daily News, [9/3/14](#)]

NEVADA ACTIVISM

ALC's Ken Ivory Came To Elko County To Speak With Commissioners And The Public On States Land Rights.

According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "A Utah legislator who has been involved with Elko County officials on state land rights will speak about the issue Sept. 6 in Elko. Rep. Ken Ivory of the American Lands Council was the prime sponsor of a bill that demands public lands in Utah come under state control by Dec. 31, 2014 -- with the exception of national parks, monuments and wilderness areas. House Bill 148 was passed by the Utah Legislature and signed into law last December. [...]" He said the American Lands Council is sponsoring this opportunity for the people of Elko County to hear what brought about the Utah Bill, what the results will likely be, and what the implications are for Nevada in the effort to gain equal footing."

[Elko Daily Free Press, 8/25/12]

September 2012 Elko Daily Free Press Headline: "County Joins American Lands Council." [Elko Daily Free Press, 9/8/12]

The Elko County Commission Joined The ALC And Paid Above And Beyond The Membership Fee. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "The commission voted unanimously to join ALC and pay an annual fee of \$7,500 -- \$2,500 more than the group's asking price -- because commissioners felt the cause lined succinctly with the county's." [Elko Daily Free Press, 9/8/12]

ALC's Ken Ivory Delivered The Keynote To The Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "More than 80 members of the Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition will meet at the Atlantis Hotel & Casino in Reno on Oct. 1 to discuss pressing topics that affect Nevada's mineral exploration industry and the state's public lands. [...]" Utah Legislator Ken Ivory, also president of the American Lands Council, is expected to deliver a keynote speech regarding possible alternatives to current public lands policy." [Elko Daily Free Press, 9/29/12]

Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl Recruited Nye County To The American Lands Council. According to the Pahrump Valley Times, "County commissioners Tuesday voted to spend \$5,000 to join the American Lands Council, after hearing Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl speak about the organization's attempt to get lands wrestled from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Nye County was also asked to have a board member as a contact, Commissioner Dan Schinhofen made the motion to appoint Commissioner Lorinda Wichman, who gladly accepted." [Pahrump Valley Times, 1/25/13]

The American Lands Council "Helped Draft Many Of The Land Transfer Bills" In Western States. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "Nevada joins a groundswell of Western states that have adopted similar legislation. Utah passed a bill setting a deadline for the transfer of land, and in a subsequent session decided to study the implications. Dahl said Montana, Wyoming and Idaho all passed bills that resemble Nevada's. Lawmakers in New Mexico, he said, started working on a deadline bill like Utah's but decided that first compiling a study was a better route. Arizona passed a land transfer bill around the same

time Utah did, but Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed the bill because it didn't include protections for National Parks, Dahl said. That state is now working, as is Colorado, toward drafting a land transfer bill. 'Even in Oregon they are starting to work toward (a public) land transfer,' Dahl said. The American Lands Council, a lobby group that has helped draft many of the land transfer bills and of which Elko County Commission is a supporter, formed a year ago in May." [Elko Daily Free Press, 6/24/13]

The Nevada Legislature Created The Nevada Land Management Task Force To "Study The Possible Transfer Of Certain Federal Public Lands To The State Of Nevada," Chaired By ALC Member Demar Dahl. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "For decades Nevadans have been trying to wrest greater control of public lands within the state from federal hegemony. This year the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 227, which created the Nevada Land Management Task Force to study the possible transfer of certain federal public lands to the state of Nevada. The 17-member task force is to identify what federal land should be transferred to the state and what the economic impact would be. Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl, chair of the task force, said in a recent interview the impetus for AB227 began in 2009 when the Forest Service announced it was working on a public lands travel plan, but indicated it did not anticipate closing any roads." [Elko Daily Free Press, 10/2/13]

Dahl Put The American Lands Council Together Along With Ken Ivory. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "Dahl met with Ken Ivory, a Utah state lawmaker who authored a bill under which Utah is attempting to take control of certain federal public lands. After a six-hour meeting Dahl, Ivory and others put the American Lands Council (americanlandscouncil.org) together. The organization's stated mission is to channel efforts of state and local governments, businesses, organizations, and individuals to secure and defend local control of access, use and ownership of land now controlled by federal agencies - the aim of AB227." [Elko Daily Free Press, 10/2/13]

Lt. Gov Candidate Mark Hutchinson Was An ALC Member And Said "Issues Related To Sage Grouse, Land Management And Even Unemployment Could Be Alleviated... If The State Had Control Over Public Lands." According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "Lt. Gov. candidate Mark Hutchison visited with Elko business leaders and media Friday ahead of a candidate forum with Sue Lowden at the Elko County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner. [...] Issues related to sage grouse, land management and even unemployment could be alleviated, Hutchison said, if the state had control over public lands. 'The battle over the next decade is going to be over whether or not states retain their sovereignty,' he said. As a member of the American Lands Council, Hutchison said he is a strong supporter of that nonprofit's efforts to build a coalition of Western states demanding a transfer of public lands to the states." [Elko Daily Free Press, 2/8/14]

Dahl Was A Chairman Of The American Lands Council. According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "Attendee of the summit, Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl said representatives from nine states gathered in Salt Lake City to discuss strategy. 'It just came about out of conversation,' said Dahl, who is chairman of the American Lands Council, a group advocating for land transfers. '... What we needed to do is coordinate a little better on the efforts in each state on the transfer of public lands.'" [Elko Daily Free Press, 4/23/14]

Hutchinson's "Work With The American Lands Council Is Designed To Create A More Favorable Environment For Mining." According to the Elko Daily Free Press, "After proposing to double the mining tax, along with other key Republican senators, [Mark] Hutchison says he now has the support of the industry. More importantly, his work with the American Lands Council is designed to create a more favorable environment for mining and other public land users, by putting more decisions in the hands of the state instead of the federal government." [Elko Daily Free Press, 10/13/14]

THE KOCHS HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN RESOURCE EXTRACTION (MINING, OIL DRILLING, ETC.) ON PUBLIC LANDS

Sen. Martin Heinrich: "The Costs Of Managing These Lands Could Bankrupt State Governments." According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, "The costs of managing these lands could bankrupt state governments. More than \$3.9 billion was appropriated for federal wildfire management alone for fiscal 2014. The only way states could foot the bill for administering these public lands would be to raise taxes or sell or lease large expanses to developers and other private interests, including oil, gas, timber and mining companies." [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/26/us/politics/senator-criticizes-federal-land-management-costs.html)]

Sen. Heinrich: "The Only Way States Could Foot The Bill For Administering These Public Lands Would Be To Raise Taxes Or Sell Or Lease Large Expanses To Developers And Other Private Interests." According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, "The costs of managing these lands could bankrupt state governments.

More than \$3.9 billion was appropriated for federal wildfire management alone for fiscal 2014. The only way states could foot the bill for administering these public lands would be to raise taxes or sell or lease large expanses to developers and other private interests, including oil, gas, timber and mining companies.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Koch Industries Owns Pipelines, Refineries, Commodities Trading & Resource Exploration Companies

Koch Industries “Owns Or Operates More Than 4,000 Miles Of Pipelines That Transport Crude Oil, Refined Petroleum Products, Natural Gas Liquids, And Chemicals.” According to the Koch Industries website, “Koch Pipeline Company, L.P. owns or operates more than 4,000 miles of pipelines that transport crude oil, refined petroleum products, natural gas liquids, and chemicals.” [kochind.com, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Koch Minerals Markets And Trades Dry-Bulk Commodities As Well As Petroleum, Subsidiaries Include Koch Carbon, C. Reiss Coal Company And Koch Exploration Company. According to the Koch Industries website, “Koch Minerals, LLC and its subsidiaries are among the world’s largest dry-bulk commodity handlers, annually marketing and trading more than 40 million tons of product, as well as petroleum and natural gas properties. Subsidiaries include Koch Carbon, LLC; The C. Reiss Coal Company; Koch Exploration Company, LLC, and KM Proppants, LLC.” [kochind.com, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Koch Supply And Trading “Trade Crude Oil, Refined Petroleum Products, Gas Liquids, Liquefied Natural Gas... Industrial Metals, And Other Commodities.” According to the Koch Industries website, “Koch Supply & Trading companies around the world trade crude oil, refined petroleum products, gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, emission allowances, industrial metals, and other commodities.” [kochind.com, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Koch’s Flint Hills Resources Refine More Than 600,000 Barrels Of Crude Oil Per Day. According to the Koch Industries website, “Flint Hills Resources, LLC, through its subsidiaries, produces fuel that helps power the American economy. It operates refineries in Minnesota and Texas with a combined crude oil processing capacity of more than 600,000 barrels per day. The company also produces and markets petrochemicals, ethanol, biodiesel, and asphalt; and owns a 50 percent interest in a lubricants base oil facility in Louisiana.” [kochind.com, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

CRITICISM

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: “Some Of Today’s Republicans – Those Who Either Skate Too Close To Cliven Bundy Radicalism Or Cater To The Self-Serving Agenda Of Koch Industries... Oppose Public Land Protection.” According to an editorial from the Las Vegas Sun, “Even though some of today’s Republicans -- those who either skate too close to Cliven Bundy radicalism or cater to the self-serving agenda of Koch Industries and its surrogates -- oppose public land protection, land conservation in the United States is a Republican idea.” [Editorial – Las Vegas Sun, 5/20/15]

Sen. Heinrich: “The Republican National Committee Has Bought The Snake Oil The American Lands Council Is Selling.” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “Still, even the Republican National Committee has bought the snake oil the American Lands Council is selling. Last January, the committee endorsed the transfer of public lands to the states. In addition, the U.S. House of Representatives, controlled by Republicans, endorsed the outright sale of our public lands.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Sen. Heinrich: “The So-Called Sagebrush Rebellion Of The Cliven Bundy And The American Lands Council Is Not So Much A Movement As Another Special-Interest-Financed Boondoggle.” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “Like other Westerners who value our shared lands as assets to be used, enjoyed and passed to future generations, I find this dispiriting to see. And for an overwhelming majority of public land users in the West who pay their grazing fees and play by the rules, the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion of Cliven Bundy and the American Lands Council is not so much a movement as another special-interest-financed boondoggle.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Sen. Heinrich: “These Type Of Land-Grab Schemes Are As Old As The Railroads. But The Chief Salesman... The American Lands Council, Is Having Some Success Pitching State Legislators On ‘Model Legislation.’” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Heinrich for the New York Times, “These types of land-grab schemes are as old as the railroads. But the chief salesman for this latest land seizure campaign, the American Lands Council, is having some success pitching state legislators on ‘model legislation’ to enable these transfers.” [Sen. Martin Heinrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Sen. Heinrich: “The Campaign To Transfer To The States Or Even Sell Off Our Shared Lands Should Not Be Mistaken For The Mainstream Values Of Westerners.” According to an opinion by Sen. Martin Henrich for the New York Times, “Bundy does not represent the West, however. And the campaign to transfer to the states or even sell off our shared lands should not be mistaken for the mainstream values of Westerners whose way of life depends on the region’s land and water.” [Sen. Martin Henrich – New York Times, [10/26/14](#)]

Ethington: The Campaign For Accountability Alleged “That The ALC Has Committed Fraud” By Promising Paying Members “That The Takeover Of Public Lands Will Happen One Day.” According to an opinion by Eric Ethington of Political Research Associates for the Salt Lake City Weekly, “The American Lands Council itself (from which Rep. Ivory makes a six-figure salary advocating for his own legislation) is currently facing multiple ethics violations. The Campaign for Accountability has filed complaints in Utah, Montana and Arizona, alleging that the ALC has committed fraud by convincing counties to pay huge membership fees in return for the promise that the takeover of public lands will happen one day.” [Eric Ethington - Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

Sheldon Adelson Partnership

AFP President Tim Phillips Attended Sheldon Adelson’s Republican Jewish Coalition Meeting In Vegas In 2014 And 2015. According to the Huffington Post, “In late April, some 700 conservative luminaries, including presidential contenders, donors, fundraisers and former President George W. Bush, gathered at the Venetian casino and resort in Las Vegas for the Republican Jewish Coalition’s spring meeting, where Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire casino mogul and GOP megadonor, was holding court. Among the assembled allies, well-wishers and supplicants who put in appearances was Tim Phillips, the head of Americans for Prosperity, the political centerpiece of the sprawling fundraising and advocacy network spearheaded by the billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch. It was the second consecutive year, according to an RJC donor, that Phillips dropped by for at least part of the conference, which doubles as the site of the so-called Adelson primary - the increasingly high-stakes battle between GOP presidential candidates vying to win the billionaire’s favor by expressing their full-throated support for Israel.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: “Phillips’ Foray...Was Emblematic Of A Growing And Successful Effort By The Koch Network To Tap Into Adelson’s \$28 Billion Net Worth And Forge New Links With The Casino Owner And The RJC.”

According to the Huffington Post, “[Tim] Phillips’ foray into RJC [Republican Jewish Coalition] turf was emblematic of a growing and successful effort by the Koch network to tap into Adelson’s \$28 billion net worth and forge new links with the casino owner and the RJC, of which Adelson has long been the lead bankroller.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

In 2014, Adelson Donated \$30 Million To Koch-Funded Organizations For Field And Voter Data Operations.

According to the Huffington Post, “The Koch brothers’ donor network budgeted some \$300 million in the 2014 election cycle and played a sizable part in helping the GOP recapture the Senate by improving the right’s field and voter data operations. The Huffington Post has learned that in 2014, [Sheldon] Adelson’s donations to [Tim] Phillips’ outfit and other Koch-funded organizations accounted for a significant portion -- nearly \$30 million -- of this haul, according to two conservatives familiar with the network.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

The Koch Network Hoped For At Least \$30 Million From Adelson For The 2016 Cycle, If Not More. According to the Huffington Post, “Early this year, the brothers’ network unveiled plans to spend an astonishing \$900 million on its political and advocacy drives in the 2016 election cycle. Members of the network hope that [Sheldon] Adelson will donate as much as he did in 2014, and possibly more, according to the two sources. ‘I think Adelson writes one of the biggest checks to the Koch network,’ one source said.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Historically, Adelson Has Focused On Hawkish Foreign Policy Issues And Israel While The Kochs Have Focused Domestically. According to the Huffington Post, “Historically, the Koch network and [Sheldon] Adelson have had different top-line priorities. Kochworld has focused largely on domestic matters, with a particular emphasis on shrinking the federal government and minimizing regulatory and tax burdens on businesses. Adelson’s primary interests, meanwhile, have long been Israel, expanding defense spending and hawkish foreign policy in general.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Adelson And The Kochs “Share A Number Of Political And Ideological Concerns... From Curbing Union Power And Killing Estate Taxes To Developing Better Voter-Data Operations And Mobilizing Veterans To Vote.”

According to the Huffington Post, “But the megadonors, conservatives say, share a number of political and ideological

concerns. They have certain aims in common, from curbing union power and killing estate taxes to developing better voter-data operations and mobilizing veterans to vote.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: “Adelson And The Koch Network Also Share A Strong Commitment To Do, And Spend, What It Takes To Win The White House In 2016.” According to the Huffington Post, “And [Sheldon] Adelson and the Koch network also share a strong commitment to do, and spend, what it takes to win the White House in 2016 -- a year that now looks like it will feature an expanded conservative focus on national security, terrorism and Middle Eastern policies.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: “The Koch Network And Adelson...Have, For The Time Being At Least, Begun Working More Closely Together In Areas Where Their Strategic And Ideological Priorities Overlap.” According to the Huffington Post, “In recent years, and partly spurred on by President Barack Obama’s re-election in 2012, the Koch network and [Sheldon] Adelson -- who in 2012 ranked as the country’s single largest donor to super PACs and dark money groups -- have, for the time being at least, begun working more closely together in areas where their strategic and ideological priorities overlap.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: “Adelson And Kochworld Have... Forged Closer Ties Between Key Staff Members And Appear To Share A Willingness To Lay Out Cash For The Best And Most Sophisticated Voter Data Operations.” According to the Huffington Post, “[Sheldon] Adelson and Kochworld have also forged closer ties between key staff members and appear to share a willingness to lay out cash for the best and most sophisticated voter data operations and for grass-roots mobilization.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Adelson First Attended A Koch Conference In 2012, And Chipped In \$15 Million To AFP That Year. According to the Huffington Post, “[Sheldon] Adelson’s ties to the Koch network are relatively new. It was only in early 2012 that Adelson made his first appearance at the Koch’s annual fundraising and policy retreat near Palm Springs, California. That event also drew then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.), the only Jewish Republican congressman and arguably the casino owner’s closest ally in Congress, who was a favorite of some Koch donors. Later in 2012, Adelson wound up chipping in at least \$15 million to AFP coffers, according to two sources -- about 10 percent of the nearly \$150 million he and his wife Miriam donated that year to a mix of super PACs, which have to disclose their donors, and ‘dark money’ nonprofit groups like AFP and the Karl Rove-linked Crossroads GPS, which don’t.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

30 Percent Of Adelson’s 2014 Cycle Spending Went To Koch Groups. According to the Huffington Post, “The Adelsons spent about \$100 million on political causes during the 2014 cycle, according to multiple sources. Although that was a lower total than 2012, a greater share of it -- some 30 percent -- went to Koch network groups.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

The Koch Network And Karl Rove’s Crossroads GPS Fought A “Heated” Battle For Adelson’s Checks In 2014. According to the Huffington Post, “In 2014, the battle for the biggest Adelson checks became heated, pitting Koch network groups, including AFP, against [Karl] Rove’s Crossroads GPS. Rove has been close to [Sheldon] Adelson since the 2008 elections, when he provided informal advice to him, and their relationship seemed to grow tighter in 2012. But in 2014, Rove at times badmouthed the Koch groups and others as he sought to rope in more funds for his own operation, say GOP sources. ‘The infighting became intolerable,’ [Andy] Abboud told The New York Times last fall. ‘We told them ‘you either all stop competing’ or we’re not doing anything.’” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Tim Phillips’ Visit To The RJC Conference “Came After Freedom Partners... Gave \$700,000 To The Adelson-Backed RJC.” According to the Huffington Post, “One example: [Tim] Phillips’ Vegas visits came after Freedom Partners, which serves as a central financing hub for about two dozen Koch-supported groups, gave \$700,000 to the [Sheldon] Adelson-backed RJC, according to IRS reports.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: FP President “Marc Short... Was Also In Las Vegas At The Time Of The RJC Bash... As Was Adam Stryker” A Former Adelson Lobbyist Who “Has Risen Fast In The AFP Hierarchy.” According to the Huffington Post, “Marc Short, the president of Freedom Partners, was also in Las Vegas at the time of the RJC bash, according to a conservative source, as was Adam Stryker, a former Nevada-based lobbyist for Adelson’s Las Vegas Sands Corp. who in just a few years has risen fast in the AFP hierarchy.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Adelson’s Top Political Aide, Andy Abboud, Was “Close To The Koch Operation” And Led A Panel At A Koch Conference. According to the Huffington Post, “Furthermore, [Andy] Abboud, Adelson’s top political aide, is close to the Koch operation and last year had at least one high-profile role at a Koch event, according to two network donors. At the

Kochs' January 2014 donor retreat in California, Abboud helped lead a panel discussion focused on grass-roots mobilization strategies and data operations, according to two attendees. 'Andy is very involved with AFP,' one attendee said." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Stryker Was A Former Adelson Lobbyist Who Ran AFP-Nevada And Moved To Serve As AFP's National Chief Technology Officer. According to the Huffington Post, "[Adam] Stryker, the ex-lobbyist for Adelson's Las Vegas Sands who worked under [Andy] Abboud, moved to AFP a few years back. Initially, Stryker led AFP's Nevada affiliate, but in 2013 he assumed a bigger post nationally as AFP's first chief technology officer, according to his bio on AFP's site." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Stryker "Gained A Still Bigger Role: He Now Runs 'Strategic Initiatives' For AFP" And Serves On The "Elite" National Advisory Council. According to the Huffington Post, "As of last year, [Adam] Stryker seems to have gained a still bigger role: He now runs 'strategic initiatives' for AFP, a job that involves some dealings with the Koch network's sophisticated and expensive i360 voter data company and related grass-roots activities, according to a source familiar with the new post. According to the same AFP bio, Stryker also has served on the group's National Advisory Council, an elite committee 'which leads the way in revamping technology and data components across the country' -- a high priority for AFP, and for the entire Koch network." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Despite Different Foreign Policy Philosophies, "Bottom-Line Concerns... Seem To Have Brought The Multibillionaires' Agendas Closer Together." According to the Huffington Post, "On the policy front, [Sheldon] Adelson's political agenda has long been dominated by his ardor for Israel and his hawkish views on defense and national security -- subjects that are less important to many of the Koch network's libertarian-leaning donors, who have often pushed for fewer foreign entanglements and tighter defense budgets. But other domestic ideological and bottom-line concerns, as well as political exigencies, seem to have brought the multibillionaires' agendas closer together." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: Adelson And The Kochs' "Are Said To Be Strong Foes Of Estate Taxes, Which In The Last Year Have Increasingly Become A Target Of AFP And Some Other Koch-Backed Groups." According to the Huffington Post, "[Sheldon] Adelson, the Koch brothers and a number of the network's wealthy donors, for instance, are said to be strong foes of estate taxes, which in the last year have increasingly become a target of AFP and some other Koch-backed groups." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: "A Few Koch Network Groups, Including AFP And 60 Plus, Have In The Past Year Expanded Lobbying Drives At The Federal And State Levels To Pressure Lawmakers To Kill Estate Taxes." According to the Huffington Post, "A few Koch network groups, including AFP and 60 Plus, have in the past year expanded lobbying drives at the federal and state levels to pressure lawmakers to kill estate taxes." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: "This Spring, The House Passed A Bill Calling For An End To Death Taxes After A Lobbying Blitz By A Coalition That Included A Few Koch-Backed Advocacy Groups." According to the Huffington Post, "This spring, the House passed a bill calling for an end to death taxes after a lobbying blitz by a coalition that included a few Koch-backed advocacy groups and other powerhouses like Americans for Tax Reform and the American Conservative Union. A similar bill is pending in the Senate, but Democrats may filibuster it and the White House is firmly opposed." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Adelson And The Kochs "Have Poured Big Bucks Over The Years Into Efforts To Curb Union Clout, In Part By Backing The Various Campaigns Of Gov. Scott Walker." According to the Huffington Post, "Likewise, both the casino mogul [Sheldon Adelson] and the Koch brothers have poured big bucks over the years into efforts to curb union clout, in part by backing the various campaigns of Gov. Scott Walker (R-Wis.) as he has fought to limit public sector unions' bargaining power." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Huffington Post: "Another Area Of Overlapping Political Interest Is The Koch Network's Multimillion-Dollar Funding For Concerned Veterans For America." According to the Huffington Post, "Another area of overlapping political interest is the Koch network's multimillion-dollar funding for Concerned Veterans for America, an advocacy group launched in 2012 that focuses heavily on health care reform for veterans and the need for tougher national security policies." [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

CVA Head Pete Hegseth Formerly Ran Vets For Freedom, Which Received \$1.4 Million From The Adelson-Backed Freedom's Watch. According to the Huffington Post, "The group's founder, Pete Hegseth, previously ran another outfit,

Vets for Freedom, which received \$1.4 million from the Adelson-backed group Freedom's Watch and spent close to \$5 million during the 2008 election season, according to public records.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Adelson's Attempts To Kill Internet Gambling Have Been Labeled As “Crony Capitalism” But Despite The Koch Network's Various Criticisms Of “Crony Capitalism” It “Has Been Silent On Adelson's Lobbying Blitz.” According to the Huffington Post, “There are still some high-stakes issues where the interests of the respective superdonors seem at odds. One notable case involves an [Sheldon] Adelson-financed lobbying crusade to kill Internet gambling -- a cause that Adelson has portrayed largely in moral terms, but that also has very real bottom-line ramifications for his gambling empire, since the spread of Internet gambling would most likely eat into his revenues. The expensive Adelson lobbying blitz is the kind of targeted campaign that many conservatives castigate as ‘crony capitalism,’ and in fact it's been labeled just that by Ron Paul, the libertarian champion and father of Sen. [Rand] Paul. The Koch network has harshly criticized various types of government intervention and tax breaks that benefit specific companies or industries as examples of ‘crony capitalism.’ But it has been silent on Adelson's lobbying blitz to snuff out Internet gambling.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Conservative Source: “Adelson's Financial Support For The Koch Network Will Trump Their Philosophy As It Normally Does.” According to the Huffington Post, “[Sheldon] Adelson's financial support for the Koch network will trump their philosophy as it normally does,” predicts one conservative familiar with the Internet gambling battle.” [Huffington Post, [6/14/15](#)]

Nevada Policy Research Institute

KOCH TIES

High Country News Identified NPRI As “A Conservative Group With Ties To Charles Koch.” According to the High Country News, “The Nevada Policy Research Institute, a conservative group with ties to Charles Koch, says the subsidies are against the Nevada constitution and free-market ideals. In an open letter to Sandoval, NPRI also brings up the right's favorite renewable energy, subsidy-getting whipping horse, Solyndra, and says Tesla might be headed in the same direction as the failed solar company.” [High Country News, [9/8/14](#)]

Sharron Angle Served As A Policy Fellow For The Nevada Policy Research Institute. According to an opinion by Sharron Angle for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Former Assemblywoman Sharron Angle is the chairman of the Third Tuesday Coalition and a policy fellow of the Nevada Policy Research Institute.” [Sharron Angle – Elko Daily Free Press, 6/25/07]

- **AFP Supported Sharron Angle In Nevada's 2010 Senate Race By “Tapping Massive Anonymous Donations To Push A Conservative Agenda.”** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “And [Senate Candidate Sharron] Angle and Republicans have been aided by third-party groups such as American Crossroads and Americans for Prosperity, tapping massive anonymous donations to push a conservative agenda. [Las Vegas Sun, 10/29/10]

NPRI Board

NPRI Board Member Steve Hardy Was “A Benefactor And Club 200 Member Of The Cato Institute.” According to NPRI.org, “Steve Hardy was born and raised in Los Angeles and moved to Northern Nevada in 1981. He was the President and Founder of Zephyr Associates, which licenses portfolio analytical software to over 1,000 major institutional investor clients, including pension plan sponsors, money managers, consultants and financial advisors. Prior to forming Zephyr Associates, Steve was a co-founder of Balch, Hardy, Scheinman and Winston, a money management firm. During the firm's 21-year history, it pioneered the use of quantitative stock and option strategies for large tax-exempt funds. Mr. Hardy began his investment career with Dean Witter in 1968, where he became a vice president. He graduated from Whittier College with a degree in business administration. Steve has been a lifelong libertarian, a benefactor and Club 200 member of the Cato Institute, a contributor to the Friedman Foundation and a number of other free-market think tanks.” [NPRI.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

- **The Cato Institute Was Founded By Ed Crane And Charles G. Koch.** According to the Cato Institute 25th Annual Report, “When a young California investment manager, Ed Crane, spent 1976 in Washington, he noticed how much influence a few think tanks had despite their relatively small budgets. He thought there ought to be a public policy research organization, or ‘think tank,’ dedicated to the American principles of liberty and limited government.

He was willing to start one, but only if he didn't have to live in Washington. When he returned to San Francisco, he joined the Kansas industrialist Charles G. Koch to set up the Cato Institute, which opened its doors in January 1977.” [Cato Institute 25th Annual Report, [2001](#)]

Donors Capital Fund

Donors Capital Fund Contributed \$1,357,432 To NPRI Between 2005 And 2012. According to Donors Capital Fund tax documents, Donors Capital Fund made 13 contributions to the Nevada Policy Research Institute between 2005 and 2012, totaling \$1,357,432. [Donors Capital Fund Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, [2005-2012](#)]

Donors Capital Fund And Sister Organization Donors Trust Had Extensive Connections To The Koch Network

Donors Capital Fund Board Of Directors Was Composed Almost Exclusively Of Koch-Connected Members.

According to Donors Capital Fund's website, “Donors Capital Fund Board of Directors Adam Meyerson, Chairman President, The Philanthropy *[sic]* Roundtable [...] Whitney L. Ball President & CEO, DonorsTrust [...] Arthur C. Brooks President, American Enterprise Institute [...] Kimberly O. Dennis President & CEO, Searle Freedom Trust [...] Steven Hayward Fellow, Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs [...] Kris Alan Mauren Executive Director, The Action *[sic]* Institute [...] William H. Mellor President & General Counsel, Institute for Justice [...] Roger R. Ream President, The Fund for American Studies [...] John A. Von Kannon Vice President & Senior Counselor, The Heritage Foundation.” [donorscapitalfund.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

State Policy Network

NPRI Was A State Policy Network Member. [spn.org/directory, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

State Policy Network “Originated In 1986 As The Madison Group” Before Changing Name In 1992. According to State Policy Network's website, “State Policy Network originated in 1986 as the Madison Group, an informal confederation of the state think tanks and their supporters named after the Madison Hotel in Washington, DC, where they first met. In 1992, SPN was established as an independent 501(c)(3) educational organization providing services to its members – the state-focused, free market think tanks and their national think tank partners. At that time, the goal was to encourage cooperation and collaboration among the fledgling state think tank movement, maintaining a basic schedule of meetings and providing advisory services as needed during its first five years of operations. The state policy research community rapidly grew and matured during the 1990s, SPN's Board of Directors realized the need for a stronger organization that would provide additional services. After extensive discussions, the existing Board took a bold and historic step in September 1998, dissolving itself and appointing a transitional Board to fulfill the broader role envisioned for the organization.” [SPN.org, Viewed [1/30/14](#)]

The State Policy Network Was Previously Known As The Madison Group, Was Launched In 1986 By ALEC And Housed In The Chicago-Based Heartland Institute. According to the National Committee for Responsible Philanthropy: “The think tanks are loosely affiliated through the Madison Group, launched by the American Legislative Exchange Council or ALEC (see story, pf 20) and housed in the Chicago-based Heartland Institute. Founded in 1986, the Madison Group acts as a communication link among its 79members, which include not only state think tanks, but also conservative legal foundations and national groups like ALEC, Heritage Foundation and the National Rifle Association.” [National Committee for Responsible Philanthropy, Special Report: Burgeoning Conservative Think Tanks, [Spring 1991](#)]

Multiple Members of The Madison Group Were Koch-Founded Or Koch-Controlled Organizations, Including Citizens for a Sound Economy, Institute for Humane Studies, Reason Foundation, Pacific Research Institute, Heartland Institute, And The Competitive Enterprise Institute. [National Committee for Responsible Philanthropy, Special Report: Burgeoning Conservative Think Tanks, [Spring 1991](#)]

The Guardian: State Policy Network Is “Sister Organization” of ALEC. According to The Guardian, “One of its former executives was Ted Cruz, now US senator for Texas, who today is the keynote speaker at the national conference in Washington of SPN's sister organisation, the American Legislative Exchange Council (Alec).” [Guardian, [12/5/13](#)]

SPN President Insists Think Tanks Are “Fiercely Independent” But Evidence Indicates That They Coordinate Extensively. According to the New Yorker, “According to a new investigative report by the Center for Media and Democracy, a liberal watchdog group, however, the think tanks are less free actors than a coordinated collection of corporate

front groups—branch stores, so to speak—funded and steered by cash from undisclosed conservative and corporate players. Although the think tanks have largely operated under the radar, the cumulative enterprise is impressively large, according to the report. In 2011, the network funneled seventy-nine million dollars into promoting conservative policies at the state level. Tracie Sharp, the president of the S.P.N., promptly dismissed the report as ‘baseless allegations.’ She told Politico, ‘There is no governing organization dictating what free market think tanks research or how they educate the public about good public policy.’ But notes provided to *The New Yorker* on what was said during the S.P.N.’s recent twenty-first-annual meeting raise doubts about Sharp’s insistence that each of the think tanks is, as she told me, ‘fiercely independent.’ The notes show that, behind closed doors, meeting with some eight hundred people from the affiliated state think tanks, Sharp compared the organization’s model to that of the giant global chain IKEA.” [New Yorker, [11/15/13](#)]

State Policy Network Members’ Combined 2011 Fundraising Was Over \$83 Million And Included “Major” Koch Money And Donors Trust And Donors Capital Fund Money. According to the Huffington Post, “In 2011, the State Policy Network and its affiliates reported raising a combined \$83.2 million, according to the Center for Media and Democracy. While donors to the groups are not required to be disclosed, a 2010 document opened a window on some of them. They included the Donors Trust and the Donors Capital Fund, both secretive right-wing funding instruments, as well as Altria, AT&T, Comcast, GlaxoSmithKline, Kraft Foods, Microsoft, Reynolds American and Time Warner Cable. Multiple documents reviewed in the report also show that the Koch brothers, known for their extensive funding of conservative activist causes, are major funders of the State Policy Network and its affiliates through their linked foundations and Koch Industries. Many other wealthy conservatives have likewise pumped money into the network, including the DeVos family of Amway, the Coors brewing family, the Waltons of Walmart, and wealthy businessman (and North Carolina budget director) Art Pope.” [Huffington Post, [11/14/13](#)]

State Policy Network Is An ALEC Member And Its Think Tanks Submit Model Legislation For Approval At ALEC. According to the Huffington Post, “The State Policy Network and many of its most active affiliates are members of ALEC, the secretive organization that brings corporations, conservative activists and state legislators together to write model state legislation. The network has also routinely sponsored ALEC’s annual meetings. [...] The think tanks in the State Policy Network also write model legislation and introduce it at private ALEC meetings to be vetted and approved for broader dissemination to statehouses, according to the [Center for Media and Democracy] report.” [Huffington Post, [11/14/13](#)]

NPRI “Applied For \$35,000 From The State Policy Network.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The Nevada Policy Research Institute has applied for \$35,000 from the State Policy Network, a major beneficiary of national conservative organizations like Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Ex-change Council, according to documents published Thursday by the Guardian.” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/6/13]

- **NPRI “Submitted An Application This Summer To ‘Stage A Campaign Informing Unions Members Of Their Right To Leave Their Union.’”** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The document states that NPRI submitted an application this summer to ‘stage a campaign informing union members of their right to leave their union.’ ‘NPRI will research how and when union members can leave their union, then prepare materials to ease the process,’ the document states. ‘NPRI additionally will create videos, publish op-eds and send email alerts promoting their material. Success will be determined by the number of individuals who leave the union and the number that elect not to join the union.’” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/6/13]

ATTACKED FEDERAL CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS

NPRI Director Of Research And Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence Opinion Headline: “Federal Lands Belong Under State Control.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 2/1/12]

Lawrence: “Federal Land Control Is An Obstacle To All The Western States.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Indeed, the relevance of this issue extends far beyond the borders of Nevada and Utah -- federal land control is an obstacle to all the Western states.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 2/1/12]

Lawrence: “Public Auctioning Of These Lands Could Yield Billions Of Dollars In Immediate State Revenues, While Private Sector Development Of These Lands Would Stimulate Job Growth And Wealth Creation.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “At a time when most Western states face substantial fiscal challenges and job losses, transfer of federal lands to state control could well

lead to an immediate reversal of fortune for Western states. Public auctioning of these lands could yield billions of dollars in immediate state revenues, while private-sector development of these lands would stimulate job growth and wealth creation.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 2/1/12]

Geoffrey Lawrence, Citing Utah’s Transfer Of Public Lands Law, Urged For A Similar Nevada Statute To “Serve Notice To Washington That, In Nevada, Federal Land Dominion Is No Longer Welcome.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “A century and a half of federal domination has made it clear that Western states must take action to force Congress to recognize their constitutional ‘equal footing’ rights. The language of Utah’s new law is the most direct and forceful step to do this to date. More than any state, Nevada stands to benefit from similar legislation. Silver State lawmakers should reinvigorate the state’s initiatives of ‘79, ‘93 and ‘95 and join with their Utah counterparts. A Silver State Transfer of Public Lands Act would serve notice to Washington that, in Nevada, federal land dominion is no longer welcome.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 4/11/12]

Matthews: “One Way To Loosen The Government’s Stranglehold On Water And Land Rights Is Through Public Engagement.” According to the Pahrump Valley Times, “[NPRI’s Andy] Matthews said one way to loosen the government’s stranglehold on water and land rights is through public engagement. He told those gathered that the federal hold on state land is through an ‘error in history’ via the Enabling Act. Nevada’s Enabling Act mirrors Nebraska’s, he said. Though Nebraska was able to get their Act corrected, he said, Nevada continues to suffer from ‘A wrong that has never been righted.’” [Pahrump Valley Times, 12/24/14]

Matthews: “An Appropriate Topic Regarding BLM-Managed Lands, Is The Potential Economic Benefits The State Would Have If The Federal Government Were To Release Those Lands.” According to the Pahrump Valley Times, “Matthews said an appropriate topic regarding BLM-managed lands, is the potential economic benefits the state would have if the federal government were to release those lands.” [Pahrump Valley Times, 12/24/14]

Praised Cliven Bundy

Lawrence: “According To The Principle Behind The Homestead Acts, Bundy’s Family Would Be The Rightful Owners Of The Land.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “According to the principle behind the Homestead Acts, Bundy’s family would be the rightful owners of the land. In fact, the BLM wasn’t even created until 1946 and can’t point to any bill of sale that ever gave the agency the right to control the land where Bundy’s cattle graze.” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 4/24/14]

Lawrence: The BLM’s Demand “Was A Demand He Abandon His Family’s Livelihood.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Essentially, the BLM’s demand that Bundy stop using the grazing rights he was paying for during the crucial spring months was a demand he abandon his family’s livelihood, since it would have destroyed his ability to raise cattle at all. As Bundy told reporters from Range magazine in 1999, ‘Every time we tried some compromise - they wanted more. It was like talking to a greedy landlord.’” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 4/24/14]

Lawrence: “Bundy Has Unquestionably Been Harmed By The Federales.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Bundy has unquestionably been harmed by the federales, but his rhetoric would seem likely to undermine public sympathy for his struggle. And yet, despite that, hundreds of Americans flocked to his aid.” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 4/24/14]

EXTENSIVE HISTORY OF ATTACKING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

NPRI “Has Campaigned Vigorously Against Collective Bargaining Laws” And Would Like Union Membership To Fall Below 50%. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Why is NPRI aggressively encouraging teachers to drop their union? Under Nevada law, unions lose their collective bargaining rights if their membership dips to 50 percent or lower of the targeted membership pool. In other words, the union loses its right to represent teachers in contract negotiations when only half of the employees it represents pay dues. [...] As a matter of political principle, NPRI has campaigned vigorously against collective bargaining laws, which allow unions to form and negotiate contracts with employers. It argues such contracts put too much strain on government budgets and tie the hands of elected officials to make decisions.” [Las Vegas Sun, 7/14/13]

Joecks And Fellner: “Nevada’s Collective Bargaining Law Must Be Repealed Or Substantially Reformed.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Executive Vice President Victor Joecks and Transparency Researcher Robert Fellner for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “It’s time for city officials to level with citizens and state lawmakers by identifying their true problem and needed solution: Nevada’s collective bargaining law must be repealed or substantially reformed.” [Victor Joecks And Robert Fellner – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 5/7/14]

Lawrence: “The First Step Is To Recognize That Nevada’s Current Labor Laws Undermine The Democratic Sovereignty Of The People.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “The first step is to recognize that Nevada’s current labor laws undermine the democratic sovereignty of the people -- just as FDR once observed. Negotiations are held in secret, and the public has virtually no control regarding government spending on personnel compensation. Subjecting these sessions to open-records and open-meetings laws would be a great first step.” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 11/16/14]

Background: Nevada Has The Fewest Government Employees Per Capita In The Country

Las Vegas Sun: “Yet Nevada State Government Is Far From A Bloated Bureaucracy... Nevada Has The Fewest Government Employees Per Capita In The United States.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Yet Nevada state government is far from a bloated bureaucracy. A recent study by the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce found that Nevada has the fewest government employees per capita in the United States. And the number of state workers per resident has been dropping over the past 20 years.” [Las Vegas Sun, 12/7/08]

Sun: Nevada Has The “Leanest State Government In The Country.” According to Las Vegas Sun, “Economists usually measure things by what portion of the total economic pie they consume. By that measurement, as a percentage of gross domestic product, which is essentially the state’s total economic output, Nevada has the leanest state government in the country, according to a Sun analysis. Even thrifty New Hampshire and deeply red states South Dakota and Texas have bigger governments. Another way to measure the size of the government is to determine what the state spends per capita. By this measurement, Nevada has the third leanest government in the country, at \$1,136 per person in 2007, ahead only of flinty New Hampshire and impoverished Michigan. Despite the small-government rhetoric of Republican Gov. Sarah Palin, Alaska has the highest per capita spending at \$6,364 per person. Here’s another measure of government size: Public employees per capita. On this score, Nevada is the leanest state government in the nation, with 3.86 percent of the population working in the public sector. (That number includes local governments, which tend to be more robust than state government here in Nevada.)” [Las Vegas Sun, 3/8/09]

2005: Suggested That A Law Eliminating Taxpayer Support For Public Employee Retiree Health Benefits “Didn’t Go Far Enough” And Said Public Employees Should Have All Benefits Eliminated And That They Were A “Privileged Class”

February 2005: Gov. Kenny Guinn Proposes Making State Retirees Pay The Entirety Of Their Health Insurance Premiums, Rather Than Receiving A State Subsidy To Pay The Premium. According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “There may be confusion on specifics of Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn’s plan to stop a state health care subsidy for future state employees once they retire - but there’s no mistaking it would mean skyrocketing monthly costs for individuals and their families.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 2/4/05]

- **NPRI Thought Guinn’s Proposal Didn’t “Go Far Enough.”** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Some, on the other hand, think Guinn’s proposal doesn’t go far enough. Steven Miller, policy director for the conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute, said he’d also like to see the benefits eliminated for local public employees.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 2/4/05]
- **NPRI Policy Director Steve Miller “Said He’d Also Like To See The Benefits Eliminated For Local Public Employees.”** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Steven Miller, policy director for the conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute, said he’d also like to see the benefits eliminated for local public employees.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 2/4/05]
- **Miller On Public Employees: “What We Are Developing In The State Is A Privileged Caste Of People Who Have Extra Political Clout And Translate That Into Financial Benefits For Themselves.”** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “What we are developing in the state is a privileged caste of people who have

extra political clout and translate that into financial benefits for themselves or a burden on average working taxpayers who don't themselves have such generous health plans,' he [Steven Miller] said. 'The public employee system in this state is way out of whack.'" [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 2/4/05]

ADVOCATED AGAINST TAXES DESPITE NEVADA'S LOW TAX RATES AND REVENUE CHALLENGES

September 2000: NPRI Executive Director Terry Campbell Participated In A Luncheon Attacking A Business Profit Tax. According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "While the state has verified enough signatures on a business-profits tax initiative sought by the Nevada State Education Association, Carson City business leaders continue to wage their war against the proposal. The Carson City Area Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a luncheon for Wednesday where panelists will talk about why they are fighting the 4-percent tax proponents say would raise \$250 million a year for state education. [...] Vilardo along with State Sen. Mark Amodei, R-Carson City, and Terry Campbell, executive director of the Nevada Policy Research Institute, will be the speakers at the Carson City chamber's luncheon Wednesday." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 9/26/00]

- **The Initiative Would Place A 4 Percent Tax On Business Profits And Would Be Used To "Raise \$250 Million A Year For State Education."** According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "While the state has verified enough signatures on a business-profits tax initiative sought by the Nevada State Education Association, Carson City business leaders continue to wage their war against the proposal. The Carson City Area Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a luncheon for Wednesday where panelists will talk about why they are fighting the 4-percent tax proponents say would raise \$250 million a year for state education." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 9/26/00]

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: Lawmakers Will Have To "Overhaul The State's Antiquated Tax Code If There Is To Be Any Significant Level Of Services Left." According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "Lawmakers will have to make some difficult decisions and overhaul the state's antiquated tax code if there is to be any significant level of services left. The bottom line is: The state cannot drastically cut its way to a prosperous future." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 1/11/09]

NRPI Spokesman Andy Matthews: "The Problem In Nevada Is Not A Revenue Problem At All. It's A Spending Problem." According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Just a week earlier, the conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute released its report that indicted state government for unsustainable spending on unnecessary programs and departments. The group recommends substantial cuts, such as eliminating the Department of Business and Industry. 'The problem with Nevada is not a revenue problem at all. It's a spending problem,' NPRI's spokesman Andy Matthews said. In interviews, neither side was willing to concede the solutions for a looming \$2.4 billion budget shortfall might lie somewhere in the middle." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/13/09]

Las Vegas Sun: Nevada Has The 50th Out Of 51st Lowest Tax Burden In The United States, Including DC.

According to the Las Vegas Sun, "If you, Nevada, feel overtaxed, just imagine how the rest of the country feels. Nevada's state and local tax burden ranks 50th out of 51, according to one study that includes Washington, D.C. A family of three living in Las Vegas with a \$75,000 annual income had the 47th lowest tax burden compared with a similar family in each state's largest city, another study found. More, we reportedly have near-bottom levels of taxpayer funding for welfare, education and parks." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/1/10]

- **Sun: "Yet The Political And Policy Debate In Nevada Is All About Who Can Most Convincingly Promise Not To Raise Taxes."** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Yet the political and policy debate in Nevada is all about who can most convincingly promise not to raise taxes. Both candidates for governor say they can improve education by better spending existing revenue (we supposedly rank 49th nationally on spending per pupil). All but a few liberal legislators deny that they will consider raising taxes to close the state's \$3 billion budget deficit." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/1/10]

Sun: The NPRI "Came Out Friday Against Raising Taxes Or Extending Taxes That Are Scheduled To Expire To Pay For Short-Term Construction Jobs. On The Other Side Are... Thousands Of The Out-Of-Work Construction Workers." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "But this year Republicans are listening to the conservative wing of their party, which staunchly opposes any and all tax increases. The libertarian Nevada Policy Research Institute came out Friday against raising taxes or extending taxes that are scheduled to expire to pay for short-term construction jobs. On the other side are Democrats, and with them many of the thousands of out-of-work construction workers left in the wake of the Great Recession." [Las Vegas Sun, 2/13/11]

Advocated For A Taxpayer Bill Of Rights Modeled After Colorado's TABOR

January 2005: NPRI Promoted "A Law Approved In Colorado That Limits Budget Increases To The Combined Rate Of Inflation And Population Growth." According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, "Study authors Robert Schmidt and Charles Barr said the new taxes would not have been needed if lawmakers had adopted a law approved in Colorado that limits budget increases to the combined rate of inflation and population growth." [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 1/22/05]

- **Gov. Guinn Said "Major Parts Of The Nevada State Budget Cannot Be Limited To The Rate Of Increase In Inflation And Population" Including Medicaid.** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, "But [Kenny] Guinn said major parts of the Nevada state budget cannot be limited to the rate of increase in inflation and population. He cited the state's Medicaid program, which provides health care for the poor, disabled and elderly. He said that needs an additional \$100 million over the next two years, far more than the rate of inflation and growth." [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 1/22/05]

March 2007: NPRI Released A Study Promoting "Tax And Spending Control." According to Las Vegas Sun, "If you thought Tax and Spending Control was dead, you were wrong. Not only is TASC Padre Bob Beers going to bring it up in Carson City, even though he knows it is doomed to fail, his friends in the Nevada Policy Research Institute released a study last week promoting the concept. (I love that Andy Matthews, who ran Beers' gubernatorial campaign, is now the face of NPRI. This Beers guy influences every conservative-oriented organization, doesn't he?) The NPRI document, makes a strong argument for TASC. What will be especially fun to watch is how Gov. Jim Gibbons reacts to this TASC resurrection effort. At 29 percent, all he has left is part of his right-wing base. Can he afford not to get on board?" [Las Vegas Sun, 3/19/07]

Lawrence: Pass "Meaningful Spending Controls To Protect Taxpayers" Such As The "Proposed Tax And Spending Control (TASC) Amendment" Which Would Prohibit "Lawmakers From Increasing Spending Faster Than The Combined Rate Of Population Growth And Inflation." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Enact meaningful spending controls to protect taxpayers. In successive legislative sessions, lawmakers have de-bated whether to enact a constitutional limitation on the growth in state spending. The proposed Tax and Spending Control (TASC) amendment would ensure that the real, per-capita cost of government does not in-crease over time by constitutionally prohibiting lawmakers from increasing spending faster than the combined rate of population growth and inflation." [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 1/18/13]

2012: Attacked A Proposed Tax Increase Referendum To Pay For School Maintenance; School Maintenance Was So Bad That A School Had To Close

NPRI Filed An Open Meetings Law Suit Against The Clark County Debt Management Commission In An Attempt To Invalidate A Decision To Place A Tax To Pay For School Maintenance On The Ballot Made At That Meeting.

According to the Las Vegas Sun, "A local libertarian think tank has sued the Clark County School District in what some say is an apparent attempt to derail the district's ballot initiative to raise taxes for school maintenance. The Nevada Policy Research Institute filed a complaint with the 8th Judicial District Court on Friday alleging the Clark County Debt Management Commission violated the Nevada Open Meeting Law. The commission -- composed of three Clark County commissioners and representatives from local city governments and the School Board -- voted during its June 7 meeting to approve a ballot question that seeks voter approval on a new property tax to fund school construction and rehabilitation projects." [Las Vegas Sun, 8/7/12]

The Lawsuit Said The Commission's Failure To Abide By The Open Meetings Law "Voids The Commission's Decision To Place The Tax Hike Proposal On The November Ballot." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "NPRI's lawsuit alleges the debt management commission failed to take public comment prior to approving the ballot measure, thereby violating the open-meeting law and invalidating any action taken during the meeting. The lawsuit -- filed by NPRI and one of its researchers Karen Gray, who attended the June 7 meeting -- claims the violation voids the commission's decision to place the tax hike proposal on the November ballot." [Las Vegas Sun, 8/7/12]

School District Spokeswoman Joyce Haldeman Pointed Out The Necessity Of The School Maintenance Funding, Given Air Conditioner Failures That Caused A School To Close, And Said NPRI's Case Was A "Political Tactic."

According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The issue of school maintenance is important to put before voters, [Joyce] Haldeman said,

pointing to recent spate of air-conditioning breakdowns that caused one elementary school to close Wednesday. Haldeman is confident a lower court will rule that NPRI's overall case isn't 'valid,' but is a political tactic that seeks to derail the district's tax initiative on a technicality, she said." [Las Vegas Sun, 9/6/12]

2012: Two Local Libraries Closed After A Ballot Measure To Increase Taxes For The Library System Failed Under NPRI Opposition

Two Branches Of The Henderson Public Library Closed After NPRI Opposed A Ballot Measure To Increase Taxes To Supplement The Henderson District Public Library, Calling The Increase "Unnecessary." According to the Henderson View, "Two branches of the Henderson District Public Libraries are closing by the end of the month following the failure of a ballot measure to implement a tax-rate increase to supplement the budget. [...] The institute [Nevada Policy Research Institute] opposed the tax rate increase and said it was unnecessary." [Henderson View, 11/19/12]

NPRI's Director of Communications Victor Joecks: Voters Had To Prioritize "And Make A Hard Decision."

According to the Henderson View, "I think what we saw were voters having to prioritize and make a hard decision," said Victor Joecks, communications director for Nevada Policy Research Institute." [Henderson View, 11/19/12]

Joecks: The District Should "Spend Its Money Wisely" And The Library "Is An Obvious Place To Start." According to the Henderson View, "[Victor] Joecks said it's time for the district to spend its money wisely. 'And the library inside the Galleria is an obvious place to start when you only have one person every five minutes coming in,' Joecks said. The library district 'has increased its budget over 30 percent. It's time to prioritize spending.'" [Henderson View, 11/19/12]

Opposed Business Margins Tax

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence Said A Business "Margins Tax Would Be A Disaster For Nevadans." According to Las Vegas Sun, "'This margins tax would be a disaster for Nevadans,' wrote Geoffrey Lawrence, deputy public policy director of the Nevada Policy Research Institute. 'A business margin tax will only further squeeze struggling private firms, dampening their ability to hire and suppressing growth in wages. This pain will be felt by families across Nevada.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 6/6/12]

Lawrence: Such A Tax "Would Retard Nevada's Economic Diversification." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "This results in a higher effective tax rate on more complex goods, which distorts economic behavior and would retard Nevada's economic diversification. As the Tax Foundation says, 'Gross receipts taxes do not belong in any program of tax reform.'" [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 12/28/12]

Lawrence: Proposed Tax Imposes "Disproportionate Burdens On Small Businesses." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "A margin tax imposes high compliance costs. Margin taxes are extremely complicated -- a complication compounded by the vague legal definitions of terms such as "cost of goods sold." Consequently, high compliance costs accompany margin taxes, imposing disproportionate burdens on small businesses, which lack the accounting expertise to navigate the tax." [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 12/28/12]

Lawrence: "The Texas Margin Tax Is Rife With Problems" And "Has Constantly Underperformed Revenue Projections." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "The Texas margin tax is rife with problems. In 2009, Texas lawmakers heard over 100 bills to modify or repeal that state's margin tax -- at the time only three years old. The tax has consistently underperformed revenue projections and is widely perceived as unfair to small or struggling businesses." [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 12/28/12]

Lawrence: "Reject Any Proposal For A Texas-Style Margin Tax." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Reject any proposal for a Texas-style margin tax." [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 12/28/12]

Lawrence: Nevada Legislature “Should Never Consider” A Margin Tax. According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “As such, Nevada lawmakers should never consider the imposition of a margin tax in the Silver State.” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 12/28/12]

Lawrence: The Margin Tax Would “Take An Additional \$800 Million From Silver State Businesses” Over Two Years. According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “The margin tax is a modified gross receipts tax that would assess a two-percent levy, with some limited and complex exemptions, against all firms whose total transactions exceed \$1 million in value. The proposal is estimated to take an additional \$800 million from Silver State businesses over the next two years.” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 3/7/13]

Lawrence: The Margin Tax “Would Even Apply To Firms Operating In The Red” And Could “Hasten Bankruptcy For Struggling Businesses.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Problems with the margin tax idea are legion. Because the tax is based on gross receipts, and not business profits, it would even apply to firms operating in the red. Thus, it could hasten bankruptcy for struggling businesses. While tax advocates claim it will only apply to large firms, the \$1 million threshold is low enough to capture most gas stations, restaurants, or mom-and-pop retailers.” [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 3/7/13]

NPRI Deputy Communications Director Chantal Lovell: If The Margins Tax Were Passed, “Newly Unemployed Single Moms Will Lose Their Means To Provide For Their Children.” According to an opinion by NPRI Deputy Communications Director Chantal Lovell for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “In its first year of implementation, the margin tax would eliminate 3,610 jobs. The tax would also reduce disposable income in the state by \$240 million in the first year, and that number would increase in subsequent years. [...] All of these disastrous impacts would be felt not by ‘big business’ but by ordinary Nevadans. Newly unemployed single moms will lose their means to provide for their children, families will see their livelihood - their means of providing for their kids - disappear. And even for those fortunate Nevada residents who don’t get laid off, their disposable income would drop as the economy adjusts to hundreds of millions of dollars taken from the private economy.” [Chantal Lovell – Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/17/14]

ANTI-LABOR ACTIVITY

NPRI’s Geoffrey Lawrence Said That The AFL-CIO And Teachers Unions Supported A Business Margins Tax That Would Result In Lay-Offs. According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Has the business where you work struggled in the past few years? Have you seen your coworkers laid off? Are you worried that you might be next? That’s a scary possibility. Unfortunately, it’s one that could be much more likely for thousands of Nevadans if the state teachers union and AFL-CIO get their way. Earlier this month, those unions announced an initiative petition to enact a new business margins tax. The margins tax -- modeled after a controversial tax instrument in Texas -- is a modified version of a gross receipts tax that would be levied against all businesses operating in Nevada. One troubling aspect is that the unions’ proposal would impose hefty new tax liabilities on firms already operating in the red. So if you work for a business that has been struggling, you may find yourself out of a job, since this new tax scheme would hasten the day that your company dismisses workers or declares bankruptcy.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 6/27/12]

Mysteriously Acquired Email Addresses Of 12,000 Teachers, Sent Them Information on Leaving Their Union

NPRI Sent An Email Blast To 12,000 Teachers “Encouraging Them To Drop Their Union Membership.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “A local libertarian think tank’s recent email blast to 12,000 teachers encouraging them to drop their union membership has further inflamed tense relations between the Clark County School District and the local teachers union. It all started when the Nevada Policy Research Institute launched a campaign last month to inform teachers of their right to opt out of the union between July 1 and 15.” [Las Vegas Sun, 7/3/12]

A Spokeswoman For The District Said That “District Officials Do Not Know How NPRI Was Able To Gain Access To Teachers’ Work Email Addresses.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “However, the School District did not disseminate a list of teacher emails, said spokeswoman Amanda Fulkerson. District officials do not know how NPRI was able to gain access to teachers’ work email addresses, she added.” [Las Vegas Sun, 7/3/12]

The District's Spokeswoman Said "Emailgate" Was Under Investigation. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Groups such as NPRI and some education vendors have requested this email database citing public record laws, but the School District has been reluctant in previous years to release this information, [Amanda] Fulkerson said. The district has never provided a list of emails to outside groups, she maintained. 'It's our position that we will not provide a roster of emails as a public record,' she said, adding that 'emailgate' was still under investigation." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/3/12]

NPRI's Victor Joecks Refused To Say How NPRI Got The Emails. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "NPRI Communications Director Victor Joecks did not say how his group accessed the district's database of teacher email addresses. 'We have our sources,' Joecks said, seemingly coy. 'CCSD did not give it to me.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 7/3/12]

The Teachers' Union Was Also Conducting An Investigation Into How NPRI Got The Emails And Was Considering A Lawsuit. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The union is now conducting its own investigation to see how [CCEA Executive Director John] NPRI was able to get teacher emails, Vellardita said. Pending the results of this investigation, the union may file an unfair labor practice lawsuit against the School District, he said." [Las Vegas Sun, 7/3/12]

NPRI Applied For \$35,000 From The State Policy Network To "Stage A Campaign Informing Union Members Of Their Right To Leave Their Union." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "New documents reveal how a Nevada free-market advocacy group plans to finance a campaign to encourage union members to leave their unions. The Nevada Policy Research Institute has applied for \$35,000 from the State Policy Network, a major beneficiary of national conservative organizations like Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council, according to documents published Thursday by the Guardian. NPRI doesn't disclose its donors, making this document a small glimpse into how the group finances its organization's initiatives. The document states that NPRI submitted an application this summer to 'stage a campaign informing union members of their right to leave their union.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 12/6/13]

NPRI Document: "NPRI Will Research How And When Union Members Can Leave Their Union, Then Prepare Materials To Ease The Process." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "NPRI will research how and when union members can leave their union, then prepare materials to ease the process,' the document states. 'NPRI additionally will create videos, publish op-eds and send email alerts promoting their material. Success will be determined by the number of individuals who leave the union and the number that elect not to join the union.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 12/6/13]

NPRI Document: "Success Will Be Determined By The Number Of Individuals Who Leave The Union And The Number That Elect Not To Join The Union." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "NPRI will research how and when union members can leave their union, then prepare materials to ease the process,' the document states. 'NPRI additionally will create videos, publish op-eds and send email alerts promoting their material. Success will be determined by the number of individuals who leave the union and the number that elect not to join the union.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 12/6/13]

NPRI Provided Teachers With "Template Letters They Could Send To The Union To Opt Out." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "During June and July, NPRI sent several emails to thousands of teachers, notifying them of their opportunity to opt out of the union. NPRI publicized reasons why teachers should drop the union and provided template letters they could send to the union to opt out." [Las Vegas Sun, 12/6/13]

Prevailing Wage

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence Opinion Headline: "Prevailing Wage Law Benefits Narrow Groups At Public Expense." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 11/15/12]

Lawrence: "Without Prevailing Wage Requirements, Taxpayers' Limited Resources Could Be Stretched Farther – Creating More Value For Society." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "While these figures are lucrative for construction workers who work on publicly financed projects, they mean that taxpayers get much less value for their money than they do as private citizens. Without prevailing wage requirements, taxpayers' limited resources could be stretched farther -- creating more value for society and more jobs for construction workers." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 11/15/12]

Lawrence: "A Recent Analysis By The Nevada Policy Research Institute Estimated That Prevailing Wage Requirements Cost Nevada Taxpayers Nearly \$1 Billion Extra Over 2009 And 2010." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "A recent analysis by

the Nevada Policy Research Institute estimated that prevailing wage requirements cost Nevada taxpayers nearly \$1 billion extra over 2009 and 2010.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 11/15/12]

OPPOSITION TO ECONOMIC INCENTIVES WHICH HELPED NEVADA’S ECONOMY

October 2000: NPRI Opposed As “Corporate Welfare” Question 1 In The 2000 Election Which Would Allow “Using State Money To Attract New Businesses To Nevada.” According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Using state money to attract new businesses to Nevada is the focus of Question 1, approved as Senate Joint Resolution No. 12 by lawmakers in 1997 and 1999. [...] Supporters of the measure say its passage would create jobs by making it easier for entrepreneurs to have access to venture capital. There’s been some opposition, from the conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute and the Nevada Taxpayers Association, plus questions about the potential for ‘corporate welfare.’” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 10/19/00]

NPRI Criticized Gov. Brian Sandoval’s Economic Development Plan “For Interfering With The State Government” And Said It Was “A Crony Capitalist Scheme.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “On Tuesday, the libertarian think tank Nevada Policy Research Institute criticized his [Gov. Brian Sandoval’s] new plan for interfering with the free market. The plan calls for seven state ‘industry specialists’ in different economic sectors. ‘It’s a statement of abandoning a belief in free market enterprise,’ said Geoffrey Lawrence, deputy policy director for NPRI. He said new industries will be looking for subsidies to get off the ground instead of consumer demands. ‘Investments will be subject to political factors,’ he said. ‘It’s going to become highly politicized.’ He said the state economy is starting to recover, something the report starts out by acknowledging. ‘This is a big disappointment,’ he said. ‘I think it’s a crony capitalist scheme.’” [Las Vegas Sun, 2/7/12]

NPRI Said The Plan Would “Cartelize” The State Economy And Turn Nevada To “A Corporatist Economy Directed By Government Insiders.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Not everyone was happy with the new plan, however. The Nevada Policy Research Institute, a free market think tank, blasted the plan as a ‘road map for crony capitalism’ and ‘cartelizing’ the state economy. ‘With this plan, the governor has turned from free-market principles to those of a corporatist economy directed by government insiders,’ NPRI deputy policy director Geoffrey Lawrence said in a statement. ‘The plan calls for government officials to dole out direct state support and other subsidies in order to ‘incent entrepreneurship.’ The incentive for genuine entrepreneurship is profit from serving the public. Unfortunately, what this plan would encourage is corporatist rent-seeking.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/8/12]

Geoffrey Lawrence: “At Least President Obama Only Wants To Run The Nation’s Health Care System; Governor Sandoval Proposes That The Government Direct Nevada’s Entire Economy.” According to the Daily Sparks Tribune, “The Nevada Policy Research Institute (NPRI) released a statement following [Gov. Brian] Sandoval’s public delivery of his three-year economic plan Tuesday at the University of Nevada, Reno. ‘At least President Obama only wants to run the nation’s health care system; Governor Sandoval proposes that the government direct Nevada’s entire economy,’ said NPRI’s Deputy Policy Director Geoffrey Lawrence, in a press release Tuesday.” [Daily Sparks Tribune, 2/11/12]

NPRI Filed A Lawsuit “To Stop The Governor’s Economic Development Office From Divvying Up A \$10 Million Catalyst Fund To Private Companies” Arguing The State Constitution Prohibits It. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “A conservative think tank filed a lawsuit Wednesday to stop the governor’s economic development office from divvying up a \$10 million Catalyst Fund to private companies opening businesses in the state. Joseph Becker, a lawyer representing the Nevada Policy Research Institute, said the state constitution specifically states that Nevada “shall not donate or loan money” to any companies or corporations except those formed for educational or charitable purposes.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 2/20/14]

NPRI Lawyer Joseph Becker: “The State Cannot ‘Pick Winners And Losers’ By Subsidizing Its Favorite Companies.” According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “[Joseph] Becker said the state cannot ‘pick winners or losers’ by subsidizing its favored companies and that three times voters in Nevada have turned down ballot questions to allow the state to give money to private companies.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 2/20/14]

Political Columnist Steve Sebelius: “Where NPRI Sees An Unconstitutional Money-Laundering Scheme, A Bipartisan Majority Of State Lawmakers Saw A Way To Create Jobs.” According to an opinion by columnist Steve Sebelius for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Where NPRI sees an unconstitutional money-laundering scheme, a bipartisan majority of state lawmakers saw a way to create jobs that complies with the letter of the law. If the framers of the constitution

had intended to prohibit local governments from giving money to private companies, they could simply have said so; instead, they put restrictions on the state that don't pertain to local governments." [Steve Sebelius – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 2/23/14]

Reno Delayed “Making A Decision On A Tax Subsidy” That “Would Result In Up To 200 Jobs” Because “Of A Lawsuit Filed By The Nevada Policy Research Institute.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Reno City Council’s lawyer has asked it to delay making a decision on a tax subsidy for a Massachusetts-based printing company that wants to expand here because of a lawsuit filed by the Nevada Policy Research Institute. The council was set to consider an application for a \$577,500 grant to Garlock Printing, which is expanding its operations to Reno. The company is opening a 48,000-square foot shop, with plans to hire 92 employees by 2015. A third phase of expansion would result in up to 200 jobs, according to its application.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/3/14]

Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance CEO Tom Skancke: The Catalyst Fund “Is Actually Supporting Business Growth” But “NPRI Wants To Kill It.” According to an opinion by Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance CEO Tom Skancke for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Now that the fund is actually supporting business growth, providing jobs for Nevadans and strengthening the economy, NPRI wants to kill it.” [Tom Skancke – Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/9/14]

Tesla

Tesla Announced That It Had Chosen Nevada As The Home Of Its \$5 Billion Electric Vehicle Battery Factory.

According to the High Country News, “After a long and suspenseful five-state fight, Nevada was declared the Giga-winner on Sept. 4, when Tesla Motors announced it had chosen an industrial park east of Reno to be the home of its new, \$5 billion electric vehicle battery ‘Gigafactory.’ [...] Nevada may have also gotten a leg up on its competitors — New Mexico, California, Texas and Arizona — because it offered a hefty bundle of incentives. Though officials have not released numbers, the Reno Gazette-Journal reports that the incentive package, mostly tax abatements and credits, totals \$1.25 billion over two decades.” [High Country News, [9/8/14](#)]

- **“The Nevada Policy Research Institute, A Conservative Group With Ties To Charles Koch, Says The Subsidies Are Against The Nevada Constitution And Free-Market Ideals.”** According to the High Country News, “The Nevada Policy Research Institute, a conservative group with ties to Charles Koch, says the subsidies are against the Nevada constitution and free-market ideals. In an open letter to Sandoval, NPRI also brings up the right’s favorite renewable energy, subsidy-getting whipping horse, Solyndra, and says Tesla might be headed in the same direction as the failed solar company.” [High Country News, [9/8/14](#)]

Economic Development Authority Of Western Nevada Named Tesla’s Factory The “Economic Development Deal Of The Year.” [EDAWN.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

EDAWN: The Plant Will Create “13,614 Direct And Indirect Jobs-With \$1.6 Billion In Economic Impact For The Region-In The Next Two Years Alone.” According to EDAWN.org, “Electric-car pioneer, Tesla’s 5-million square-foot lithium battery Gigafactory moves the Reno-Sparks region into the top tier of advanced manufacturing leaders. The largest lithium battery production plant in the world will rise on a site near Reno, NV, creating 13,614 direct and indirect jobs-with \$1.6 billion in economic impact for the region-in the next two years alone (the projection for 20 years approaches \$40 billion in direct impact and \$100 billion in overall impact). The plant is expected to create nearly \$370 million in direct annual wages during the next 20 years.” [EDAWN.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

EDAWN: “The Projection For 20 Years Approaches \$40 Billion In Direct Impact And \$100 Billion In Overall Impact.” According to EDAWN.org, “Electric-car pioneer, Tesla’s 5-million square-foot lithium battery Gigafactory moves the Reno-Sparks region into the top tier of advanced manufacturing leaders. The largest lithium battery production plant in the world will rise on a site near Reno, NV, creating 13,614 direct and indirect jobs-with \$1.6 billion in economic impact for the region-in the next two years alone (the projection for 20 years approaches \$40 billion in direct impact and \$100 billion in overall impact). The plant is expected to create nearly \$370 million in direct annual wages during the next 20 years.” [EDAWN.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

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world will rise on a site near Reno, NV, creating 13,614 direct and indirect jobs-with \$1.6 billion in economic impact for the region-in the next two years alone (the projection for 20 years approaches \$40 billion in direct impact and \$100 billion in overall impact). The plant is expected to create nearly \$370 million in direct annual wages during the next 20 years.” [EDAWN.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

NPRI Director Of Research And Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence: Nevadans “Should Be Concerned With About What The ‘Corporate-Gift Package’ For Tesla Will Include.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “Geoffrey Lawrence, director of research and legislative affairs for the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a Las Vegas-based conservative research group, said in a statement that residents should be concerned about what the ‘corporate-gift package’ for Tesla will include.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/3/14]

Lawrence: “It’s Especially Alarming...That Even The Governor Acknowledges” That The Offer “Outstrips The Existing Authority To Subsidize Private Business Granted To Him.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “It’s especially alarming when the proposed giveaway is so large that even the governor acknowledges that it outstrips the existing authority to subsidize private businesses granted to him by the 2011 Legislature,” he [Geoffrey Lawrence] said.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/3/14]

Lawrence: “While Advocates Will Predictably Claim A Public Benefit...Nevadans Should Be Careful To Consider The Trade-Offs Involved.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “Lawrence argues that such incentives could violate a state constitutional ban on corporate gifts. ‘While advocates will predictably claim a public benefit for the subsidy in the form of greater unemployment opportunities, Nevadans should be careful to consider the trade-offs involved,’ he [Geoffrey Lawrence] said.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/3/14]

NPRI President Andy Matthews: It’s Really Important Lawmakers Don’t Get Caught Up In The Euphoria” Of The Tesla Plan. According to the Associated Press, “Representatives of the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a conservative think tank, said they’re carefully screening the plan. ‘It’s really important that lawmakers don’t get caught up in the euphoria of this and ram it through,’ said Andy Matthews, the institute’s president. ‘They need to make sure it’s going to be good for the state of Nevada.’” [Associated Press, 9/5/14]

Matthews: “No Business Is Worth Sacrificing The Principles That Have Built America’s Economy And That Allow innovative Small-Business Owners To Compete On A Level Playing Field.” According to an opinion by NPRI President Andy Matthews for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Government officials should be careful to avoid undermining the fundamental principles of our government and economy -- such as the rule of law and the separation of powers -- in pursuit of short-term and often hypothetical economic and political gains. No business is worth sacrificing the principles that have built America’s economy and that allow innovative small-business owners to compete on a level playing field against larger companies.” [Andy Matthews – Elko Daily Free Press, 9/8/14]

Promoted Eliminating The Minimum Wage

NPRI Published A Blog Post Headlined “Time To Repeal The Minimum Wage” And Blamed Teenage Unemployment On The Minimum Wage. According to the Reno Gazette-Journal’s Fact Checker, “The Nevada Policy Research Institute wrote a recent blog post headlined ‘Time to repeal the minimum wage: NV’s teen unemployment rate is 6th highest in the country.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal’s Fact Checker, 7/4/12]

UC-Berkeley Economist Sylvia Allegretto: “If Anyone Is Going To Claim In Nevada That The Problem Is The Minimum Wage, It’s Strange.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “This is how Sylvia Allegretto described one of the ways in which her peer-reviewed study - authored along with Arindrajit Dube and Michael Reich - improved upon earlier minimum wage studies. She’s an economist at UC Berkeley’s Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. ‘We looked at all the federal and state minimum wage changes, and we didn’t find any effect on teen employment,’ Allegretto said. The study covered the years from 1990 to 2009, including boom times and recessions, especially the enormous one that started in 2007. ‘If anyone is going to claim in Nevada that the problem is the minimum wage, it’s strange,’ she said, blaming instead high unemployment on the busting of the housing bubble and subsequent decline in housing values, which hit Nevada hardest, as well as the extremely prolonged weak economy.” [Reno Gazette-Journal’s Fact Checker, 7/4/12]

Ball State Economist Michael Hicks: “There’s No Way You Can Indict The Minimum Wage For Most Of What’s Befalling Teens In Nevada.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “‘There’s no way you can indict the minimum wage for most of what’s befalling teens in Nevada,’ [Michael] Hicks said. ‘(Getting rid of Nevada’s higher rate) might reduce

(unemployment) in a few places by a small amount but it's not going to put Nevada back to work nor is it going to rescue kids who want to try out a starter job but don't have that opportunity.” [Reno Gazette-Journal's Fact Checker, 7/4/12]

Reno Gazette-Journal's Fact Checker “Verdict: The Latest And Best Research Is Unequivocal... ‘Findings Indicate That Minimum Wage Increases... Do Not Reduce Employment Among Teens.’” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal's Fact Checker, “The verdict The latest and best research is unequivocal. The conclusion of Allegretto's study, published in the journal Industrial Relations, states it best: ‘Put simply, our findings indicate that minimum wage increases - in the range that have been implemented in the United States - do not reduce employment among teens.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal's Fact Checker, 7/4/12]

QUESTIONED GLOBAL WARMING AND ATTACKED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

September 2008: NPRI VP Andy Matthews “Said No Scientific Consensus Exists On Whether Global Warming Results From Human Activities.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “And Andy Matthews, vice president of communications for the Nevada Policy Research Institute, said no scientific consensus exists on whether global warming results from human activities, or whether humans can halt climate change through policymaking.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/9/08]

Matthews: “Global Warming As A Cause Is Easy To Get Swept Up In.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “‘Global warming as a cause is easy to get swept up in,’ [Andy] Matthews said. ‘But we need to resist calls to put into place policies that will do little for the environment and only transfer more power into the hands of government. Those kinds of policies will rob the private sector of the tools and resources it needs to really drive technology forward, and those new technologies might have included many that would help the environment.’” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/9/08]

Matthews: “We Need To Resist Calls To Put Into Place Policies That Will Do Little For The Environment And Only Transfer More Power Into The Hands Of Government.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “‘Global warming as a cause is easy to get swept up in,’ Matthews said. ‘But we need to resist calls to put into place policies that will do little for the environment and only transfer more power into the hands of government. Those kinds of policies will rob the private sector of the tools and resources it needs to really drive technology forward, and those new technologies might have included many that would help the environment.’” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/9/08]

University Of Maryland Study Suggested Global Warming Would Have Significant Impacts On Nevada, Including \$4.7 Billion In Lost Wages Annually, Increased Pollutants In Drinking Water, And Lost Revenue

UMD Study: Climate Change Impacts On Nevada Include A Loss Of \$18.6 Billion In Tax Revenue Over 14 Years And \$4.7 Billion In Wages Annually. According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “Climate change could hurt Nevada ‘s economy through 2100, according to University of Maryland researchers. A three- to four-degree increase in spring and fall temperatures, combined with a five- to six-degree change in temperatures during the summer and winter, could have the following effects: * A warmer climate would mean less water for Nevadans, and a resulting drop in construction and development. A reduction in building activity of 65 percent compared with current levels would translate into a loss of \$18.6 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue. Lost revenue at the local and state levels would total \$3.6 billion over 14 years. The resulting decrease in consumption and labor availability would cause an estimated loss of \$4.7 billion in wages annually.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/9/08]

UMD Study: Climate Change's Impacts On Golf Courses Would Translate Into A Loss Of “\$194.1 Million In Economic Output, 1,120 Jobs, And \$28.6 Million In Personal Income.” According to the Las Vegas Business Press, “Climate change could hurt Nevada ‘s economy through 2100, according to University of Maryland researchers. A three- to four-degree increase in spring and fall temperatures, combined with a five- to six-degree change in temperatures during the summer and winter, could have the following effects: [...] * Thirty percent of local tourists use the Las Vegas Valley's golf courses, and Southern Nevada's golf industry produces an economic impact of \$891 million annually. As global warming leaves the region with less water, golf courses might have to scale back on irrigation and replace grass with desert-tolerant landscaping. Brown courses don't appeal to consumers, so the Maryland study assumes a 25 percent falloff in golf-course use in Southern Nevada. That will cost the local economy \$194.1 million in economic output, 1,120 jobs and \$28.6 million in personal income.” [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/9/08]

UMD Study: Climate Change Would Increase The Concentration Of Pollutants In Las Vegas' Drinking Water.

According to the Las Vegas Business Press, "Climate change could hurt Nevada 's economy through 2100, according to University of Maryland researchers. A three- to four-degree increase in spring and fall temperatures, combined with a five- to six-degree change in temperatures during the summer and winter, could have the following effects: [...] * As Lake Mead's water levels decline, the concentration of pollutants in Las Vegas' primary drinking-water source increases. Ammonium perchlorate, a component in rocket fuel, appears in noticeable concentrations in Lake Mead and along the Colorado River. Expect those concentrations to grow as water levels drop. That could boost public-health costs, the study said." [Las Vegas Business Press, 9/9/08]

Attacked Renewables

A Report Released By NPRI And Written By The Beacon Hill Institute Claimed A Renewable Portfolio Standard Would "Cost Nevadans Nearly \$2.3 Billion Over 12 Years" Due To A "6 Percent Increase In Nevada Electricity Prices by 2025." According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "In contrast, a report released today by the Nevada Policy Research Institute claims that the standard will cost Nevadans nearly \$2.3 billion over 12 years. The nonprofit's report, which was conducted by the Boston-based Beacon Hill Institute, bases its findings on a projected 6 percent increase in Nevada electricity prices by 2025, which it says will reduce disposable income and lower employment." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/25/13]

- **Guardian: The Beacon Hill Institute Is An "Ultra-Conservative" Thinktank, "Associated With A Network Of Ultra-Conservative Groups" Funded By The Koch Brothers.** According to the Guardian, "Meanwhile, the Employment Policies Institute, a tax-exempt organisation headed by Berman and operating out of his office according to tax filings, funded a series of reports by an ultra-conservative thinktank, the Beacon Hill Institute [...] Beacon Hill is associated with a network of ultra-conservative groups working with the American Legislative Exchange Council and funded by patrons of anti-government causes such as the Koch brothers and Searle Freedom Trust." [Guardian, [2/23/15](#)]
- **Guardian: "BHI Has Been Accused Of Using Discredited Economic Models To Exaggerate The Costs And Downplay The Benefits Of Government Regulations."** According to the Guardian, "Over the years, BHI has been accused of using discredited economic models to exaggerate the costs and downplay the benefits of government regulations." [Guardian, [2/23/15](#)]
- **Energy And Policy Institute Director Gabe Elsner: BHI Produces "Flawed Reports" Which Were Then Distributed By State Policy Network Members.** According to an opinion by Energy and Policy Institute Director Gabe Elsner at KRWG, "Furthermore, ALEC, BHI, and SPN have previously coordinated attacks on clean energy and climate policies. Here's how it has worked in the past: First, groups like the Beacon Hill Institute provide flawed reports or analysis claiming clean energy or climate policies have negative impacts. Next, allied front groups or "think tanks" (usually members of the State Policy Network) use the flawed data in testimony, opinion columns, and in the media. Then, other front groups, like Americans for Prosperity, spread disinformation through their grassroots networks, in postcards mailed to the public, and in television ads attacking the clean energy policy. Finally, lobbyists from front groups, utilities, and other fossil fuel companies use their influence from campaign contributions and meetings with decision makers to push for anti-clean energy efforts." [Gabe Elsner – KRWG, [2/24/15](#)]

Some "Found Issue With The Methodology" Used By NPRI, Saying It "Does Not Subtract The Displacement Of Conventional Energy Costs By Renewables." According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Some in the renewables sector, however, found issue with the methodology used in the Nevada Policy Research Institute. Paul Thomsen, business and policy development director of Northern Nevada-based geothermal developer Or-mat Technologies, Inc., says that unlike the Applied Analysis report, the Institute report does not subtract the displacement of conventional energy costs by renewables in their analysis." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/25/13]

Columnist Thomas Mitchell: NPRI Recommended Repealing "The So-Called Renewable Portfolio Standard."

According to an opinion by columnist Thomas Mitchell for the Elko Daily Free Press, "The first recommendation is repeal of the so-called renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that requires 25 percent of all electricity sold in the state by 2025 to be generated by expensive solar, wind or geothermal facilities. According to 'Solutions,' Nevada power bills are expected to rise 6 percent in the next decade due to RPS alone." [Thomas Mitchell – Elko Daily Free Press, 11/19/14]

Mitchell: NPRI Recommended Repealing “The 2013 Law That Requires Shutting Down All Coal-Fired Power Plants.” According to an opinion by columnist Thomas Mitchell for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Next, repeal the 2013 law that requires the shutting down of all coal-fired power plants and deregulate the monopoly electricity market, which, by the way, the state was planning to do before the Enron market manipulation threw lawmakers into a panic.” [Thomas Mitchell – Elko Daily Free Press, 11/19/14]

WAR ON EDUCATION

NPRI’s Patrick Gibbons: “Nevada’s Public Education Runs Largely On The Same Principles As The Soviet Union Economy.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Patrick Gibbons in the Reno Gazette-Journal, “For nearly a century, people in the Soviet Union, India and China believed central planning was the premier form of economic organization, with commissars issuing production quotas for factories and determining how goods would be rationed among the people. Contrary to Marxist predictions, centrally planned economies failed miserably. Instead of equality and social justice, poverty and starvation prevailed-while a class of unaccountable bureaucrats assumed the old aristocracy’s privileges. Unfortunately, Nevada’s public education runs largely on the same principles as the Soviet Union economy.” [Patrick Gibbons - Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/21/09]

January 2010: Gov. Jim Gibbons Proposed Eliminating Class-Size Reduction, All-Day Kindergarten, And Collective Bargaining Rights For Teachers And Other Public Employees. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The governor’s proposal, which he presented to legislators Wednesday in Las Vegas, would eliminate funding for class-size reduction and all-day kindergarten. Some of that money, although not all, would be returned to school districts, his staff said. The proposal would also add a statewide voucher program, which parents could use to pay for private schools. [Gov. Jim] Gibbons proposed eliminating collective bargaining rights for teachers and other local government employees, such as cops and firefighters.” [Las Vegas Sun, 1/7/10]

- **NPRI Called Gibbons’ Education Cuts A “Win-Win” And A “Day Of Hope For Nevada’s Children.”** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “But others had nothing but praise for Gibbons’ plan. The conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute called it a ‘win-win’ for Nevada and a ‘day of hope for Nevada’s children thanks to the governor’s proposed education reform.” [Las Vegas Sun, 1/7/10]

Elko County Classroom Teachers Association Vice President Brian Zeiszler: NPRI Is “An Organization That Continentally Demeans Education Professionals Who Choose To Belong To Professional Associations.” According to an opinion by Elko County Classroom Teachers Association Vice President Brian Zeiszler for the Elko Daily Free Press, “I couldn’t believe that our local paper would intentionally run an extremely biased commentary from the Nevada Policy Research Institute (NPRI), an organization that continually demeans education professionals who choose to belong to professional associations in order to improve education for both educators and students.” [Brian Zeiszler – Elko Daily Free Press, 6/26/14]

Criticized “Third Or Fourth Grade” Education For Being “One-Size-Fits-All Education System That Essentially Requires People To Get Training They Aren’t Interested In.”

Director Of Policy Research At NPRI Steven Miller Said A Study Illustrated “The Failure Of Nevada’s ‘One-Size-Fits-All Education System That Essentially Requires People To Get Training They Aren’t Interested In.” According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Steven Miller, director of policy research for the Nevada Policy Research Institute, said the findings illustrate the failure of Nevada’s ‘one-size-fits-all education system that essentially requires people to get training they aren’t interested in.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 3/28/04]

- **AP: “Miller Proposed A Voucher System To Allow Students To Attend Alternative Schools With A Curriculum That Would Hold Their Interest.”** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “[Steven] Miller proposed a voucher system to allow students to attend alternative schools with a curriculum that would hold their interest. Although parents have a primary influence on student achievement, Miller said, good teachers also can make a difference.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 3/28/04]
- **The “One-Size-Fits-All Education System That Essentially Requires People To Get Training They Aren’t Interested In” That Miller Refers To Is The “Third Or Fourth Grade.”** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Nearly 10,000 beginning Nevada college students a year must take remedial classes because they didn’t

learn how to study as early as the third or fourth grades, a study concludes. The authors of the study titled 'Wasting Time and Money' wrote that fewer students would need remedial classes if public school teachers stopped trying to entertain them and placed emphasis on the consequences of failing to meet expected standards. [...]Steven Miller, director of policy research for the Nevada Policy Research Institute, said the findings illustrate the failure of Nevada's 'one-size-fits-all education system that essentially requires people to get training they aren't interested in.'" [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 3/28/04]

Routinely Fought Against More Education Spending

NPRI's Patrick Gibbons Opinion Headline: "Increasing Education Spending Will Get Us Nowhere." [Patrick Gibbons - Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/15/09]

Gibbons: "Public K-12 Education Is A Monopoly." According to an opinion by NPRI's Patrick Gibbons for the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Unfortunately, education is unlike almost anything else in our economy. The reason for this, too, is simple: Public K-12 education is a monopoly, not subject to competition. Parents cannot choose what school their child attends. Schools and teachers face no serious consequences when quality is bad - or rewards when quality is exceptionally good. In fact, funding levels for public education in Nevada are, in no way, shape or form, tied to the ability of a school to provide quality educational service to students, parents and taxpayers." [Patrick Gibbons - Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/15/09]

Gibbons: "We Provide Our Students A Substandard K-12 Education And Allow Them No Practical Exit From That Substandard System." According to an opinion by NPRI's Patrick Gibbons for the Reno Gazette-Journal, "When lawmakers rubber-stamp current educational outcomes, they demean themselves. We provide our students a substandard K-12 education and allow them no practical exit from that substandard system. In effect, we mandate that Nevada children must receive the shoddy educational product of a rigid, bureaucratic, government monopoly even though we all understand that it means handicapping them for life." [Patrick Gibbons - Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/15/09]

Gibbons: "We Mandate That Nevada Children Must Receive The Shoddy Educational Product Of A Rigid, Bureaucratic, Government Monopoly Even Though We All Understand That It Means Handicapping Them For Life." According to an opinion by NPRI's Patrick Gibbons for the Reno Gazette-Journal, "When lawmakers rubber-stamp current educational outcomes, they demean themselves. We provide our students a substandard K-12 education and allow them no practical exit from that substandard system. In effect, we mandate that Nevada children must receive the shoddy educational product of a rigid, bureaucratic, government monopoly even though we all understand that it means handicapping them for life." [Patrick Gibbons - Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/15/09]

NPRI's Budget Would Slash "Deep Cuts" Of More Than \$450 Million From K-12 Education. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The [NPRI] Freedom Budget would make deep cuts in Gibbons' K-12 budget, to the tune of more than \$450 million during the biennium from the Distributive School Account, the main statewide schools budget. Where would the state's schools cut \$450 million?" [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

NPRI Suggested Giving Businesses Tax Credits To Set Up Their Own On-Site Schools, Such As "Harrah's High School"

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence "Proposed Tax Credits To Businesses To Encourage Them To Set Up Their Own On-Site Schools" Such As "Harrah's High School." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "So [Geoffrey] Lawrence proposed tax credits to businesses to encourage them to set up their own on-site schools. Harrah's High School? [Lawrence:] 'Yeah, something like that.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 3/8/09]

WAR ON HIGHER EDUCATION

NPRI's Patrick Gibbons: "Professors' Pay Should Be Tied To Whether They Produce Graduates Who Can Land Good-Paying Careers... That's The Only Way They Can Justify Their Salaries." According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Professors' pay should be tied to whether they produce graduates who can land good-paying careers, said Patrick Gibbons of the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a Las Vegas-based private, nonprofit government research organization. 'That's the only way they can justify their salaries,' said Gibbons." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/26/09]

NPRI's Miller Said The Entire Concept Of A Physical University Was A "15th Century Education Model" And Argued "The Entire Rationale For Nevada's Public Higher-Ed Needs Rethinking."

Miller: "The Nevada System Of Higher Education Is A Lumbering, Brain-Dead White Elephant" That "Ought To Be Put Out Of Its Misery." According to an opinion by NPRI's Steven Miller for the Las Vegas Business Press, "No doubt it's impolitic to say so, but the Nevada System of Higher Education is a lumbering, brain-dead white elephant. Furthermore, it ought to be put out of its misery -- and quickly." [Steven Miller - Las Vegas Business Press, 8/26/08]

Miller: Nevadan Colleges' "15th Century Education Model – One Presuming That Instructors And Students All Must Physically Be In The Same Place At The Same Time – Is Now Almost Completely Obsolete." According to an opinion by NPRI's Steven Miller for the Las Vegas Business Press, "The reality is that NSHE's 15th century education model -- one presuming that instructors and students all must physically be in the same place at the same time -- is now almost completely obsolete. And that, in turn, means the NSHE 'business model' is also basically busted." [Steven Miller - Las Vegas Business Press, 8/26/08]

Miller: "In Truth, The Entire Rationale For Nevada Public Higher-Ed Needs Rethinking, Right From Ground Zero." According to an opinion by NPRI's Steven Miller for the Las Vegas Business Press, "For now, of course, Nevada's highly politicized, government-subsidized system keeps myopically pretending that nothing important is changing. Yet the system's problems are fundamental, built into its very structure. In truth, the entire rationale for Nevada public higher-ed needs rethinking, right from ground zero." [Steven Miller - Las Vegas Business Press, 8/26/08]

Miller: "How Long Are Students Going To Pay To Suffer Through The Halting English Of Some Foreign-National Grad Student?"

Miller: "How Long Are Students Going To Pay To Suffer Through The Halting English Of Some Foreign-National Grad Student." According to an opinion by NPRI's Steven Miller for the Las Vegas Business Press, "Given this competitive reality, how long are students going to pay to suffer through the halting English of some foreign-national grad student, merely to allow Chancellor Jim Rogers to continue trying to transform the sow's ear of UNLV into the silk purse of a 'research university?'" [Steven Miller - Las Vegas Business Press, 8/26/08]

2009: NPRI Suggested That A Proposed 36% Cut To Higher Education Funding, Which Could Not Be Covered By Totally Eliminating All Faculty Salaries, Was Not Draconian

In Response To A Proposed 36% Funding Cut To Higher Education, UNLV's President "Said Eliminating All Faculty Salaries And Benefits Would Not Save The University Enough Money" To Meet The Reduction. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Time and time again, [Jim] Rogers, [Michael] Wixom and the presidents emphasized that the higher education system could not sustain the 36 percent cut in state funding that the governor proposed in his budget. And time and time again, the audience seemed to agree. That perhaps was no surprise given the magnitude of potential cuts. UNLV President David Ashley said eliminating all faculty salaries and benefits would not save the university enough money to meet the governor's proposed reduction, which for UNLV would total about 50 percent of its state funding." [Las Vegas Sun, 1/26/09]

Andy Matthews Editorial: Higher Education Officials "Chose To Lay Blame... At The Feet Of Nevada's Parents And Elected Officials Simply Because They Refuse To Bend To... Demands For Tax Increases." According to an opinion by NPRI's Andy Matthews for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Chancellor [Jim] Rogers provided an outstanding example of what happens when Nevada's public officials choose to engage in finger-pointing at the expense of taking responsibility or offering innovative solutions to our fiscal challenges. It is unfortunate that the chancellor chose to lay blame for the challenges facing the Nevada System of Higher Education at the feet of Nevada's parents and elected officials simply because they refuse to bend to his demands for tax increases. It is also deeply ironic to hear Chancellor Rogers state that Nevada needs to contribute more to higher education, as reality strongly suggests otherwise. From Fiscal Year 2002 through Fiscal Year 2007, legislative spending on higher education increased by 60 percent, even as student enrollment increased by only 22.9 percent during that same period. Consider also that within the past three years, UNLV President David Ashley purchased a desk and a four-foot peninsula that cost \$15,736.20, in addition to two lounge chairs that cost more than \$3,500." [Andy Matthews - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/26/09]

NPRI's Andy Matthews Said The Governor's Budget, Which Included A \$473 Million Cut From Higher Education, Did Not "Contain The Kind Of Draconian Cuts That Many Would Have Us Believe It Does." According to the Las Vegas Weekly, "Andy Matthews, vice president of communications with the nonprofit Nevada Policy Research Institute, believes Gibbons' budget, which proposes, among other things, a \$473 million cut from higher education, 'does not contain the kind of draconian cuts that many would have us believe it does,' adding that Nevada's real problems stem from a cycle of overspending during boom times and taxing during bust times." [Las Vegas Weekly, 1/29/09]

NPRI's 2009 Budget Plan Ended "Most Aid To The State's Universities" Which They Likened To "Privatizing Them," Would Have Raised Tuition By More Than \$10,000 Annually

May 2009: NPRI Published Its "Freedom Budget" Detailing Major Cuts. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "They would have to cut because the state faces a budget deficit approaching \$3 billion. Now, when they get that irritating rejoinder, they can wave a copy of the 'Freedom Budget,' a document by the right-leaning Nevada Policy Research Institute that purports to show that Nevada's government can be shorn of excess and needs no new revenue." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

Las Vegas Sun: "Chief Among The Cuts" In NPRI's Budget Was "Ending Most State Aid To The State's Four-Year Universities" In A Manner Similar "To Privatizing Them." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Chief among the cuts: Ending most state aid to the state's four-year universities. Geoffrey Lawrence, a fiscal analyst for the Nevada Policy Research Institute, called it 'devolving' the state universities, which he likened to privatizing them." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

NPRI's Plan Would Have Raised Tuition At Nevada's Colleges By More Than \$10,000 A Year. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Unless the universities could find money in grants or donations to make up for the reduction by the state, tuition would increase to more than \$15,000, [Geoffrey] Lawrence said. By contrast, for the academic year beginning this fall, undergraduate tuition and fees at UNLV are expected to be about \$5,000." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

Nevada Higher Education Chancellor Jim Rogers Said The Tuition Hike "Would Send Nevada's Best Students" To Neighboring States, Forcing Administrators To Further Hike Tuition In A "Death Spiral." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The steep tuition increase of the Freedom Budget would send Nevada's best students to New Mexico, Utah, Arizona and California -- all places where they could get a better education at a lower cost, Rogers said. Then, once enrollment fell at Nevada's universities, administrators would have to raise tuition again. 'It's a death spiral,' Rogers said." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

2009 BUDGET PLAN

NPRI's Budget Plan Would: "Reform Contracting Requirements... Implement Merit Pay... Create Employee Contribution Based Health Savings Accounts...Swap Pensions With... 401(K)" Plans. According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Nevada Policy Research Institute: * Reform contracting requirements to increase competitiveness and control costs. * Implement merit pay increases for state workers, create employee contribution based health savings accounts instead of funding health insurance, swap pensions with contribution-based 401(k)-type retirement plans. * Privatize unemployment insurance system. * Eliminate the Department of Business and Industry to save \$385 million. * Abandon class-size reduction efforts. Focus instead on merit-pay, consequences for failing schools, performance tracking and school choice scholarships. * Increase the number of charter schools. * Create private toll roads. * Base vehicle taxes on weight instead of age." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/13/09]

May 2009: NPRI Published Its "Freedom Budget" Detailing Major Cuts. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "They would have to cut because the state faces a budget deficit approaching \$3 billion. Now, when they get that irritating rejoinder, they can wave a copy of the 'Freedom Budget,' a document by the right-leaning Nevada Policy Research Institute that purports to show that Nevada's government can be shorn of excess and needs no new revenue." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

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NPRI's Budget Would Slash "Deep Cuts" Of More Than \$450 Million From K-12 Education. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The Freedom Budget would make deep cuts in Gibbons' K-12 budget, to the tune of more than \$450 million

during the biennium from the Distributive School Account, the main statewide schools budget. Where would the state's schools cut \$450 million?" [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

NPRI's Budget Deregulated "Whole Industries" Including Insurance And Mortgages. According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The Freedom Budget leaves the Health and Human Services Department largely unscathed, even adding some money to Gibbons' budget. But it slashes the Business and Industry Department, saving money by deregulating whole industries. For instance, the state would save \$19 million during the biennium by eliminating insurance examiners. So, someone could set up a storefront and start selling insurance, unregulated? 'Yeah, basically. The idea is sort of an ideological recommendation,' Lawrence said. Same with mortgages. Lawrence said the preponderance of mortgage fraud and foreclosures only indicates the failure of the regulatory state." [Las Vegas Sun, 5/14/09]

Education Official On The NPRI Budget: "I Have To Deal With The Real Budget That's Actually On My Desk Right Now... I Don't Have Time For A Trip To Fantasyland." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "When asked to comment on the Nevada Policy Research Institute's proposed 'Freedom Budget,' which outlined a blueprint for balancing the state's spending plan without raising taxes -- one high-ranking education official politely declined. 'I have to deal with the real budget that's actually on my desk right now,' the education official told the Sun. 'I don't have time for a trip to Fantasyland.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 5/17/09]

Jon Ralston Criticism

Jon Ralston: NPRI's Budget Plan Was "General, Often Theoretical And Unquantifiable." According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "The NPRI suggestions are much more general, often theoretical and unquantifiable. 'Fund outputs, not inputs.' Having state workers share savings if they complete contracts on time. And, of course, reforming the state's pay structure, the business community's hobbyhorse." [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.com, 1/16/09]

Ralston: "NPRI Goes Off The Rails In Its Report By Simply Repeating Conservative Shibboleths And Often Presenting Contradictory Statements." According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "NPRI and its like-minded comrades in arms are not wrong that merit pay and other reforms should be debated instead of having the colloquy stifled by public employee unions. But NPRI goes off the rails in its report by simply repeating conservative shibboleths and often presenting contradictory statements." [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.Com, 1/16/09]

Ralston On NPRI Opposing More Education Spending: "The State Languishes In The Funding Cellar And Spending More Won't Work? Evidence? None Provided." According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "For instance, [Patrick] Gibbons and [Geoffrey] Lawrence state declaratively: 'Spending more money on education is not the solution to Nevada's educational challenges.' Oh? The state languishes in the funding cellar and spending more won't work? Evidence? None provided." [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.Com, 1/16/09]

"A Few Paragraphs" After Arguing Against More Education Funding, NPRI's Plan Stated: "Nevada Does Not Have An Effective Method For Attracting And Retaining High-Quality Teachers." According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "But just a few paragraphs later, the NPRI folks declare about class-size reduction: 'Unfortunately, Nevada does not have an effective method for attracting and retaining high-quality teachers.'" [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.Com, 1/16/09]

- **Ralston: "I Wonder -- Radical Idea Here -- If Paying Them More Might Help Keep And Attract Them. Crazy, I Know."** According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "But just a few paragraphs later, the NPRI folks declare about class-size reduction: 'Unfortunately, Nevada does not have an effective method for attracting and retaining high-quality teachers.' I wonder -- radical idea here -- if paying them more might help keep and attract them. Crazy, I know." [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.Com, 1/16/09]

Ralston: "NPRI's Nine-Page Report Is Replete With Generalities And Banalities And Few Specific Policy Suggestions." According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "NPRI has some other meritorious ideas, including more transparency in government, which can only be salutary and which PLAN actually lists as a precept for sound tax policy. But NPRI's nine-page report is replete with generalities and banalities and few specific policy suggestions." [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.Com, 1/16/09]

Ralston: NPRI's Plan Was "A Manifesto, Not As It Purports To Be, A List Of Recommendations." According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for Ralstonflash.com, "It's a manifesto, not as it purports to be, a list of recommendations." [Jon Ralston - Ralstonflash.Com, 1/16/09]

ATTACKS ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND MEDICAID

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence: The ACA "Could Significantly Damage The Fiscal Health Of Nevada." According to an opinion by NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Health care reform legislation recently ushered through the U.S. Senate by Harry Reid could significantly damage the fiscal health of Nevada. H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, would impose an unfunded mandate that would require higher spending by state taxpayers in order to achieve a congressional policy objective of expanding the expensive and wasteful Medicaid program." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/10/10]

Lawrence: The ACA "Would Require Higher Spending By State Taxpayers In Order To Achieve A Congressional Policy Objective Of Expanding The Expensive And Wasteful Medicaid Program." According to an opinion by NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Health care reform legislation recently ushered through the U.S. Senate by Harry Reid could significantly damage the fiscal health of Nevada. H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, would impose an unfunded mandate that would require higher spending by state taxpayers in order to achieve a congressional policy objective of expanding the expensive and wasteful Medicaid program." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/10/10]

Lawrence Said That, Beyond Refusing To Expand Medicaid, Nevada Should Reconsider Participating In Medicaid Altogether. According to an opinion by NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Governors from both political parties are openly criticizing Reid's effort to make the states pay for a new federal entitlement. Perhaps Reid and his colleagues should consider that states are not necessarily obligated to accede to congressional demands for more state money. Federal courts have declared that 'state participation in the [Medicaid] program is voluntary.' In fact, the Heritage Foundation has estimated that Nevada could save \$3.786 billion by 2019 if it were to end its participation in the Medicaid program and have no change in long-term care spending. All states together would save about \$652 billion if they were to do the same." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/10/10]

- **Lawrence Said Opting Out Of Medicaid Was "The Best Response."** According to the Las Vegas Sun, "Geoffrey Lawrence, a fiscal analyst for the libertarian Nevada Policy Research Institute, said increasing Medicaid costs and mandates mean the federal government is dictating to states how to spend money. Almost 30 percent of the state's general fund is spent on Medicaid, he said. Opting out, Lawrence said, 'is probably the best response to (health care reform) from the standpoint of state government.'" [Las Vegas Sun, 1/15/10]

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence: The ACA "Will Do Little To Offer Medical Protection To Patients Or Provide Them With Affordable Care." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "The mammoth, 2,400-page 'Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act' that passed the U.S. House of Representatives this weekend on a 219-212 vote will do little to offer medical protection to patients or provide them with affordable care." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: "One Thing The Bill Does Well Is To Hide A Majority Of The Costs It Will Impose." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "One thing the bill does well is to hide a majority of the costs it will impose. No doubt, the Obama administration will tout itself for accomplishing a feat of historic proportions. And truly, it has -- the administration that campaigned on 'transparency' has ushered through Congress one of the most fiscally opaque and deceptive bills in history." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: "The Real Cost" Of The ACA "Will Dwarf The Official Estimate. Congressional Leadership" Wrote The Law In A Manner To "Defraud The Public." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "The latest official scoring of the bill by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates its total cost over the 2010-2019 period at \$940 billion. While this sounds large, the real cost will dwarf the official estimate. Congressional leadership, well aware of the constraints it has written into law requiring the CBO to take congressional fictions at face value, used those constraints to engineer this 'low' estimate from the CBO and thereby defraud the public." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence Said Americans Would Be “Denied Medical Services As The U.S. System Comes To Approximate That Of England Or Canada.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Hence, while the CBO’s cost estimate for the 2010-2019 period is \$940 billion, the bill’s cost for the first 10 years of operation could be as high as \$3.5 trillion. Of course, this number only represents federal expenditures. It does not include the trillions of dollars in additional costs that will be off-loaded to state governments and private industry -- or eventually experienced by Americans denied medical services as the U.S. system comes to approximate that of England or Canada.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: “Congress Is Using Medicaid To Expand Health-Insurance Coverage So That The Federal Government Can Off-Load Much Of The Bill’s Costs Onto State Governments.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Congress is using Medicaid to expand health-insurance coverage so that the federal government can off-load much of the bill’s costs onto state governments. Under this provision, Nevada would face the largest proportional financial burden of any state, with its number of Medicaid-eligible individuals swelling by 82.1 percent. The additional cost of this unfunded federal mandate could well mean fewer state tax dollars available for schools, roads and police.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: “The Additional Cost Of This Unfunded Federal Mandate Could Well Mean Fewer State Tax Dollars Available For Schools, Roads And Police.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Congress is using Medicaid to expand health-insurance coverage so that the federal government can off-load much of the bill’s costs onto state governments. Under this provision, Nevada would face the largest proportional financial burden of any state, with its number of Medicaid-eligible individuals swelling by 82.1 percent. The additional cost of this unfunded federal mandate could well mean fewer state tax dollars available for schools, roads and police.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence Doubted That Congress Would Pass The “Doc Fix” Bill. According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “The CBO scoring also includes the highly unlikely scenario that Congress will allow physician reimbursements for Medicare expenses to decline by 23 percent. In fact, congressional leadership intentionally put off the so-called ‘doc fix’ bill that would avoid that adjustment until after passage of the ‘reform’ bill -- so as to low-ball the CBO’s cost estimate.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: “A More Honest Estimate For The ‘Reform’ Bill’s Costs... Would Be Closer To The \$6 Trillion Range Over The First 10 Years Of Operation.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “A more honest estimate for the ‘reform’ bill’s costs -- including those imposed through new mandates on private industry -- would be closer to the \$6 trillion range over the first 10 years of operation. Even then, one would also have to acknowledge that federal entitlement programs routinely outstrip their cost estimates. When Medicare Part A was passed in 1965, for example, it was estimated to cost \$9 billion by 1990. It ran slightly over projections, coming in at \$67 billion.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: “The Bill Will Cause Insurance Premiums... To Rise 10 To 13 Percent Faster Than Would Otherwise Be The Case.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Perhaps what is most tragic about this so-called ‘reform’ bill is that it retreats in precisely the opposite direction from true reform of the health care industry. A price-based system that put health care decisions in the hands of patients, rather than bureaucrats, was required. Instead, Congress delivered a bill that will only exacerbate the current problems, which stem from a lack of consumer accountability. By the CBO’s own accounting, the bill will cause insurance premiums for those in the individual market to rise 10 to 13 percent faster than would otherwise be the case.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

Lawrence: “Congress Has Given Us A Health Care System That Is Even More Highly-Bureaucratized And Less Responsive To Patients’ Needs. Premiums Will Rise Even Faster. Shortages Will Result.” According to an opinion by NPRI’s Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, “So for a mere \$6 trillion every 10 years, Congress has given us a health care system that is even more highly-bureaucratized and less responsive to patients’ needs. Premiums will rise even faster. Shortages will result as more and more doctors leave the profession. And the CBO says there will still be 23 million uninsured.” [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 3/23/10]

NPRI’s Joseph Becker: SCOTUS’s Upholding Of The Individual Mandate Was “A Practical And Significant Blow To Individual Liberty.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Nevada Policy Research Institute Chief Legal Officer

Joseph Becker: "Today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the individual mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act can be constitutionally spared but only if characterized as a 'federal tax' results in a practical and significant blow to individual liberty." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/29/12]

- **Becker: "This Ruling Further Expands Federal Authority. Not Even King George Believed He Had The Authority To Compel Colonists To Buy The Tea Tossed Overboard In Boston Harbor."** According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Nevada Policy Research Institute Chief Legal Officer Joseph Becker: [...] 'Our nation's founders intended the constitution to greatly restrict the power of the federal government, but unfortunately, this ruling further expands federal authority. Not even King George believed he had the authority to compel colonists to buy the tea tossed overboard in Boston Harbor, yet we now have an expansion of federal authority which, through the force of taxation, mandates as a practical matter that citizens must buy private-sector goods.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/29/12]

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence Urged Nevada Lawmakers To Not Expand Medicaid. According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "As a result, states will have the option of expanding their Medicaid rolls, but will not be forced to do so. [...] State policymakers, however, should go a step further and loudly declare to congressional leaders that, if they want to create a new entitlement, then Congress should come up with the funds to pay for it and not rely on the states to bail them out. Washington couldn't afford the new entitlements created by the ACA. Neither can Nevada." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 8/9/12]

Lawrence: The ACA "Should Ultimately Be Discarded In Favor Of Patient-Centered Reforms That Restore Some Semblance Of Market Order To The Health Care Industry." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "That's why the whole law should ultimately be discarded in favor of patient-centered reforms that restore some semblance of market order to the health care industry." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 8/9/12]

Lawrence Opposed Governor Brian Sandoval's Plan To Expand Medicaid, Saying "The Full Weight Of Governor Sandoval's Unfortunate Decision" Wouldn't Fall Upon Nevada Until After He's Already Left Office. According to the Associated Press, "'When the full weight of Gov. Sandoval's unfortunate decision falls upon Nevadans, he may well have moved on from his current office,' Geoffrey Lawrence, deputy policy director of the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a conservative think tank. 'The consequences experienced by the state's citizens, however, will be no less real,' he said in a written statement." [Associated Press, 12/12/12]

Lawrence: Medicaid Expansion "Will Exacerbate Health-Care Rationing For Nevada's Neediest" And Will Encourage "Able-Bodied Adults To Opt For More Leisure Time, Rather Than Increase Their Income." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "An important aspect of Medicaid expansion that Sandoval neglected to mention is that it will exacerbate health-care rationing for Nevada's neediest. That's because current beneficiaries -- mainly children in poverty and the disabled -- will now not only face competition for medical services from single, able-bodied, childless adults, but will do so within a shrinking Medicaid-provider network. Medicaid expansion will also encourage these able-bodied adults to opt for more leisure time, rather than increase their income beyond the new Medicaid eligibility limits." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/26/13]

Lawrence: As "The ACA Was Being Debated In Washington" A Study Was Being Conducted "On Exactly What Happens When Health-Insurance Coverage Is Expanded To Low-Income Individuals." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "At the same time the ACA was being debated in Washington, D.C., health researchers on the other side of the country were conducting a historic, watershed study on exactly what happens when health-insurance coverage is expanded to low-income individuals." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/22/14]

NPRI Deputy Political Director Geoffrey Lawrence: "The ACA Was Supposed To 'Bend The Cost Curve Backward'...Because Newly Insured Individuals Would Receive Care From A Primary Doctor." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "One of the key reasons the Affordable Care Act was supposed to 'bend the cost curve backward,' President Obama told us, was because newly insured individuals would receive care from a primary doctor - rather than making the relatively more costly trips to hospital emergency rooms." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 1/22/14]

Lawrence: President Obama's Theory On The ACA "Was Completely Wrong." According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "As it turns out, this theory was completely wrong. Moreover, the White House and congressional leadership might have known that if they had waited just a few months before enacting such a large-scale intervention into the health care market." [Geoffrey Lawrence – Elko Daily Free Press, 1/22/14]

Despite NPRI's Extensive Attacks Against Education Funding, NPRI Claimed The ACA Would Have A "Negative Impact" On Programs Such As "Education, Public Safety, And Other Public Services" By Draining State Funding

NPRI's Geoffrey Lawrence Said The ACA Would Have A "Negative Impact" On "Education, Public Safety, And Other Public Services" By Drawing Away State Funding. According to an opinion by NPRI's Director of Research and Legislative Affairs Geoffrey Lawrence for the Elko Daily Free Press, "Often lost in the debate over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) -- the sweeping health care 'reform' legislation popularly known as ObamaCare -- is the negative impact it will have on education, public safety and other public services as health insurance subsidies begin to consume a greater share of state spending." [Geoffrey Lawrence - Elko Daily Free Press, 8/24/11]

CRITICISM FROM NEVADANS

February 2007: An Editorial In The Las Vegas Sun Refers To NPRI As "A Thoughtless Think Tank That Jumps To Knee-Jerk Conclusions." According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "In his daily e-mail report, Las Vegas Sun columnist Jon Ralston noted Wednesday that the lawmakers' questions became political statements and partisan lines were drawn by Democrats and Republicans. Notably, lawmakers clashed over the testimony given by representatives of the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a thoughtless think tank that jumps to knee-jerk conclusions. Instead of offering any real solutions, the institute's representatives simply bashed the study." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 2/18/07]

Sun Editorial: "Instead Of Offering Any Real Solutions, The Institute's Representatives Simply Bashed The Study." According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "Notably, lawmakers clashed over the testimony given by representatives of the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a thoughtless think tank that jumps to knee-jerk conclusions. Instead of offering any real solutions, the institute's representatives simply bashed the study." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 2/18/07]

No Representatives Admitted To Having Invited NPRI To Speak At An Education Policy Hearing. According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "When Democratic Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley objected - she said she wanted to focus on solutions - she was interrupted by Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Raggio. Raggio said the institute's representatives were invited to speak, although no one would admit to having invited them, and they continued to rail against the study." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 2/18/07]

Sun Editorial: "When One Institute Representative Was Asked... To Answer With A Simple Yes Or No Whether The State Should Spend More Money On Education, The Representative Did Not Respond." According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "The Associated Press reported that when one institute representative was asked by Assembly Ways & Means Committee Chairman Morse Arberry, D-Las Vegas, to answer with a simple yes or no whether the state should spend more money on education, the representative did not respond." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 2/18/07]

Jon Ralston Referred To AFP And NPRI As The "Chicken Little Caucus" In Nevada. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the the Las Vegas Sun, "This has become a choice between the lesser of two evils: Faith in an inert, spineless group (yes, I know there are exceptions) versus hope for a special interest and its ability to persuade an electorate that cares about education but is susceptible to the Chicken Little Caucus' clucking. And they have not yet begun to cluck. The Nevada Policy Research Institute will start reminding everyone that the Texas margin tax, which is the model for the 2011 Democratic plan and the teachers initiative, is a disaster -- you know, the one Gov. Rick Perry proposed. Americans for Prosperity will declare this is the end of prosperity as we know it, sure to destroy the business environment in Nevada. And the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, which has sold out its small business members in past tax fights, will go to the mat to protect its larger members who pay almost nothing in taxes." [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 6/6/12]

Las Vegas Citylife's Editorial Response To A Letter To The Editor: "You Never Really Had Us, But You Lost Us – Irretrievably, Forever And Thank God – When You Cited NPRI As A Source." According to Las Vegas Citylife,

“Editor’s note: You had us at ... well, you never really had us, but you lost us -- irretrievably, forever and thank God -- when you cited NPRI as a source.” [Las Vegas Citylife, 6/14/12]

NPRI Education Policy Analyst Joe Enge Was Hired As Second-In-Command Of The State’s Energy Office Despite “No Experience In Energy Policy.”

November 2007: NPRI’s Joe Enge Was Hired As “The New Second-In-Command Of The State’s Energy Office” Even Though He “Admits He Has No Experience In Energy Policy.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The new second-in-command of the state’s energy office admits he has no experience in energy policy. Joe Enge, a Carson City School Board trustee and conservative writer on education issues, was hired Nov. 12 to be the department’s deputy director.” [Las Vegas Sun, 11/27/07]

Engage Was A High School History Teacher And Education Analyst At NPRI Before Being Hired For The Energy Office Job. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “[Joe] Enge is a former high school history teacher and was an analyst and researcher on education issues for the conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute before taking his latest job.” [Las Vegas Sun, 11/27/07]

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: “Competence Is Obviously Not A Requirement In Gov. Jim Gibbons’ Administration, As Joe Enge’s Hiring Proves.” According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, “Competence is obviously not a requirement in Gov. Jim Gibbons’ administration, as Joe Enge’s hiring proves. Enge was recently appointed deputy director of the state’s Energy Office despite having no experience in the field.” [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 11/29/07]

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: Enge Has “Written Screeds Against Public Education For The Right-Wing Nevada Policy Research Institute.” According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, “[Joe] Enge is a former history teacher who is politely described as having a colorful past. He is known for his public battle over curriculum at Carson City High School, where he taught history before being forced out. He since has won a seat on the Carson City School Board and written screeds against public education for the right-wing Nevada Policy Research Institute.” [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 11/29/07]

Engle Had Multiple DUI Convictions Alongside A Hit-And-Run And Dismissed DUI Charge. According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, “[Joe] Enge has been convicted of DUI twice. Another time, in 2005, he was charged with drunken driving, but the charge was dismissed after a judge ruled that breath test results, which showed he had about three times the legal level of alcohol in his system, could have been skewed by his dentures. He plowed over a fence with his car in Carson City last month and left the scene. Police charged him with hit and run, but the case was dismissed after he paid the homeowner \$1,200.” [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 11/29/07]

Engle’s Predecessor In The Office “Had A Doctorate And Plenty Of Technical Experience In Energy Matters.” According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, “Now add [Joe] Enge. His predecessor had a doctorate and plenty of technical experience in energy matters. Enge will make \$64,921 a year to, in his words, ‘basically organize the (five-person) office.’” [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 11/29/07]

Engage Was Hired November 12th; He Resigned From The Position On The 30th. According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Joe Enge, the education activist recently hired as deputy director of the Nevada Governor’s Energy Office, has resigned following news accounts that focused on his job experience and driving record. Hatice Gecol, head of the office, confirmed Thursday that Enge had resigned from the nearly \$65,000-a-year state job that he started on Nov. 12. Gecol declined to say why Enge quit.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 11/30/07]

2009: NPRI Suggested Eliminating The Nevada “Department Of Business And Industry,” Which Was Panned As “Idiotic.”

NPRI Suggested “Elimination Of The Nevada Department Of Business And Industry And Numerous Other Cuts To... Make State Government Operate More Like A Business.” According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “A conservative think tank is suggesting elimination of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry and numerous other cuts to save state funds and avoid tax increases by the 2009 Legislature. The plan from the Las Vegas-based Nevada Policy Research Institute is among numerous proposals that generally would make state government operate more like a business.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 1/8/09]

- **The Department Of Business And Industry Oversees Banks, Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Brokers, Workers' Compensation, And Worker And Mining Safety Programs, Among Other Things.** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, "The Department of Business and Industry oversees banks, real estate agents, mortgage brokers, workers' compensation, worker and mining safety programs and the Taxicab Authority in Clark County." [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 1/8/09]
- **Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie Said "Such A Cutback Would Eliminate Crucial Oversight Of Various Industries."** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, "The recommendation drew criticism from Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, D-Reno, who said such a cutback would eliminate crucial oversight of various industries." [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 1/8/09]

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: "Doing Away With" The Business And Industry Department "Would Be Idiotic. It Was The Lack Of Oversight Of The Mortgage Industry" That Led To The Recession. According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "The libertarian Nevada Policy Research Institute, for example, recently released a proposal suggesting eliminating agencies including the Business and Industry Department, which regulates a variety of businesses, including those in the real estate and mortgage industries. Doing away with regulation there would be idiotic. It was the lack of oversight of the mortgage business nationally that led to the industry's meltdown, helping push the country into the current economic crisis." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 1/11/09]

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: "That Is Hardly The 'Ideal' Vision For The American Dream In Nevada, And The Legislature Should Quickly Dismiss Such Proposals." According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "That is hardly the 'ideal' vision for the American dream in Nevada, and the Legislature should quickly dismiss such proposals. The void of leadership in the governor's office has left the state in dire need of someone else to provide a vision for the future. It will be up to the Legislature." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 1/11/09]

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: "The Bottom Line Is: The State Cannot Drastically Cut Its Way To A Prosperous Future." According to an editorial in the Las Vegas Sun, "Lawmakers will have to make some difficult decisions and overhaul the state's antiquated tax code if there is to be any significant level of services left. The bottom line is: The state cannot drastically cut its way to a prosperous future." [Editorial - Las Vegas Sun, 1/11/09]

Las Vegas Sun: The Department Of Business And Industry "Regulates Most Businesses In Nevada." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute last week released their own plan. While it mostly lacked hard numbers, one proposal was to eliminate the Department of Business and Industry, which regulates most businesses in Nevada. It said such a move would have saved the state \$385 million this past biennium." [Las Vegas Sun, 1/12/09]

Republican State Sen. Randolph Townsend: "Just Chopping Off Business And Industry Is Maybe Part Of The Problem That Got Us Here In The First Place By Not Having Appropriate Regulations." According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, "'Willy-nilly tax increases don't make sense in an economic climate worse than anything since the Great Depression, and just chopping off Business and Industry is maybe part of the problem that got us here in the first place by not having appropriate regulations,' said state Sen. Randolph Townsend, R-Reno. 'You have to look at both sides and try to build a consensus on something that might be rational for the state of Nevada.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/13/09]

Eliminating The Business And Industry Department Would Be A "Twofer" For Libertarians: "It Would Save Money... While Fulfilling A Libertarian Policy Goal Of Deregulating Business." According to the Las Vegas Sun, "[Geoffrey] Lawrence said he and his colleagues haven't gone line by line through Nevada's budget or tried to craft their own balanced budget, but he did throw out some ideas. One is to eliminate the Business and Industry Department. For libertarians, this is a twofer: It would save money -- Lawrence said \$390 million -- while fulfilling a libertarian policy goal of deregulating business." [Las Vegas Sun, 3/8/09]

2010: NPRI Budget Plan Criticism From Jon Ralston

Jon Ralston: NPRI "Proposed Bold, Albeit Flawed, Solutions" To Nevada's Budget Problems. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, "How ironic that it has been conservatives -- the ones at the Nevada Policy Research Institute and Assembly Minority Leader Pete Goicoechea -- who have proposed bold, albeit flawed, solutions while no Democratic leader has suggested much more than platitudes and hints of revenue to come. Most Democrats running for an

esteemed slot in the Gang of 63 are afraid to say what they really think -- taxes should be raised -- and most Republicans are ignoring reality -- taxes will be raised -- to get elected.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 9/19/10]

Ralston: “The Denizens Of The NPRI Warren... Have Been Producing Screeds About The Budget That Are Provocative And Often Flawed.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “But the real idea folks -- get ready to cringe, Democrats -- have been the denizens of the NPRI warren, who have been producing screeds about the budget that are provocative and often flawed. But -- you are going to hear this a lot from me -- at least they are ideas.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 9/19/10]

Late 2010: Jon Ralston Went Nuclear On NPRI...NPRI “Eschewed Policy And Analysis For Snarky Sneering”... “Narrow Minds” And “Ideological Hackery” ... “Time To Man Up, NPRI.”

Jon Ralston: “Funded By Conservatives And With A Patronizing Attitude Toward Everyone Not In The Smug Tank, NPRI Often Has Eschewed Policy And Analysis For Snarky Sneering.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “Funded by conservatives and with a patronizing attitude toward everyone not in the Smug Tank, NPRI often has eschewed policy and analysis for snarky sneering. But then, in June, came this often-thoughtful dissertation from NPRI’s Geoff Lawrence, which contained an array of provocative proposals, including, shockingly, a plan to expand the sales tax base (with a concomitant drop in the overall rate to make it revenue-neutral): <http://tinyurl.com/2chx5af>.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston: NPRI “Takes The Upcoming Debate” Over The Budget And Taxes “With Little Seriousness.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “It seemed like a good jumping-off point, especially because private talks among business folks had begun that were bandying about a sales tax on services. But on the eve of what promises to be an excruciatingly difficult legislative session, with no sign of an elevated dialogue from Gov. No New Taxes II and a collectively mum Gang of 63, NPRI has reverted to form and become the Nevada Policy Rationalization Institute. To explain, I relate a recent to and fro with one Victor Joecks, who is NPRI’s deputy communications director. Joecks is quite the jokester, as this story will show you, revealing that his group takes the upcoming debate with little seriousness.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston Detailed An Email Exchange With NPRI’s Victor Joecks Ending With Joecks Posting A Blog Attacking Ralston For Supporting A “Magic Tax” With No “Negative Consequences.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “[Victor] Joecks sent me an e-mail last week expressing faux puzzlement with this line from my Wednesday column: ‘I believe the key to any revenue package -- which probably would have to include a tax decrease (repealing the payroll tax?) with a tax increase (some form of new business levy that would not crush folks in this economy) -- is providing political cover for those potential GOP votes.’ Joecks asked: ‘A new business tax without negative consequences? What type of tax are you referring to?’ My response revealed my distaste for his condescending tripe: ‘So all business taxes have ‘negative consequences’? And I thought you were a think tank, not a political sloganeering tank. Please don’t send me nonsense like this anymore.’ Next thing I know, Joecks posted a blog headlined, ‘Ralston calls for a magic tax increase.’ Clever, ain’t he?” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston: “Maybe The Right-Hand Doesn’t Know What The Far-Right Hand Is Doing Over At NPRI.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “In his June proposal, [Geoffrey] Lawrence recognizes what every other tax study has concluded, which is that broadening the sales tax base could reduce revenue volatility, minimize economic distortions, minimize compliance costs and ensure tax equity -- four pillars of reform that he cites, as have others. And yet when I suggest a new business tax, [Victor] Joecks has a conniption? Maybe the right-hand doesn’t know what the far-right hand is doing over at NPRI.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston Noted That NPRI’s Plan Called For Broadening The Sales Tax Base, But Joecks Had “A Conniption” When Ralston Proposed A Business Tax. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “In his June proposal, [Geoffrey] Lawrence recognizes what every other tax study has concluded, which is that broadening the sales tax base could reduce revenue volatility, minimize economic distortions, minimize compliance costs and ensure tax equity -- four pillars of reform that he cites, as have others. And yet when I suggest a new business tax, [Victor] Joecks has a conniption? Maybe the right-hand doesn’t know what the far-right hand is doing over at NPRI.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston: “I Truly Was Hoping The Think Tank Could Be Part Of The Solution, Not Part Of An All-Too Familiar Problem: Reducing What Should Be A Thoughtful Discussion... To Ideological Hackery.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “I truly was hoping the think tank could be part of the solution, not part of an all-too

familiar problem: Reducing what should be a thoughtful discussion, with room for good ideas on both sides, to ideological hackery. As I have said for years, this is not just about money -- Democrats must accept long-overdue reforms -- but it is, to a great extent, about money.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston: “NPRI Should Decide Whether It Wants To Participate” In Coming Up With A Budget Solution “Or Just Throw Rocks.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “There is not a lot of latitude for debate about the tax structure itself -- all of those tax studies and a newer one by the Reno Gazette-Journal and UNR arrive at the same conclusion. But the serious debate, which Gov.-elect Brian Sandoval and the Gang of 63 must engage in, is what level of funding for various areas should be imposed on any new structure. That’s a colloquy many have been longing to hear. NPRI should decide whether it wants to participate or just throw rocks.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 11/21/10]

Ralston: “NPRI Wonk Attacks ‘Leftist Pundits’ But Doesn’t Name Anyone... Time To Man Up, NPRI.” According to a newsletter from John Ralston via Ralstonflash.com, “Nugget No. 2 - NPRI wonk attacks ‘leftist pundits’ but doesn’t name anyone, while actually making some interesting points about education spending and the Nevada economy. <http://npri.org/publications/the-fundamentals-matter-part-i> I still don’t understand, though: Only one group in Nevada has proposed a new tax on business and that is the Nevada Policy Research Institute, which wants more businesses to pay (or collect) a sales tax on services. I guess that would only have a salutary impact, right? Time to man up, NPRI.” [John Ralston - Ralstonflash.com, 11/30/10]

Ralston: “It’s Also Easier For The Narrow Minds At The Nevada Policy Research Institute To Do Basic Arithmetic When Advanced Calculus Is Called For.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “I understand why Gov.-elect Brian Sandoval is minimizing the deficit -- he hopelessly boxed himself in with his no-new-taxes absolutism in the campaign and wants to use local governments to mask the severity of the problem. It’s also easier for the narrow minds at the Nevada Policy Research Institute to do basic arithmetic when advanced calculus is called for -- NPRI has been operating in two dimensions for years when three-dimensional thinking is called for.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 12/8/10]

Ralston: “NPRI Has Been Operating In Two Dimensions For Years When Three Dimensional Thinking Is Called For.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “It’s also easier for the narrow minds at the Nevada Policy Research Institute to do basic arithmetic when advanced calculus is called for -- NPRI has been operating in two dimensions for years when three-dimensional thinking is called for.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 12/8/10]

Ralston: “Evidence Surfaces – Again – Of NPRI’s Overweening Hypocrisy, Which Is Polluting The Dialogue” About The Budget Debate. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “This becomes relevant -- again -- as evidence surfaces -- again -- of NPRI’s overweening hypocrisy, which is polluting the dialogue about as much as the Great Shrinking Revenue Debate between the governor and legislators is trivializing the task ahead.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 12/8/10]

Ralston: “By Sneering At ‘Liberals’ Who Use An \$8.3 Billion Figure, Which It Calls ‘A Lie,’ The Officious, Know-It-Alls At NPRI Lecture About Assumptions.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “By sneering at ‘liberals’ who use an \$8.3 billion figure, which it calls ‘a lie,’ the officious, know-it-alls at NPRI lecture about assumptions while being the only ones in the state who have proposed a new tax on certain services.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 12/8/10]

Ralston: “NPRI Is Setting Up A New Sue Government To Please Our Right-Wing Donors Center.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “(NPRI is setting up a new Sue Government to Please Our Right-Wing Donors Center. First suit should be if government dares to pass a sales tax on services now. Headline I dream of: ‘NPRI sues state over NPRI-proposed tax.’)” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 12/8/10]

Ralston Said NPRI’s Criticism Of Liberals For Not Being “Intellectually Honest” Was The Pot Calling The Kettle Black. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “The other side needs to be that intellectually honest as well -- then the productive discussions and disagreements can begin about what is and isn’t important in Nevada’s budget,’ NPRI’s Victor Joecks blogged Wednesday about the deficit. Yes, pot. It would be nice if the kettle talked about inefficiencies and waste and cuts. But until both sides get off the numbers game, all I can say is: Who cares?” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 12/8/10]

Ralston 2011 Criticism Of NPRI

Ralston: “I Will Miss... Right-Wing Apoplexy. It Was Positively Sidesplitting At Times To See The Americans For Prosperity-Nevada-Policy-Research-Institute... Crowd Have A Vein Bulging In Their Collective Forehead.”

According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “What I will miss [...] Right-wing apoplexy: It was positively sidesplitting at times to see the Americans for Prosperity-Nevada-Policy-Research-Institute-Review-Journal-Chuck-Muth-Keystone crowd have a vein bulging in their collective forehead with every late-session, postcourt-decision development. Thank goodness they had Sens. Michael Roberson and Barbara Cegavske to give voice to their frustration about the dreaded thing called ‘compromise.’” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 6/8/11]

Jon Ralston: NPRI’s Legislative Report Card Was “A Barometer Of Which Lawmakers Can’t Find A Green Button On Their Desks... Is The No. 1 Friend Of Taxpayers... Someone Who Will Just Vote ‘No’ On Everything?”

According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “The Nevada Policy Research Institute is quite proud of its 2011 legislative report card, boasting the scores are ‘an objective measure to compare how favorable a lawmaker is to economic freedom and education reform.’ Maybe. Or maybe it’s a thoroughly subjective measure, with capricious weights and tendentious bill choices. Maybe it’s only a measure of how compliant most lawmakers are to the party leadership’s wishes. And maybe, just maybe, it’s a one-dimensional evaluation of legislators, with little insight into their individual effectiveness. [...] Actually, it’s mostly a barometer of which lawmakers can’t find a green button on their desks -- hence, state Sen. Don Gustavson (89 percent), whose sole claim to fame outside of being Sharron Angle’s male doppelgänger is to quixotically push for a helmet law repeal, is the No. 1 friend of taxpayers. So, taxpayers want someone who will just vote ‘no’ on everything? Or is that just what taxpayers who fund the conservative think tank want?” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 6/29/11]

Ralston On The NPRI Report Card: “Objective? Hardly.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “Objective? Hardly.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 6/29/11]

Ralston: “You Might Be A Better Friend To The Taxpayer If You Were More Open-Minded And Didn’t Consider Every Tax Proposal A Destructive Sledgehammer... Or Every Regulatory Idea A Strangulation.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “But the real question is what the actual utility of such a report card might be. Forget, for a moment, that I could argue you might be a better friend to the taxpayer if you were more open-minded and didn’t consider every tax proposal a destructive sledgehammer on the economy or every regulatory idea a strangulation of the private sector.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 6/29/11]

Ralston: “But This Report Card Is The Institute’s Ideology At Work And Hardly Objective.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “But this report card is the institute’s ideology at work and hardly objective.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 6/29/11]

Jon Ralston Opinion Headline: “Has Think Tank Removed Nonpartisan Pretense?” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “I Sense A Shift In NPRI, A Disturbing One Towards Acting As A Partisan Hit Squad, Not Coincidentally Against Ambitious Democrats Looking To Move Up To Congress.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “But -- and you knew a ‘but’ was coming -- I sense a shift in NPRI, a disturbing one toward acting as a partisan hit squad, not coincidentally against ambitious Democrats looking to move up to Congress. Instead of producing provocative pieces on school choice or tax reform -- as NPRI has done -- we have been treated lately to overblown vituperations against Assembly Speaker John Ocegüera and state Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “Instead Of Producing Provocative Pieces On School Choice Or Tax Reform... We Have Been Treated Lately To Overblown Vituperations Against” Prominent Nevada Democrats. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “But -- and you knew a ‘but’ was coming -- I sense a shift in NPRI, a disturbing one toward acting as a partisan hit squad, not coincidentally against ambitious Democrats looking to move up to Congress. Instead of producing provocative pieces on school choice or tax reform -- as NPRI has done -- we have been treated lately to overblown vituperations against Assembly Speaker John Ocegüera and state Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “Is NPRI Really The Nevada Promote Republicans Institute?” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “Is NPRI really the Nevada Promote Republicans Institute? I hope not. But my doubts are intensifying. Here’s why.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “I’m Not Sure Why NPRI Thinks Its Job Is To Play ‘Gotcha’ With Elected Officials.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “First, NPRI has been crusading against [John] Ocegura, accusing him of lying about how much he made as an assistant fire chief during the 2011 legislative session. Ocegura has not helped himself with his muddled responses, and the reflexive defense by his boss seemed as protesting too much. But I am not sure why NPRI thinks its job is to play ‘gotcha’ with elected officials. The facts are these, according to check deposit information I have obtained.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “The Group Simply Spewed Partisan Nonsense Against” Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford. According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “If NPRI couldn’t keep its eye on the ball in the [John] Ocegura case, the group simply spewed partisan nonsense against [Steven] Horsford. Once again Miller penned a diatribe, with this headline: ‘Horsford-led IFC may have illegally plundered millions from College Savings Plan.’” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “Is This NPRI Or The New York Post?” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “Once again [Steven] Miller penned a diatribe, with this headline: ‘Horsford-led IFC may have illegally plundered millions from College Savings Plan.’ May have? Illegally plundered? Really? Is this NPRI or the New York Post?” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Ralston: “If NPRI Wants To Be An Extension Of The GOP Attack Machine, Fine. But If It Wants To Be Taken Seriously... Then It Should Stay Away From Obvious Partisan Headhunting.” According to an opinion by Jon Ralston for the Las Vegas Sun, “If NPRI wants to be an extension of the GOP attack machine, fine. But if it wants to be taken seriously as a cauldron of provocative ideas, then it should stay away from obvious partisan headhunting.” [Jon Ralston - Las Vegas Sun, 7/29/11]

Koch Lobbying

John St. Martin Was Registered As A Paid Lobbyist For Americans For Prosperity For Nevada’s 2015 Legislative Session. [Nevada Lobbyist Database, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

Geoffrey Lawrence Was Registered As A Paid Lobbyist For The Nevada Policy Research Institute For Nevada’s 2014 Special Session & 2013 Legislative Session. [Nevada Lobbyist Database, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

Nick Vander Poel Was Registered As A Paid Lobbyist For Americans For Prosperity For Nevada’s 2013 Legislative Session. [Nevada Lobbyist Database, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

The Heartland Institute Reported On Nevada’s Student Voucher Bill In The Closing Days Of The Nevada Legislature, A Time When Journalists Tend To Lose Interest. According to Reno News and Review, “News entities tend to shrug and turn to other matters when a legislature ends, with the result being that many Nevadans have little idea of what the lawmakers did in the closing days. Not so in the special-interest worlds [...] The Heartland Institute—a right-wing organization funded in part by Phillip Morris, Exxon Mobil, the Charles Koch Foundation and a number of similar groups—reported on S.B. 302, which created a voucher-style program under which parents who withdraw their children from public schools receive grants of 90 or 100 percent of current state per-pupil spending for use in paying tuition at non-public schools. Thus, as reporters lose interest in the Nevada Legislature, interest groups gain more of it.” [Reno News and Review, [7/16/15](#)]

Charles Koch Op-Ed

Charles Koch Authored An Opinion In The Reno Gazette-Journal: “How To Really Help The Economy Turn Around.” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

Koch: “For Years, Washington Politicians Have Said That Our Economy Is Turning The Corner... But Each Time, The Economy Has Turned Sluggish Again.” According to an opinion by Charles Koch for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “For years, Washington politicians have said that our economy is turning the corner. They said it in 2011, in 2013 and again last week — every time they report a quarter with 4 percent economic growth. But each time, the economy has turned sluggish again.” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

Koch: “High Underemployment Has Become Our New Norm.” According to an opinion by Charles Koch for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Like most Americans, I am deeply concerned about our weak economic recovery and its effects on millions of families. Opportunity, especially for the young and disadvantaged, is declining. High underemployment has become our new norm.” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

- **Bloomberg Business: “The Rate Of Underemployment... Dropped To The Lowest Since July 2008... Underemployed Looking Less Gloomy.”** According to Bloomberg Business, “The rate of underemployment — including those working part-time who want a full-time gig and those not in the workforce who would take a job if it were available — dropped to the lowest since July 2008: Underemployed Looking Less Gloomy. The share of those working part-time for economic reasons, and others who’d take a gig if it were available, dropped in June to its lowest since July 2008.” [Bloomberg Business, [7/2/15](#)]

Koch: “Compounding The Problem Are Destructive Regulations Affecting Whether And How Business Invests And Employees Work.” According to an opinion by Charles Koch for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Compounding the problem are destructive regulations affecting whether and how business invests and employees work. Federal rules cost America an estimated \$1.86 trillion per year, calculated the Competitive Enterprise Institute.” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

- **Koch-Funded Mercatus Center Director Of Policy Research: “The Economic Literature Suggests That The Effect Of Regulations Is Likely Small At The Macro Level... It’s Certainly True... That Regulation Does Create Jobs.”** According to Pro Publica, “That point is also echoed by Richard Williams, a former FDA official who’s currently Director of Policy Research for the free-market oriented Mercatus Center at George Mason University. (The center has ties to Koch Industries, an energy conglomerate that’s spent tens of millions lobbying against regulations. Koch’s chairman and CEO, Charles Koch, sits on the Mercatus Center’s Board of Directors.) Earlier this year, Williams sent a letter [PDF] to Rep. Darrell Issa, who’s been soliciting opinions from businesses, trade groups and experts on which regulations kill jobs. Williams wrote: ‘The economic literature suggests that the effect of regulations is likely small at the macro level. However, at the micro level, the effect of regulations on job creation and sustainability of particular businesses can be great.’ In a phone conversation, Williams expanded on his point. ‘It’s certainly true, as people say, that regulation does create jobs,’ he said. ‘It requires firms to do something that they’re not doing now, so often they need to hire.’” [Pro Publica, [9/21/11](#)]

Koch: “We Should Eliminate The Artificial Cost Of Hiring. Government Policies Such As Obamacare Have Given Businesses A Powerful Incentive To Hire Two Part-Time People To Do One Full-Time Job.” According to an opinion by Charles Koch for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Second, we should eliminate the artificial cost of hiring. Government policies such as Obamacare have given businesses a powerful incentive to hire two part-time people to do one full-time job. This trend was reflected in June’s employment data, which included the loss of half a million full-time jobs. In 2007, 4.4 million Americans worked part-time jobs because they could not find full-time work.” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

- **Atlantic, July 2014: “Since 2010, Full-Time Jobs Are Up 7.6 Million, And Part-Time Jobs Have Declined By More Than 900,000.”** According to the Atlantic, “The president’s critics love this talking point. But since 2010, full-time jobs are up 7.6 million, and part-time jobs have declined by more than 900,000.” [Atlantic, [7/14/14](#)]
- **Atlantic: “It Turns Out That The Entire Increase In Part-Time Employment Happened Before Obamacare Became A Law In 2010.”** According to the Atlantic, “The easiest way to fact-check the claim that part-time work is rising is to measure Americans working part-time who want to work full time—i.e. ‘for economic reasons.’ It turns out that the entire increase in part-time employment happened before Obamacare became a law in 2010.” [Atlantic, [7/14/14](#)]

Koch: “We Need Greater Incentives To Work. Costly Programs, Such As Paying Able-Bodied People Not To Work, Are Addictive Disincentives.” According to an opinion by Charles Koch for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Finally, we need greater incentives to work. Costly programs, such as paying able-bodied people not to work, are addictive disincentives. By undermining people’s will to work, our government has created a culture of dependency and hopelessness. This is most unfair to vulnerable citizens who suffer even as we say they are receiving ‘benefits.’” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

- **Koch: “By Undermining People’s Will To Work, Our Government Has Created A Culture Of Dependency And Hopelessness.”** According to an opinion by Charles Koch for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Finally, we need greater incentives to work. Costly programs, such as paying able-bodied people not to work, are addictive disincentives. By undermining people’s will to work, our government has created a culture of dependency and hopelessness. This is most unfair to vulnerable citizens who suffer even as we say they are receiving ‘benefits.’” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]
- **Koch: Welfare Is “Most Unfair To Vulnerable Citizens Who Suffer Even As We Say They Are Receiving ‘Benefits.’”** According To An Opinion By Charles Koch For The Reno Gazette-Journal, “Finally, We Need Greater Incentives To Work. Costly programs, such as paying able-bodied people not to work, are addictive disincentives. By undermining people’s will to work, our government has created a culture of dependency and hopelessness. This is most unfair to vulnerable citizens who suffer even as we say they are receiving ‘benefits.’” [Charles Koch – Reno Gazette Journal, [8/9/14](#)]

KOCH ELECTORAL ACTIVITY IN NEVADA

Opposition to Sen. Harry Reid

AFP Declined To State Whether Adelson Has Contributed To AFP In 2014 Or For A 2016 Challenge To Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. According to Politico, “In GOP finance circles, some wonder if Adelson, who spent as much as \$150 million trying to elect Republicans in 2012, will support a challenge to [Senate Majority Leader Harry] Reid, either through the Koch network or otherwise. Adelson attended his first Koch donor seminar in 2012. And in March, Phillips made his first foray to an annual Republican Jewish Coalition conference at Adelson’s Venetian Resort Hotel Casino on the Vegas Strip, where all manner of leading GOP operatives and politicians clamored to butter up Adelson. Neither AFP nor Adelson’s political shop would discuss whether Adelson has given to AFP in 2014 or was predisposed to funding a 2016 challenge to Reid.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

AFP-Nevada Encouraged Activists To Attend Its August National Organizing Summit Because It Is “The Last Thing Sen. Reid Wants You To Do.” According to Politico, “Nevada’s AFP chapter is encouraging activists to attend the group’s national organizing summit later this month in Dallas, boasting it’s ‘the last thing Sen. Reid wants you to do,’ while predicting the skills volunteers will learn will allow them to more ‘effectively anger’ Reid.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

AFP’s Chief Technology Officer Is A Former Sheldon Adelson Employee Who Ran AFP-Nevada’s Operations During Reid’s Last Reelection Race. According to Politico, “Nevada performs well in those metrics, AFP’s chief technology officer Adam Stryker said after the canvassers hit the road. A dapper 34-year old Nevada resident — and former [Sheldon] Adelson employee — who ran AFP’s operations in the state during Reid’s last reelection race, Stryker said the senator has let down his constituents.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

Phillips On AFP’s Plans To Possibly Single Sen. Harry Reid Out Ahead Of His Reelection: “I Suspect We’ll Continue” To Be Aggressive In Nevada And “I’ll Leave It At That.” According to an interview with AFP President Tim Phillips in the National Journal, “[National Journal:] Sen. Harry Reid, as much as anyone, really singled out Americans for Prosperity and the Kochs in 2013 and 2014. Do you have any particular plans to single him out ahead of his reelection? [Phillips:] AFP has had an aggressive chapter in Nevada now since early 2010, involved in issues and holding legislative leaders accountable. I suspect we’ll continue doing that in Nevada, and I’ll leave it at that. It’ll be interesting to see if he—well, I’ll leave it at that.” [National Journal, [3/15/15](#)]

CVA Volunteers Visited Sen. Reid’s Nevada Office To “Pressure Him To Support Reforms To The Department Of Veterans Affairs” In May. According to Politico, “CVA has more than 800 active volunteers, a handful of whom paid a visit to Reid’s Nevada office in May to pressure him to support reforms to the Department of Veterans Affairs.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

CVA Spent \$50,000 On A Digital Campaign Accusing Reid Of “Putting His Loyalty To His Party And The President Ahead Of America’s Veterans” In June. According to Politico, “It [CVA] followed up by spending \$50,000 on a June digital campaign accusing Reid of ‘putting his loyalty to his party and the president ahead of America’s veterans.’” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

During The 2010 Election FreedomWorks “Targeted Elected Officials’ Town Hall Meetings.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Republican-affiliated groups have orchestrated a campaign against the Obama administration’s agenda by targeting elected officials’ town-hall meetings during the summer congressional recess. The conservative group FreedomWorks and others have posted how-to guides for those attending the meetings, complete with questions to ask.” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/21/09]

- **Hostile Town Hall Meetings Where Attendees Showed Up “Carrying Nazi Swastikas And Guns” Forced Senator Harry Reid To Hold Tele-Town Hall Meetings Rather Than In-Person Town Hall Meetings.** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The conservative group FreedomWorks and others have posted how-to guides for those attending the meetings, complete with questions to ask. The town-hall protests have since taken on a life of their own with attendees showing up at some events carrying Nazi swastika signs and guns. [...] [Sen. Harry] Reid’s office said it decided against hosting a live forum in Nevada after seeing the shouting matches that erupted across the country. ‘Had it not been for those people, maybe there could have been an opportunity to have a town hall,’ [Jon] Summers said. ‘When you have a vocal minority preventing the conversation from taking place, you undermine the purpose of a town hall.’” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/21/09]

LIBRE’s Nevada Executive Director And Southwest Region Press Secretary Have Appeared In The State’s Spanish-Language Media Promoting The Group As Foils To Reid And His Allies. According to Politico, “In addition to creating good will in the community by providing social services such as Spanish-language training for the state’s drivers exam, LIBRE has gotten some traction in Nevada’s Spanish-language media, where the group’s executive director, Daniel Garza, a former Bush administration official, and Southwest region press secretary Ronald Najarro, have appeared often promoting the group’s services or as conservative foils to liberals, including juxtaposed against Reid and his allies.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

Sharron Angle Support

AFP Supported Sharron Angle In Nevada’s 2010 Senate Race By “Tapping Massive Anonymous Donations To Push A Conservative Agenda.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “And [Senate Candidate Sharron] Angle and Republicans have been aided by third-party groups such as American Crossroads and Americans for Prosperity, tapping massive anonymous donations to push a conservative agenda. [Las Vegas Sun, 10/29/10]

During The 2010 Nevada Senate Race FreedomWorks Endorsed Republican Candidate Sharron Angle. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “[Senate candidate Sharron] Angle received yet another endorsement Thursday, from FreedomWorks, a conservative group with 4,455 members in Nevada.” [Las Vegas Sun, 6/4/10]

Sharron Angle Served As A Policy Fellow For The Nevada Policy Research Institute. According to an opinion by Sharron Angle for the Elko Daily Free Press, “Former Assemblywoman Sharron Angle is the chairman of the Third Tuesday Coalition and a policy fellow of the Nevada Policy Research Institute.” [Sharron Angle – Elko Daily Free Press, 6/25/07]

NPRI’s Andy Matthews Was Married To A Spokeswoman For Sharron Angle. According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “‘The intention may be good but what you are often times going to see is it is going to distort the market,’ said Andy Matthews, a spokesman for the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a fiscally conservative group in Las Vegas. Matthews is married to an Angle spokeswoman.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 9/30/10]

Joe Heck Support

Anti-Tax Groups Such As FreedomWorks/Citizens For A Sound Economy Set Their “General-Election Sights Set On State Legislators’ Or Governors’ Races” In Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, And Oregon. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts’ publication Stateline, “National anti-tax groups hope to flex their political might in the Nov. 2 elections with the same muscle they showed in state primaries in which they helped to upend several Republicans legislators who voted for tax hikes. Washington, D.C.-based groups such as Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), Club for Growth and FreedomWorks/Citizens for a Sound Economy zeroed in on several primaries, targeting Republican legislators in Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon and Wisconsin who reneged on their pledge not to raise taxes. Now anti-tax activists have their general-election sights set on state legislators’ or governors’ races in Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina and West Virginia.” [Stateline, [10/28/04](#)]

- **Anti-Tax Groups Like CSE Helped “Republican Physician Joe Heck Beat GOP Sen. Ann O’Connell.”** According to the Pew Charitable Trusts’ publication Stateline, “Here’s a sampling of the state lawmakers who suffered defeats in primaries after attacks by anti-tax groups earlier this year: [...] Nevada: Sen. Ray Rawson (R), who supported Republican Gov. Kenny Guinn’s 2003 tax increase, lost to state Rep. Bob Beers (R), an anti-tax pledge signer. Republican Jason Geddes, one of five Assembly Republicans to vote for the tax increase, was defeated by GOP businessman Brooks Holcomb, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported. Republican physician Joe Heck beat GOP Sen. Ann O’Connell by portraying her as an advocate of higher taxes even though she had a reputation as a fiscal conservative.” [Stateline, [10/28/04](#)]

Rep. Joe Heck Received \$30,000 From Koch Industries From 2011-2014. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Koch Industries contributed \$30,000 to Joe Heck from 2011-2014. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [7/6/15](#)]

Politico: Joe Heck “Is Considered Among The Koch Favorites” To Challenge Harry Reid In 2016. According to Politico, “Americans for Prosperity’s Nevada chapter has really been filling a void in terms of conservative grass-roots activism in Nevada,” said Grant Hewitt, a Nevada GOP consultant. Hewitt in 2010 ran the campaign of Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.), who has benefited from AFP ads this year and is considered among the Koch favorites to challenge Reid in 2016. AFP, according to Hewitt, has ‘made an incredible effort at volunteer recruitment and voter contact. ... it sure looks like they’re building for something bigger, and you have to figure Reid is high on their list.” [Politico, [8/19/14](#)]

AFP Launched A \$1.7 Million Ad Campaign, Part Of Which Went To Ads Applauding Rep. Joe Heck For Opposing Obamacare. According to The Hill, “The conservative group Americans for Prosperity on Thursday launched a \$1.7 million ad campaign encompassing four House candidates running in competitive districts. The ads hit two Democrats for their support of ObamaCare: Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz.) and Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.). The campaign also applauds two vulnerable Republicans — Rep. Joe Heck (Nev.) and Dan Benishek (Mich.) — for opposing the law.” [The Hill, [11/7/13](#)]

AFP Spent \$200,000 On A “TV Ad Praising U.S. Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev.” For “Opposing President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act.” According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “Last week, Americans for Prosperity launched its second TV ad praising U.S. Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., who is running for his third term. [...] The 30-second commercial thanks Heck for opposing President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. The ad is running for two weeks at a cost of about \$200,000, according to an insider.” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 3/10/14]

Las Vegas Sun: “The Koch Brothers... Have... Kicked Heck A Few Thousand Dollars.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “The big Republican guns have already begun to pour their support into [Joe] Heck’s campaign: Sheldon Adelson, the Koch Brothers, Sen. Dean Heller, House Speaker John Boehner and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, among other donors, have all kicked Heck a few thousand dollars either directly from their own campaign funds or from their political action committees.” [Las Vegas Sun, 7/16/13]

AFP Congressional Scorecard: Rep. Joe Heck – 100% [Americansforprosperity.org, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Rep. Joe Heck Was A Signatory On Americans For Prosperity’s Taxpayer Protection Pledge. [votesmart.org, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Truckee Meadows Community College Political Science Professor Fred Lokken: “You Know Already That The Koch Brothers And Others Have Indicated They Will Dump Money (In Support Of Heck).” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “Fred Lokken, a political science professor at Truckee Meadows Community College, agreed that outside PAC money will help [Joe] Heck more than [Catherine] Cortez Masto. ‘You know already that the Koch brothers and others have indicated they they will dump money (in support of Heck),’ Lokken said.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, [7/10/15](#)]

JOE HECK ATTACKED FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

Rep. Crescent Hardy Proposed An Amendment To The Interior Department Spending Bill Which Would Have Prevented “President Obama From Creating New National Monuments... Across Seven Western States.” According to MSNBC, “When it comes to protecting America the beautiful, Republicans and a 10-gallon hat of conservative business interests tend to think they know best. Now, in a fight for control of our purple mountain majesties, they’re trying to prove it. Nevada congressman Crescent [*sic*] Hardy fired the latest shot on Tuesday, adding an amendment to a must-pass bill to fund

the Department of the Interior. The action would prevent President Obama from creating new national monuments—cordoned off from development—across seven Western states. A vote is expected by the end of the week.” [MSNBC, [7/8/15](#)]

- **The Hardy Amendment Passed The House 222-206 On July 8, 2015.** [clerk.house.gov, [7/8/15](#)]
- **Rep. Joe Heck Voted For The Amendment.** [clerk.house.gov, [7/8/15](#)]

Joe Heck “Joined With... Crescent Hardy... To Introduce The Nevada Land Sovereignty Act Of 2015.” According to a press release from Representative Joe Heck, “Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) today joined with United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressmen Mark Amodei (NV-02) and Crescent Hardy (NV-04) to introduce the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act of 2015. The legislation prevents the threat of executive action designating or expanding national monuments without Congressional approval or local support.” [Rep. Joe Heck Press Release, [1/22/15](#)]

Heck Press Release: “The Legislation Prevents The Threat Of Executive Action Designating Or Expanding National Monuments Without Congressional Approval Or Local Support.” According to a press release from Representative Joe Heck, “Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) today joined with United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressmen Mark Amodei (NV-02) and Crescent Hardy (NV-04) to introduce the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act of 2015. The legislation prevents the threat of executive action designating or expanding national monuments without Congressional approval or local support.” [Rep. Joe Heck Press Release, [1/22/15](#)]

Crescent Hardy Support

Rep. Crescent Hardy Collected \$5,000 From Koch Industries. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, “[Crescent] Hardy also collected \$165,400 from political action committees, about 56 percent of his total fundraising. His PAC contributors included Caesars Entertainment Corp. (\$5,000); Barrick Gold Corp. (\$7,500), and Koch Industries (\$5,000).” [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 4/18/15]

- **Hardy’s First Piece Of Legislation Was Aimed At Limiting “How Much New Land” The Federal Government Could Acquire.** According to the Las Vegas Sun, “For his first piece of legislation as a member of Congress, Rep. Crescent Hardy is taking on the federal government. The Nevada Republican introduced a bill today to limit how much new land the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture can acquire, while trying to help reduce the national debt. If it became law, the LAND Act would prohibit both departments from buying land that adds to their total holdings in any year the federal budget is not balanced. The goal is to keep the federal government from spending taxpayer dollars to expand its land holdings in states like Nevada, said Hardy, who was elected in November to represent North Las Vegas and central, rural Nevada.” [Las Vegas Sun, [3/18/15](#)]

AFP Congressional Scorecard: Rep. Crescent Hardy – 100% [Americansforprosperity.org, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Rep. Crescent Hardy Was A Signatory On Americans For Prosperity’s Taxpayer Protection Pledge. [votesmart.org, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

ALC Praised The Creation Of The Congressional Federal Land Action Group, Including Rep. Crescent Hardy. According to a blog post from the American Lands Council, “We want to make you aware of an effort by Utah Reps. Stewart and Bishop to help further the Transfer of Public Lands. We will keep you informed as to the progress of this group and their efforts. [...] Other members of the Group include Representatives Mark Amodei (R-Nev), Diane Black (R-Tenn), Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Crescent Hardy (R-Nev), and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). Please contact your elected officials and let them know that you support the Transfer of Public Lands.” [ALC, [5/6/15](#)]

- **ALC Promoted The Federal Land Action Group On Facebook.** [American Lands Council – Facebook, [4/28/15](#)]

ALC Pointed To Rep. Crescent Hardy’s LAND Act. [ALC’s In The News, [3/25/15](#)]

HARDY ATTACKED FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

Rep. Crescent Hardy Proposed An Amendment To The Interior Department Spending Bill Which Would Have Prevented “President Obama From Creating New National Monuments... Across Seven Western States.” According to MSNBC, “When it comes to protecting America the beautiful, Republicans and a 10-gallon hat of conservative business interests tend to think they know best. Now, in a fight for control of our purple mountain majesties, they’re trying to prove it. Nevada congressman Crescent [*sic*] Hardy fired the latest shot on Tuesday, adding an amendment to a must-pass bill to fund the Department of the Interior. The action would prevent President Obama from creating new national monuments—cordoned off from development—across seven Western states. A vote is expected by the end of the week.” [MSNBC, [7/8/15](#)]

- **The Hardy Amendment Passed The House 222-206 On July 8, 2015.** [clerk.house.gov, [7/8/15](#)]

Rep. Crescent Hardy Tweet: “The Feds Already Control Too Much #Nevada Land. Taking More By Executive Order Is Wrong.” [Rep. Crescent Hardy – Twitter, [7/8/15](#)]

Joe Heck “Joined With... Crescent Hardy... To Introduce The Nevada Land Sovereignty Act Of 2015.” According to a press release from Representative Joe Heck, “Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) today joined with United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressmen Mark Amodei (NV-02) and Crescent Hardy (NV-04) to introduce the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act of 2015. The legislation prevents the threat of executive action designating or expanding national monuments without Congressional approval or local support.” [Rep. Joe Heck Press Release, [1/22/15](#)]

Heck Press Release: “The Legislation Prevents The Threat Of Executive Action Designating Or Expanding National Monuments Without Congressional Approval Or Local Support.” According to a press release from Representative Joe Heck, “Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) today joined with United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressmen Mark Amodei (NV-02) and Crescent Hardy (NV-04) to introduce the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act of 2015. The legislation prevents the threat of executive action designating or expanding national monuments without Congressional approval or local support.” [Rep. Joe Heck Press Release, [1/22/15](#)]

Local Candidate Support & Opposition

AFP Targeted Two Nevada State Senators With Direct Mailers During The 2010 Election. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “A national nonprofit organization that is a major benefactor of the Tea Party movement is also weighing in on the election of Nevada legislators, highlighting that the stakes of this election go beyond the U.S. Senate seat. Americans for Prosperity, which is funded by billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch, has sent mailers attacking two Democratic state Senate candidates.” [Las Vegas Sun, 10/24/10]

The Koch Funded Americans For Prosperity “Sent Mailers Attacking Two Democratic State Senate Candidates” In Nevada. According to the Associated Press, “The Las Vegas Sun reports Americans for Prosperity has sent mailers attacking two Democratic state Senate candidates. Americans for Prosperity is funded by billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch.” [Associated Press, 10/24/10]

AFP Nevada Made The “Strange Decision” To Fund Mailers Opposing A Democratic Assemblyman Whose Race “Was In No Way Competitive.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “Also in the primary, AFP Nevada made the somewhat strange decision to fund mailers opposing Democratic Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson’s bid for the state Senate. Atkinson is known as a fairly liberal Democrat who has sided with tax increases and protecting public employee pay and benefits. But his race was in no way competitive, giving the impression that AFP was simply throwing dollars at a politician it didn’t like for the sake of throwing dollars at him.” [Las Vegas Sun, 6/17/12]

AFP Paid For Mail “Targeting Democratic State Senate Candidate Sheila Leslie.” According to the Associated Press, “A Republican advocacy group is targeting Democratic state Senate candidate Sheila Leslie in a mailer that takes her to task for co-sponsoring a 2011 bill to license fire performers. [...] The flyer paid for by Americans for Prosperity shows a bejeweled, svelte-looking Leslie twirling fire. A headline reads, ‘With the Nevada Economy Burning, Does Sheila Leslie have your best interests in mind?’” [Associated Press, 10/22/12]

The Koch-Funded Republican Attorneys General Association Attacked Secretary Of State Ross Miller During The 2014 Campaign. According to the Las Vegas Sun, “[Adam] Laxalt supporters paint [Ross] Miller as a liberal politician who’s personally benefitted from political office. The Republican Attorneys General Association have targeted Miller for taking \$75,000 worth of gifts, which include free flights and entertainment, while in office. The association — backed by Koch

Industries, Exxon Mobil, the National Rifle Association and others — has pumped at least \$3 million into the race.” [Las Vegas Sun, 10/30/14]

Las Vegas Citylife’s Hugh Jackson: “Nevada’s Greatest Loss On Election Night Was Reno Democratic State Sen. Shelia Leslie, Who Was Defeated By... A Coalition Of Outside Interests, Including The Koch Brothers.” According to an opinion by Hugh Jackson for Las Vegas Citylife, “Nevada’s greatest loss on election night was Reno Democratic state Sen. Sheila Leslie, who was defeated by Republican Greg Brower and a coalition of outside interests, including the Koch Brothers and transnational mining conglomerates. Leslie began the year in a safe Democratic district and wasn’t up for election until 2014. But seeing there was a chance the Republicans might gain control of the Senate, she resigned from her safe seat to challenge Brower, also a Republican, in a district where party registration was much more evenly matched.” [Hugh Jackson - Las Vegas Citylife, 11/15/12]

The 60 Plus Association Accused Sen. Dean Heller Of “Teaming Up With Barack Obama To Take Over The Mortgage Industry.” According to the Reno Gazette-Journal, “IT’S NO SECRET that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is involved in a feud with the conservative, fabulously wealthy billionaire Koch brothers, Charles and David. Now, Nevada’s junior senator - Republican Dean Heller - is a target of a conservative seniors group with ties to the Koch brothers. The 60 Plus Association is urging Heller and other bipartisan members of the Senate Banking Committee not to ‘bring Obamacare to the mortgage industry.’ The 60 Plus Association is concerned that changes to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac being considered by Congress could hurt seniors whose investments include bonds sold through these mortgage giants. The group is running TV ads in Nevada, saying that ‘Dean Heller is teaming up with Barack Obama to take over the mortgage industry.’ That’s a stretch for Nevadans - Heller and Obama ‘teaming up.’ Other members of the Banking Committee are getting similar pressure in their home states.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/6/14]

IMPACT OF KOCHS’ NATIONAL ISSUE ADVOCACY ON NEVADA

Medicare, Medicaid & Social Security

Americans for Prosperity Supported Ryan Budgets that Would Voucherize Medicare

2011

2011: AFP Backed FY 2012 Ryan Budget, Which Replaced Medicare With A Premium Support Plan. According to AFP’s congressional scorecard for the 112th Congress, AFP took a “yes” position the House vote on House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s (R-WI) proposed budget resolution covering fiscal years 2012 to 2021 which included a proposal to replace Medicare with a premium support plan. According to the Congressional Research Service, “Under the new system, Medicare would pay a portion of the beneficiaries’ premiums, i.e., provide ‘premium support.’ The payments would be adjusted for age, health status, and income and would be paid directly by the government to the insurance plan selected by the Medicare beneficiary. In addition, plans with healthier enrollees, would be required to help subsidize plans with less healthy enrollees.” The vote was 2011 House vote 277. [AFP Scorecard for the 112th Congress, [2/1/13](#); CRS Report #R41767, [4/13/11](#)]

- **Wall Street Journal: Ryan Plan “Would Essentially End Medicare.”** According to the Wall Street Journal, “Republicans will present this week a 2012 budget proposal that would cut more than \$4 trillion from federal spending projected over the next decade and transform the Medicare health program for the elderly, a move that will dramatically reshape the budget debate in Washington. [...] The plan would essentially end Medicare, which now pays most of the health-care bills for 48 million elderly and disabled Americans, as a program that directly pays those bills. Mr. Ryan and other conservatives say this is necessary because of the program’s soaring costs.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/4/11](#)]
- **Ryan’s Budget Eliminated Traditional Medicare And Created A Medicare Exchange On Which Seniors Could Purchase Private Plans.** According to the Congressional Research Service, “Individuals who become eligible (based either on age or disability) for Medicare in 2022 and later years would not be able to enroll in the current Medicare

program. Instead, they would be given the option of enrolling in a private insurance plan through a newly established Medicare exchange.” [CRS Report #R41767, [4/13/11](#)]

2012

2012: AFP Backed FY 2013 Ryan Budget, Which Proposed Raising The Medicare Eligibility Age To 67 By 2034.

According to AFP’s congressional scorecard for the 112th Congress, AFP took a “yes” position on the House vote on House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s (R-WI) proposed budget resolution covering fiscal years 2013 to 2022 which included a proposal to increase the Medicare eligibility age to 67 by 2034. According to the Congressional Research Service, “The budget proposal would gradually increase the Medicare eligibility age to 67. Beginning in 2023, the age of eligibility for Medicare would increase by two months each year until it reached 67 in 2034.” The vote was 2012 House vote 151. [AFP Scorecard for the 112th Congress, [2/1/13](#); CRS Report #R42441, [3/29/12](#)]

- **CBPP: Increasing Medicare Eligibility Age Would Leave Many 65- And 66-Year-Olds Uninsured.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “This means 65- and 66-year-olds would have neither Medicare nor access to health insurance exchanges in which they could buy coverage at an affordable price and receive subsidies to help them secure coverage if their incomes are low. This change would put many more 65- and 66-year-olds who don’t have employer coverage into the individual insurance market, where the premiums charged to people in this age group tend to be extremely high — thereby leaving many of them uninsured.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/20/12](#)]
- **Raising The Medicare Eligibility Age To 67 Would Have Resulted In \$3.7 Billion In Increased Out-Of-Pocket Costs To Seniors Aged 65 And 66.** According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, “In the aggregate, raising the age of eligibility to 67 in 2014 is projected to result in an estimated net increase of \$3.7 billion in out of -pocket costs for those ages 65 and 66 who would otherwise have been covered by Medicare. [Kaiser Family Foundation, [7/11](#)]
- **Costs To Employers Would Increase By \$4.5 Billion And Costs To States By \$700 Million.** According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, “costs to employers are projected to increase by \$4.5 billion in 2014 and costs to states are expected to increase by \$0.7 billion.” [Kaiser Family Foundation, [7/11](#)]
- **Increasing The Medicare Eligibility Age Would Raise The Costs Of Healthcare Across The Economy.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “[R]aising Medicare’s eligibility age would not only fail to constrain health care costs across the economy; it would raise them. Medicare provides health coverage more cheaply than private health insurance plans because it has lower administrative costs and pays less to providers. Raising the Medicare age would shift costs to most of the 65- and 66-year olds who would lose Medicare coverage, to remaining Medicare beneficiaries, to employers that provide coverage for their retirees, and to states. These cost increases would, in total, more than offset the savings to the federal government.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/28/12](#)]

Koenig: Nevadans Should Urge Their Representatives To Vote To Preserve The Budget Control Act. According to an opinion by Freedom Partners senior policy adviser, Andy Koenig, for the Reno Gazette-Journal, “In the coming months, Nevada’s representatives in Congress will debate federal spending for fiscal year 2016. At stake are the modest budget restraints that bipartisan majorities passed in 2011. Four years ago, both parties agreed to pass the Budget Control Act, which raised the debt limit in exchange for modest spending limits. This law is one of the few bright spots of the Obama presidency. But that agreement may disappear. Representatives on both sides of the aisle are already claiming that the BCA will lead to ‘drastic cuts,’ even though Washington will already spend more in 2015 than last year. It’s up to you to stop them from breaking their promises.” [Andy Koenig – Reno Gazette-Journal, [4/13/15](#)]

A Kaiser Family Foundation Study on Ryan Plan’s Effects For Medicare Beneficiaries Found That Nevada Would Be Significantly Affected By The Plan, With Additional Premiums Exceeding \$100 A Month

A Kaiser Family Foundation Study Was Based On Paul Ryan’s Plan. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, “The analysis does not attempt to model any specific proposal, but is generally based on an approach included in House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan’s fiscal year 2013 budget plan, the proposal Chairman Ryan co-sponsored with Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, and; in the plan put forward by former Senator Pete Domenici and Dr. Alice Rivlin. In the first two proposals, people who are at least 55 years old, including current beneficiaries, would be exempt from the new system. Republican presidential nominee Gov. Mitt Romney has supported a premium-support system along these lines.” [Kaiser Family Foundation, [9/30/12](#)]

Kaiser Study: “Half Or More Of Beneficiaries In... Nevada... Would Be Subject To Additional Monthly Premiums Of \$100 Or More, If They Remained In The Same Plan.” According to a study from the Kaiser Family Foundation, “Half or more of beneficiaries in Florida (77%), Nevada (50%), and New Jersey (57%) would be subject to additional monthly premiums of \$100 or more, if they remained in the same plan (Exhibit ES.2).” [Kaiser Family Foundation, [9/30/12](#)]

Clark County, Nevada, With 229,992 Medicare Enrollees Would See Some Of The Highest Premium Increases In The Nation, Averaging \$113 A Month. [Kaiser Family Foundation, [9/30/12](#)]