

KOCHS VS. THE POPE

Ever since Pope Francis signaled that he would be issuing an encyclical, or papal teaching, definitively stating that climate change is man-made and calling for swift action, the Koch brothers' network has been trying to get ahead of the narrative. CNN described the Koch-funded Heartland Institute as "the headquarters for the U.S.-based opposition to Pope Francis' climate change plans." Heartland "churned out podcasts, videos, and white papers, and recently arranged a trip to Rome -- all in an effort to build opposition to the pope's environmental message."

Heartland argued that Pope Francis was "out of his element" and was being misled by UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon, who "violat[e] the Eighth Commandment" by "bear[ing] false witness" on climate data. But "the pope's closest adviser" vehemently disagreed; Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga "slammed climate-change skeptics, blaming capitalist motivations from 'movements in the United States' for opposing the Catholic Church leader's upcoming environmental letter."

Despite their protestations, the Kochs' philosophy is not "the least bit consistent" with the Catholic Church's teachings on social justice. The Koch network's advocacy has gone against statements by the pope and other leaders in the church not just on climate change, but also on livable wages, access to affordable health care, and fair labor issues. Michael Sean Winters of the National Catholic Reporter wrote, "To believe that the teachings of the church can be reconciled with the Koch brothers' agenda is Alice in Wonderland-quality foolishness."

Pope Francis Signaled That He Planned To Release An Encyclical, Or Papal Teaching, Calling For "Swift Action On Climate Change"

Politico: "Pope Francis Is Expected To Issue His Encyclical Letter On The Environment This Year." According to Politico, "Pope Francis is expected to issue his encyclical letter on the environment this year, and [Cardinal Oscar] Rodríguez said many within and outside of the Catholic Church are looking forward to it 'with hope.' The letter also comes ahead of the United Nations' meeting on climate change in Paris this December." [Politico, [5/12/15](#)]

Washington Post: The Encyclical "May Be The Most Authoritative Papal Teaching Ever On The Environment." According to the Washington Post, "[Pope] Francis is putting the final touches on what may be the most authoritative papal teaching ever on the environment, a topic bound up with economics, global development and politics and thus very controversial." [Washington Post, [4/27/15](#)]

Washington Post: "Even Though No One Outside Francis's Inner Circle Has Seen The Document... It's Already Being Lambasted By Some Religious And Political Conservatives." According to the Washington Post, "Even though no one outside Francis's inner circle has seen the document — called an encyclical — it's already being lambasted by some religious and political conservatives and held up by environmentalists as a potential turning point in their movement." [Washington Post, [4/27/15](#)]

Washington Post: The Encyclical Was "Being Timed... To Influence... A Major U.N. Summit In December On Climate Change." According to the Washington Post, "The encyclical is expected to be published in early summer and, church historians say, represents the first time in memory that such an important papal writing is being timed by a pope to influence a civil process — in this case, a major U.N. summit in December on climate change." [Washington Post, [4/27/15](#)]

Washington Post: "Most Pope-Watchers Think Francis Will Raise Urgent Concerns About Global Warming And Highlight Human Impact On Climate Change." According to the Washington Post, "Based on remarks and writings by the pope and his close advisers, most pope-watchers think Francis will raise urgent concerns about global warming and highlight human impact on climate change. More broadly, they expect Francis to frame with new emphasis the Earth's health as a core Catholic social justice concern, up there with topics such as poverty and abortion." [Washington Post, [4/27/15](#)]

A DRAFT OF THE ENCYCLICAL LEAKED, WITH POPE FRANCIS REINFORCING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAN-MADE

Reuters Headline: "Pope Draft Encyclical Calls For Swift Action On Climate Change." [Reuters via Yahoo News, [6/16/15](#)]

Reuters: “The World Could See The Destruction Of Entire Ecosystems This Century Without Urgent Action On Climate Change, Pope Francis Says In A Draft Of His Keenly Awaited Encyclical On The Environment.” According to Reuters, “The world could see the destruction of entire ecosystems this century without urgent action on climate change, Pope Francis says in a draft of his keenly awaited encyclical on the environment.” [Reuters via Yahoo News, [6/16/15](#)]

Reuters: “The Pope Again Backs Scientists Who Say Global Warming Is Mostly Man-Made And That Developed Countries Have A Particular Responsibility To Stem A Trend That Will Hurt The Poor The Most.” According to Reuters, “In the Italian version of the 192-page document, posted on Monday by the weekly magazine l'Espresso, the pope again backs scientists who say global warming is mostly man-made and that developed countries have a particular responsibility to stem a trend that will hurt the poor the most.” [Reuters via Yahoo News, [6/16/15](#)]

- **Reuters: “That Position Has Been Contested By Conservatives, Particularly In The United States, Who Have Excoriated The First Pontiff From Latin America For Deploying Scientific Arguments.”** According to Reuters, “That position has been contested by conservatives, particularly in the United States, who have excoriated the first pontiff from Latin America for deploying scientific arguments.” [Reuters via Yahoo News, [6/16/15](#)]

University of St. Thomas Catholicism Expert Charles Reid Jr.: Pope Francis’s Words On The Environment Are “Not A Break With What Other Popes Have Done...It’s Not A Radical Departure.” According to Salon, “I called up Charles Reid Jr., an expert on Catholicism and canon law at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota who blogs at the Huffington Post, to discuss the pope’s upcoming encyclical and the chilly reception he’s receiving from GOP Catholics. Our conversation has been lightly edited for clarity.[...] ‘Pope Benedict addressed climate change, though never in an encyclical. I mean this is not ... it’s a development, it’s a furtherance, it’s a growth of papal teaching, but it’s not a break with what other popes have done. Pope Benedict XVI was saying similar things, but in a typically more soft-spoken manner. So, Pope Francis is stating these things more emphatically, but it’s not a radical departure.’” [Salon, [6/5/15](#)]

The Heartland Institute Has Waged A Campaign To Persuade The Pope That “There Is No Global Warming Crisis”

HEARTLAND SERVED AS THE “HEADQUARTERS FOR U.S.-BASED OPPOSITION TO POPE FRANCIS’ CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS.”

Guardian: The Heartland Institute, Which Received Funding From “The Foundation Controlled By Conservative Activist Charles Koch Is Trying To Persuade The Vatican That “There Is No Global Warming Crisis.” According to the Guardian, “A US activist group that has received funding from energy companies and the foundation controlled by conservative activist Charles Koch is trying to persuade the Vatican that ‘there is no global warming crisis’ ahead of an environmental statement by Pope Francis this summer that is expected to call for strong action to combat climate change. The Heartland Institute, a Chicago-based conservative thinktank that seeks to discredit established science on climate change, said it was sending a team of climate scientists to Rome ‘to inform Pope Francis of the truth about climate science’.” [Guardian, [2/24/15](#)]

CNN: “If There Were A Headquarters For U.S.-Based Opposition To Pope Francis’ Climate Change Plans, It Would Be Chicago. That’s The Home Of The Heartland Institute.” According to CNN, “If there were a headquarters for U.S.-based opposition to Pope Francis’ climate change plans, it would be Chicago. That’s the home of the Heartland Institute, a libertarian public policy think tank that has organized conferences, churned out podcasts, videos, and white papers, and recently arranged a trip to Rome -- all in an effort to build opposition to the pope’s environmental message.” [CNN Money, [6/17/15](#)]

CNN: The Heartland Institute “Organized Conferences, Churned Out Podcasts, Videos And White Papers, And Recently Arranged A Trip To Rome... To Build Opposition To The Pope’s Environmental Message.” According to CNN, “That’s the home of the Heartland Institute, a libertarian public policy think tank that has organized conferences, churned out podcasts, videos, and white papers, and recently arranged a trip to Rome -- all in an effort to build opposition to the pope’s environmental message.” [CNN Money, [6/17/15](#)]

Activities And Events Aimed At Attacking Francis’ Encyclical

Heartland Said It Is Sending A Team Of Scientists To Rome “To Inform Pope Francis Of The Truth About Climate Science.” According to the Guardian, “A US activist group that has received funding from energy companies and the foundation controlled by conservative activist Charles Koch is trying to persuade the Vatican that ‘there is no global warming crisis’ ahead of an environmental statement by Pope Francis this summer that is expected to call for strong action to combat climate change. The Heartland Institute, a Chicago-based conservative thinktank that seeks to discredit established science on climate change, said it was sending a team of climate scientists to Rome ‘to inform Pope Francis of the truth about climate science.’” [Guardian, [2/24/15](#)]

At A Heartland Conference, Lord Christopher Monckton Compared Pope Francis’s Acceptance Of Climate Science To Pope Urban VIII, Who Arrested Galileo For Claiming The Earth Revolved Around The Sun. According to CNN, “Countering the pope: Last week, Heartland, which has an annual budget of \$6 million and about 30 staffers, organized its Tenth International Conference on Climate Change, a two-day seminar in Washington, D.C., focused on repudiating the view that climate change is caused by man. The gathering featured speeches by Senator Jim Inhofe and Britain's Lord Christopher Monckton, both well-known climate change skeptics and critics of Francis' entry into the hotly debated topic. During his address, Monckton explained what can happen when religious leaders wade into matters of science by citing Pope Urban VIII, who in the 17th century put Galileo under house arrest for his theory that the Earth and other planets revolve around the sun.” [CNN Money, [6/17/15](#)]

Mother Jones’ Kevin Drum: Heartland Is “Encouraging Its Followers To Send Letters And Emails To The Pope And Spread The Gospel Of Global Warming Denial To Their Local Church Officials.” According to an opinion by columnist Kevin Drum for Mother Jones, “Heartland is also encouraging its followers to send letters and emails to the pope and to spread the gospel of global warming denial to their local church officials. ‘Talk to your minister, priest, or spiritual leader,’ advises Heartland's website. ‘Tell him or her you've studied the global warming issue and believe Pope Francis is being misled about the science and economics of the issue.’” [Kevin Drum – Mother Jones, [4/27/15](#)]

Statements From Heartland Officials Attacking Pope Francis’ Encyclical And Climate Science

CNN: “Leaders Of Heartland Told CNNMoney That They Reject The Pontiff’s Reported Claim That Human Activities Cause Global Warming, Believe That He Should Stay Out Of The Issue, And Charged Francis Has Been Misled By Leftist Scientists And Activists.” According to CNN, “Ahead of the release of the pope's encyclical Thursday, leaders of Heartland told CNNMoney that they reject the pontiff's reported claim that human activities cause global warming, believe that he should stay out of the issue, and charged Francis has been misled by leftist scientists and activists.” [CNN Money, [6/17/15](#)]

Heartland’s H. Sterling Burnett: “We Hope To See The Pope’s Encyclical Tempered Or Modified To Reflect Evidences That Disclaim Human Activities Cause Climate Change.” According to CNN, “‘We hope to see the pope's encyclical tempered or modified to reflect evidences that disclaim human activities cause climate change,’ said H. Sterling Burnett, managing editor of one of heartland's environmental newsletters.” [CNN Money, [6/17/15](#)]

Heartland’s H. Sterling Burnett American Spectator Opinion Headline: “Francis Is Out Of His Element.” [H. Sterling Burnett – American Spectator, [4/27/15](#)]

Burnett: “Those Pushing For Bans On Fossil Fuel...Think Too Many Humans Are The Environmental Problem. Many Of Them Worship The Creation, Not The Creator.” According to an opinion by the Heartland Institute’s H. Sterling Burnett for the American Spectator, “Those pushing for bans on fossil fuel use think too many humans are the environmental problem. Many of them worship the creation, not the Creator.” [H. Sterling Burnett – American Spectator, [4/27/15](#)]

Burnett: “The Same People Pushing The Pope To Join The Fight Against Climate Change Support Forcible Population Control Programs Such As Those Operating In China. That Is Not A Christian Opinion.” According to an opinion by the Heartland Institute’s H. Sterling Burnett for the American Spectator, “The same people pushing the pope to join the fight against climate change support forcible population control programs such as those operating in China. That is not a Christian position.” [H. Sterling Burnett – American Spectator, [4/27/15](#)]

Heartland: “The Apparent New Papal Position” On Climate Change Represents “The Rejection Of Judeo-Christianity’s Illustrious Tradition Of Scientific Inquiry.” According to a blog post on the Heartland Institute website,

“At the most fundamental level, too many IPCC reports and the apparent new papal position represent the rejection of Judeo-Christianity’s illustrious tradition of scientific inquiry, which has brought monumental improvements to our understanding of nature and creation – and to humanity’s once ‘nasty, brutish and short’ lives on this planet. As Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman explained, we begin with a guess about a law of nature. Then we compute the consequences that would result if our hypothesis is correct – and compare actual observations, evidence and experimental data to the predicted consequences.” [Blog.Heartland.org, [4/27/15](#)]

Heartland: If Pope Francis “Is Truly Committed To Advancing Science, The Poor And Creation, He Should Reject Climate Chaos Claims.” According to a blog post on the Heartland Institute website, “Pope Francis apparently does not share his predecessor’s view about climate change fears. However, if he is truly committed to advancing science, the poor and creation, he should reject climate chaos claims unless and until alarmists can provide solid evidence to back up their assertions and models.” [Blog.Heartland.org, [4/27/15](#)]

Heartland: UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon And Other Climate Alarmists Have “Misrepresented The Facts” And “Concocted False Data,” According to a post on the Heartland website, “If human activity posed a genuine threat to the world’s climate, then some action would be appropriate. But global warming alarmists wave off any evidence that the threat is small or even nonexistent, and they call for policies that would shut down virtually all economic activity around the world. These unnecessary policies would cause the suffering and even death of billions of people. All people of faith should rise up in opposition to such policies. Certain persons currently scheduled to speak at the workshop, including UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon and Jeffrey Sachs, director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, are outspoken advocates of the man-made global warming hypothesis. They and other climate alarmists have misrepresented the facts, concocted false data, and tried to shut down a reasonable, scientific debate on the issue of climate change. This conduct violates the Eighth Commandment: ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.’” [Heartland.org, [5/11/15](#)]

Heartland Claimed That Those Who Believed In Climate Change “Misrepresented The Facts” And “Concocted False Data” Which “Violates The Eighth Commandment.” According to the Heartland Institute, “Certain persons currently scheduled to speak at the workshop, including UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon and Jeffrey Sachs, director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, are outspoken advocates of the man-made global warming hypothesis. They and other climate alarmists have misrepresented the facts, concocted false data, and tried to shut down a reasonable, scientific debate on the issue of climate change. This conduct violates the Eighth Commandment: ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.’” [Heartland Institute, [4/29/15](#)]

CHARLES KOCH PROVIDED “SEED MONEY” FOR HEARTLAND AND HEARTLAND RECEIVED MORE THAN \$14.6 MILLION FROM KOCH-AFFILIATED GROUPS

Charles Koch Said That He Provided “Seed Money” And “Support” For A Number Of Conservative Organizations, Including The Heartland Institute. “I provided the seed money for the Institute for Justice, and support for a wide range of other market-oriented organizations including National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA), American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Pacific Research Institute, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, Fraser Institute, Reason Magazine, Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), and Heartland Institute.” [Creating A Science of Liberty, [1/11/1997](#)]

Heartland Received A Donation “Of \$25,000 In 2012 From The Charles G Koch Foundation.” According to the Guardian, “The Heartland Institute says it is a non-profit organisation that seeks to promote ‘free-market solutions’ to social and economic problems. It does not disclose its donors, but says on its website that it has received a single donation of \$25,000 in 2012 from the Charles G Koch Foundation, which was for the group’s work on health care policy. Charles Koch is the billionaire co-owner of Koch Industries, an oil refining and chemicals group, and is a major donor to Republicans causes and politicians. Heartland said contributions from oil and tobacco groups have never amounted to more than 5% of its income.” [Guardian, [2/24/15](#)]

Koch Industries Company Newsletter “Discovery” Listed The Heartland Institute As A Resource “To Learn More About Energy Balance, Climate Change And Other Energy Issues.” According to Discovery, “If you would like to learn more about energy balance, climate change and other energy issues, here are some helpful resources:

www.ncpa.org/globalwarming ,www.heartland.org, http://instituteforenergyresearch.org,
www.texaspolicy.com/publications.php?cat_level=84" [Koch Industries Discovery, [April 2008](#)]

Heartland Has Received \$40,000 From The Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation. According to Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation tax documents, the Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation gave the Heartland Institute a total of \$40,000 from 1992 to 1999 [Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation Form 990s via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

- **After The Death Of “Dedicated Philanthropist And Conservative” Claude R. Lambe, Charles Koch Took Over His Foundation.** According to the book *Creating a Private Foundation: The Essential Guide for Donors and Their Advisers*, “Claude R. Lambe, a dedicated philanthropist and conservative from Kansas who died in 1981 leaving no children did have a trustworthy friend who was and is a prominent philanthropist in his own right. The friend, industrialist Charles G. Koch, Chairman of Koch Industries, the second largest privately held company in the United States according to Forbes magazine, shared his libertarian beliefs and was a generation younger. Some twenty years after Lambe’s death, Koch, along with his wife and some business associates, continues to run Lambe’s foundation.” [Creating a Private Foundation, [2003](#)]
- **The Claude R. Lambe Foundation Shared Staff, Including President Richard Fink, With The Charles G. Koch Foundation.** According to the Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation’s 2011 Form 990 and the Charles G. Koch Foundation’s 2012 Form 990, the president of the Charles G. Koch Foundation is listed as Richard Fink who is also listed as President/Director of the Claude R. Lambe Foundation. Charles and Elizabeth Koch are also listed as directors of both foundations. [Claude R. Lambe Foundation Form 990, [2011](#); Charles G. Koch Foundation Form 990, [2012](#)]

Heartland Has Received \$632,000 From DonorsTrust. According to DonorsTrust tax documents, DonorsTrust gave the Heartland Institute a total of \$632,000 from 2007 to 2012 [DonorsTrust Form 990s via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

- **DonorsTrust Is A Conduit Through Which Anonymous Money Is Distributed To Conservative Causes.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “Donors Trust is a ‘donor advised’ fund: donors deposit money in accounts they set up and recommend where they'd like it to go. But Donors Trust controls the money and actually makes the contributions to other organizations; it cannot guarantee it will give to the original donors' preferred recipients. The arrangement provides donors with the same tax-deductibility that they would be entitled to if they gave money directly to the groups they want to assist, according to tax lawyers. But it also provides a further layer of anonymity: not even the IRS knows where a particular donor's money goes after it gets to Donors Trust. [...] Donors Trust was established in 1999, according to its website, to ‘ensure the intent of donors who are dedicated to the ideals of limited government, personal responsibility, and free enterprise.’” [OpenSecrets.org, [3/5/12](#)]
- **The Kochs “Made Significant Contributions To Donors Trust Through Their Foundation,” The Knowledge And Progress Fund, Including \$1.25 Million In 2007, \$1.25 Million In 2008, And \$2 Million In 2010.** According to an interview with sociologist Robert Brulle for PBS Frontline, “We do know that the Koch brothers have made significant contributions to Donors Trust through their foundation called the Knowledge and Progress Fund. They gave \$1.25 million in 2007, \$1.25 million in 2008, and then \$2 million in 2010 to Donors. We don’t know where it went after it goes to Donors, because it’s not necessarily a one-for-one giving.” [PBS Frontline, [10/23/12](#)]
- **DonorsTrust Has Received More Than \$4 Million From The Knowledge And Progress Fund Between 2005 And 2012.** According to the Knowledge and Progress Fund’s tax documents from 2005-2012, the Knowledge and Progress Fund gave DonorsTrust a total of \$4,240,000. [Knowledge and Progress Fund Form 990s via Conservative Transparency, accessed [10/6/14](#)]

Heartland Has Received \$13,930,544 From Donors Capital Fund. According to Donors Capital Fund tax documents, Donors Capital Fund gave the Heartland Institute a total of \$13,930,544 from 2005 to 2012 [Donors Capital Fund Form 990s via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

- **Donors Capital Fund Has Received More Than \$2.7 Million From The Knowledge And Progress Fund Between 2005 And 2012.** According to the Knowledge and Progress Fund tax documents from 2006 & 2007, the Knowledge and Progress Fund gave Donors Capital Fund a total of \$2,725,000. [Knowledge and Progress Fund Form 990s via Conservative Transparency, accessed [10/6/14](#)]

- **Donors Capital Fund Is Associated With DonorsTrust, And Deals With Clients Contributing More Than \$1 Million.** According to Donors Capital Fund’s website, “Donors Capital Fund is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3), 509(a)(3) supporting organization that is associated with DonorsTrust, a public charity and donor-advised fund formed to safeguard the charitable intent of donors who are dedicated to the ideals of limited government, personal responsibility, and free enterprise. As a rule, DonorsTrust refers clients to Donors Capital Fund if they expect to open donor-advised funds of over \$1,000,000. In turn, the Fund provides personalized philanthropic services and specialized asset management for all clients with accounts that carry balances of \$1,000,000 or more. All contributions to donor-advised funds held by Donors Capital Fund are tax deductible under Section 170 of the IRS Code.” [DonorsCapitalFund.org, accessed [3/5/13](#)]

Other Individuals And Groups In The Koch Network Attacked The Pope And Espoused Anti-Science Views On Climate Change

KOCH LOBBYIST MICHAEL MCKENNA

Republican Energy Lobbyist Michael McKenna: “For The Real Churchgoers, This Is Going To Be An Indictment Of The Pope.” According to the New York Times, “But Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and political consultant who described himself as a conservative Catholic, pointed out that there was already a backlash by conservative Catholics against the pope’s efforts on climate change and other progressive policies. ‘For practicing conservative Catholics, the folks who sit in the pews on Sunday, this is not going to be an indictment of guys like [Marco] Rubio and Jeb [Bush],’ Mr. McKenna said. ‘Those guys have already made up their minds on climate change. For the real churchgoers, this is going to be an indictment of the pope.’” [New York Times, [6/16/15](#)]

McKenna: “The Pope Is Selling A Line Of Latin American-Style Socialism... This Guy Is Not In Sync With The American Catholic Church.” According to the New York Times, “‘This pope is selling a line of Latin American-style socialism,’ he [Michael McKenna] continued. ‘This guy is not in sync with the American Catholic Church. Guys like Jeb [Bush] and [Marco] Rubio are more in line with the American Catholic Church than the pope.’” [New York Times, [6/16/15](#)]

Michael McKenna Was President Of MWR Strategies. According to a bio on the MWR Strategies website, “Mike McKenna is the President of MWR Strategies. Prior to this, he worked in senior positions in a variety of opinion research and communications companies.” [MWRStrat.com, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

Michael McKenna And MWR Strategies Lobbied On Behalf Of Koch Industries From 2008 Through The First Quarter Of 2015, For A Total Of \$580,600. According to the Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, Lobbyist Michael McKenna lobbied for firm MWR Strategies on behalf of Koch Industries every quarter from Third Quarter 2008 to First Quarter 2015, earning a total of \$580,600. [Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

- **McKenna Lobbied The House, The Senate, And The Department Of Energy For Koch Industries On Low Carbon Fuel Standards And Climate Change.** According to the Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, Lobbyist Michael McKenna lobbied the House, the Senate, and the Department of Energy for firm MWR Strategies on behalf of client Koch Industries on LCFS and Climate Change During Q1 2010. [Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, accessed [6/17/15](#)]
- **McKenna Lobbied The House And The Senate On “Financial Reform Legislation” And “Climate Change And Energy Legislation” For Koch Industries.** According to the Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, , Lobbyist Michael McKenna lobbied the House and the Senate for firm MWR Strategies on behalf of client Koch Industries on “Climate Change and Energy legislation” and “Financial Reform legislation” during Q2-4 2010. [Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

THE ACTON INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND LIBERTY

Acton Institute’s Rome Office Director Kishore Jayabalan: The Pope’s Infallibility Does Not Extend To His “Environmental Views.” According to a letter from Kishore Jayabalan, director of the Acton Institute’s Rome office, Isituto Acton, on the Acton Institute website, “As the leader of the world’s largest religion, the pope’s moral authority is second to none, which is not to say that everyone, even in the Catholic Church, agrees with what he says. It is not controversial or disrespectful to admit this fact or to say that the pope is often more admired than imitated or followed. I would further

venture that this is especially the case when the pope addresses issues not concerning matters of faith and morals, i.e. where his teaching is not considered infallible by the Church. It is one kind of problem if a Catholic disagrees with papal teaching on the Trinity or abortion; that Catholic's eternal soul would be considered at risk and all efforts would need to be made to correct his erroneous beliefs. It is an altogether different kind of problem if a Catholic disagrees with the pope on his diplomatic efforts or environmental views. Everyone should be in favor of peace between nations and care for God's creation but we differ on the best ways to approach these worthy objectives. The Church wisely respects differences of opinion on such matters." [Kishore Jayabalan Letter, [1/7/15](#)]

Jayabalan: The Pope Saying The First Draft Of His Encyclical Was Too Long And Technical “Were Encouraging Remarks For Climate-Change Skeptics Such As Me.” According to a letter from Kishore Jayabalan, director of the acton Institute's Rome office, Isituto Acton, on the Acton Institute website, “In an interview on the plane trip from South Korea last August, the pope himself said that the first draft of the encyclical was both too long and too technical, which were encouraging remarks for climate-change skeptics such as me. Some of his aides, such as Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, have been more outspoken about the need to fight climate change, while other observers are much less enthusiastic about papal forays into the area.” [Kishore Jayabalan Letter, [1/7/15](#)]

Walker: “If All Nations Suddenly Switched From Fossil Fuels To What Amounts To Unicorn And Smurf Energy” There Would Be “Profound Economic Impact And Human Suffering.” According to a blog post by Bruce Edward Walker for the Acton Institute's PowerBlog, “Such is the fervor of the climate-change cult. Never mind the profound economic impact and human suffering that would follow worldwide if all nations suddenly switched from fossil fuels to what amounts to unicorn and Smurf energy. Increased costs for energy translates into losses for industry, investors, employees and customers – and the world's poorest.”

Acton Media Director Jay Richards: “Climate Goes Up And Down All The Time, Historically, Without Of Course, Us Adding Carbon Dioxide To The Atmosphere.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “The basis of the claim is that we know that carbon dioxide, CO2 is a greenhouse gas and we know its in the atmosphere and we know that its gone up , the amount of it has gone up in the last 150 years or so . Know we're talking trace amounts, like 325 to 385 parts per million carbon dioxide, still because we know it traps heat and is a greenhouse gas the assumption is that the fact that its going up and that the temperature is going up suggests that that's the cause. Now of course correlation isn't causation and that's the problem, we know a lot of other possible causes for the warming, like the variation in the output of energy from the sun for instance. We also know that climate goes up and down all the time, historically, without of course, us adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. It's a thousand – uh, much warmer a thousand years ago than it is now for instance, during the so-called medieval warming period.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: “Scientists Are All Over The Map” On Whether Increased Levels Carbon Dioxide Caused Global Warming, “But If You Read Time Magazine Or Newsweek You Wouldn't Know That.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “So that's the assumption the problem is, not that carbon dioxide's not a greenhouse gas, its that there are so many things that affect the climate that we don't know if there are other trade-offs or feedback mechanisms that offset whatever amounts of carbon dioxide we put into the atmosphere. And that's where the debate is, a complicated scientific debate. Scientists are all over the map on that, but if you read Time Magazine or Newsweek you wouldn't know that.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: “There's No Reason To Assume That Moderate Warming Is Going To Be Bad, You Know, A Moderate Warming For Most Places Would Be A Good Thing Rather Than A Bad Thing.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “The truth of the matter is that we have to make informed decisions because of policy proposals to deal with the problem. If it was just this academic debate among a bunch of physicists and climate scientists it wouldn't matter. But when we're called to participate in things like the Kyoto Protocol which drastically increases the price of energy, we have to make an informed decision. I encourage people to keep separate issues separate. You can say yeah, the globe seems to be warming at the moment, we don't know for sure what's causing it, we may or may not be a major cause – there's no reason to assume that moderate warming is going to be bad, you know, a moderate warming for most places would be a good thing rather than a bad thing. But the thing that everyone actually agrees on is that current political proposals wouldn't make a bit of difference with respect to the warming that we're undergoing.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: If The United States Had Signed The Kyoto Protocol, It “Would Have Cost The World Wide Economy \$10- 50 Trillion.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “The Kyoto protocol, its this treaty, which if the United States had signed it, would have cost the world wide economy \$10 to

50 trillion in the next 45 years or so. So it was massively expensive, and this is actually where I think the rubber meets the road. The question isn't whether we should be good stewards of the environment, the answer to that question is absolutely, and I think that's the correct underpinning of Earth Day. On the other hand if every proposal seems to basically be empowering the federal government to conscript more of its power and centralize it in Washington, DC rather than in the hands of citizens, think people ought to look at it skeptically. Because frankly I think that's what a lot of this is about. Its about increasing political power in bodies like the federal government or the UN." [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: There Was “A Concerted Effort” By “Catastrophists – The People Who Think We’re Causing Global Warming And It’s A Catastrophe - To Bring More And More Religious People On Board.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “I’ve followed that very specifically, and there’s a concerted effort on the part of those that I would call the catastrophists – the people who think we’re causing global warming and it’s a catastrophe - to bring more and more religious people on board, especially evangelicals , precisely because they’re perceived to be more on the right side of the political spectrum.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: “Global Warming Hysteria Has Become Very Fashionable. It’s The Prestigious Position To Hold,” While My Position “Is Not Especially Popular.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “I think there are two things going on, one serious Christians believe that we should be stewards of the environment , god created us in his image to watch over and to keep this world. So that’s a solid theological conviction you can appeal to. But the other thing is that the global warming hysteria has become very fashionable. It’s the prestigious position to hold. My position, you know, is not especially popular. So you’ve got all these social pressures plus a kind of theological rational, not surprising you get people like Pat Robertson on the other side.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: Saying You Don’t Think Global Warming Is “All Bad... I Mean I Really Prefer Warmth To The Cold” At A Cocktail Party Is The “Best Way To Sort Of Get Ostracized.” According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “Absolutely, yeah, just try it, just say yea there’s evidence of global warming but I don’t think its all bad, I mean I really prefer warmth to the cold. That’s the best way to sort of get ostracized at the cocktail party. And frankly that’s what I think is relevant, you get strong social pressure to conform to an issue like this. There’s always some intellectual orthodoxy, there’s always some environmental hysteria at any time. In the 70s it was DDT and other things. Right now its global warming and the social pressure is all in one direction. And that’s why I just wish people would slow down and use their critical faculties.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Richards: Global Warming Is The Current “Environmental Hysteria,” Just Like DDT Was In The 70s. According to an interview with Acton media director Jay Richards posted on the Acton Institute website, “Absolutely, yeah, just try it, just say yea there’s evidence of global warming but I don’t think its all bad, I mean I really prefer warmth to the cold. That’s the best way to sort of get ostracized at the cocktail party. And frankly that’s what I think is relevant, you get strong social pressure to conform to an issue like this. There’s always some intellectual orthodoxy, there’s always some environmental hysteria at any time. In the 70s it was DDT and other things. Right now its global warming and the social pressure is all in one direction. And that’s why I just wish people would slow down and use their critical faculties.” [Acton.org, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

The Acton Institute Received \$3,894,959 From Koch Groups

The Acton Institute Has Received \$329,100 from DonorsTrust. According to DonorsTrust tax documents, DonorsTrust gave the Acton Institute a total of \$329,100 from 2004 to 2012. [DonorsTrust Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

The Acton Institute Has Received \$386,250 from the Charles G. Koch Foundation. According to Charles G. Koch Foundation tax documents, the Charles G. Koch Foundation gave the Acton Institute a total of \$386,250 from 1991 to 2012. [Charles G. Koch Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

The Acton Institute Received \$75,000 from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation in 2007 According to Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation tax documents, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation gave the Acton Institute \$75,000 in 2007. [Fred C. And Mary R. Koch Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

The Acton Institute Has Received \$115,000 from the Claude R. Lambe Foundation. According to Claude R. Lambe Foundation tax documents, the Claude R. Lambe Foundation gave the Acton Institute a total of \$115,000 from 1992 to 2001. [Claude R. Lambe Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

The Acton Institute Has Received \$2,989,609 from Donors Capital Fund. According to Donors Capital Fund tax documents, the Charles G. Koch Foundation gave the Acton Institute a total of \$115,000 from 2007 to 2012. [Donors Capital Fund Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Competitive Enterprise Institute's Myron Ebell On The Pope's Upcoming Encyclical On Climate Change: "I think He's Very Ill-Informed" And "Ill-Judged." According to an interview of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Myron Ebell by Guardian correspondent Suzanne Goldenberg on the Pope's upcoming encyclical on climate change "I think he's very ill-informed and he's ill-judged to be doing this." [Guardian, [6/12/15](#)]

Ebell: "The So-Called Global Warming Consensus Was Not Based On Science, But Was A Political Consensus." According to an interview of Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute on PBS Frontline, "MYRON EBELL, Competitive Enterprise Institute: 'Yes. And we did it because we believed that the consensus was phony. We believed that the so-called global warming consensus was not based on science, but was a political consensus, which included a number of scientists.'" [PBS Frontline, [10/23/12](#)]

CEI's Space Technology And Policy Analyst, Rand Simberg, Compared Climate Scientist Michael Mann To A Child Molester Because He "Molested And Tortured Data." According to a post on Union of Concerned Scientist's blog the Equation, "Competitive Enterprise Institute's space technology and policy analyst, Rand Simberg, recently wrote a blog post in which he compared Penn State climate scientist Michael Mann to former university football coach and convicted child molester Jerry Sandusky. CEI published the post on its own blog, and the National Review decided it was appropriate to pass along. Michael Mann has rightly demanded that the National Review retract the blog post and issue a public apology. The most offensive section of the CEI post, which has since been scrubbed: 'Mann could be said to be the Jerry Sandusky of climate science, except that instead of molesting children, he has molested and tortured data in the service of politicized science.'" [The Equation Blog – Union of Concerned Scientists, [7/23/12](#)]

CEI Released Two Ads In May 2006 To "Counter Global Warming Alarmism," Claiming That Climate Scientists "Are Trying To Scare Us." According to FactCheck.org, "The business-backed Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) released two ads last week to 'counter global warming alarmism.' One of the ads says research shows 'The Antarctic ice sheet is getting thicker, not thinner. . . Why are they trying to scare us?' Actually, scientists say increased snowfall in Antarctica's interior is evidence that global warming is taking place. Scientists also say that the ice sheet is melting at the ocean's edge and a recent report says it is shrinking overall." [Factcheck.org, [5/26/06](#)]

A University Of Missouri Professor Said CEI Misused A Study He Had Conducted And That The Ads Were "A Deliberate Effort To Confuse And Mislead The Public About The Global Warming Debate." According to FactCheck.org, "The ads drew a protest from a University of Missouri professor who says they are 'a deliberate effort to confuse and mislead the public about the global warming debate.' He said one of them misuses a study he published in Science magazine last year on the Antarctic ice sheet. An editor of Science also said the ads misrepresent the findings of that study as well as a second study on Greenland's glaciers." [Factcheck.org, [5/26/06](#)]

One Of The CEI Ads Called Carbon Dioxide "Essential To Life," And Failed "To Mention That Too Much CO2 Can Cause Global Temperatures To Rise." According to FactCheck.org, "The second CEI ad notes that carbon dioxide (CO2) is 'essential to life,' and says, 'they call it pollution. We call it life.' That ad fails to mention that too much CO2 can cause global temperatures to rise or that there is more of it in the atmosphere than any time during the last 420,000 years." [Factcheck.org, [5/26/06](#)]

The Competitive Enterprise Institute Received \$1,543,395 From Koch Groups

Competitive Enterprise Institute Has Received \$315,000 from the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation. According to David H. Koch Charitable Foundation tax documents, the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation gave the Competitive Enterprise Institute a total of \$315,000 from 1986 to 2000. [David H. Koch Charitable Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

Competitive Enterprise Institute Has Received \$55,779 from the Charles G. Koch Foundation. According to Charles G. Koch Foundation tax documents, the Charles G. Koch Foundation gave the Competitive Enterprise Institute a total of \$55,779 from 1988 to 2012. [Charles G. Koch Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

Competitive Enterprise Institute Has Received \$364,820 from the Claude R. Lambe Foundation. According to Claude R. Lambe Foundation tax documents, the Claude R. Lambe Foundation gave the Competitive Enterprise Institute a total of \$364,820 from 1992 to 2011. [Claude R. Lambe Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

Competitive Enterprise Institute Has Received \$100,517 from DonorsTrust. According to DonorsTrust tax documents, DonorsTrust gave the Competitive Enterprise Institute a total of \$100,517 from 2002 to 2012. [Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

Competitive Enterprise Institute Has Received \$707,279 from Donors Capital Fund. According to Donors Capital Fund tax documents, Donors Capital Foundation gave the Competitive Enterprise Institute a total of \$707,279 from 2007 to 2012. [Donors Capital Fund Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, accessed [6/17/15](#)]

THE CATO INSTITUTE

Cato Institute Center For The Study Of Science Director Paul Knappenberger: The Pope's Climate Change Encyclical "Lays Too Much Blame On The West." According to Nature.com, "The notion that rich nations have a special duty to fight climate change does not sit well with Paul Knappenberger, who directs the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, a free-market think tank in Washington DC. He says that the encyclical lays too much blame on the West, arguing that access to technology, fertilizer and appropriate crop varieties has a bigger influence on food production in poor countries than climate change does. 'There are plenty of more effective things you can do to help the world besides trying to change the climate,' Knappenberger says." [Nature.com, [6/16/15](#)]

- **Knappenberger: "There Are Plenty Of More Effective Things You Can Do To Help The World Besides Trying To Change The Climate."** According to Nature.com, "He [Paul Knappenberger] says that the encyclical lays too much blame on the West, arguing that access to technology, fertilizer and appropriate crop varieties has a bigger influence on food production in poor countries than climate change does. 'There are plenty of more effective things you can do to help the world besides trying to change the climate,' Knappenberger says." [Nature.com, [6/16/15](#)]

The Cato Institute Was Founded And Extensively Funded By The Koch Brothers

New York Times: "Charles Koch Helped Found Cato In 1977, And His Family Has Donated More Than \$30 Million To It Over The Years." According to the New York Times, "Charles Koch helped found Cato in 1977, and his family has donated more than \$30 million to it over the years. But he and Mr. [Ed] Crane had a bitter falling-out over management and philosophical differences, and the Kochs had been angling for Mr. Crane's removal for years." [New York Times, [6/25/12](#)]

The Koch Brothers "Held Two Of The Four Founding 'Shareholder' Seats On Cato's Board." According to the New York Times, "In March, the Kochs, who held two of the four founding 'shareholder' seats on Cato's board, brought their lawsuits to gain control of the seat of another shareholder who died." [New York Times, [6/25/12](#)]

Former Cato President Ed Crane Had Resisted The Kochs' Active Involvement In Cato: "It Can't Be A Wholly Owned Subsidiary Of Koch Industries." According to Bloomberg, "Think-tank job maneuverings are not typically a cause for much media attention or existential dread. The 2012 fight to run Cato was an exception. David and Charles Koch had taken a hands-off approach to Cato in the decade previous. When William Niskanen, one of four shareholders, passed away, the Kochs surprised libertarians by suing for his shares to be handed back to the board. Ed Crane, who'd run Cato since the beginning, blew up at the news. 'I want to save Cato,' he said at the time. 'I'll step down if it ends this thing. It can't be a wholly owned subsidiary of Koch Industries. Who the hell is going to take a think tank seriously that's controlled by billionaire oil guys? It's just nuts!'" [Bloomberg, [3/30/15](#)]

Members Of The Koch Network Have Claimed The Kochs' Work Was Inspired By Catholicism...

John And Carol Saeman, Financial Contributors To Freedom Partners: Pope Francis's Call For The Rich To Help The Poor Inspired Us To Support "The Nonprofit Community Associated With Charles And David Koch."

According to an opinion by financial contributors to Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, John Seamen -president of Medallion Enterprises- and Carol Saeman for the Washington Post, "When we met Pope Francis, it was immediately evident that he exemplifies Christian charity. We have been particularly moved by his statement , 'The Pope has the duty, in Christ's name, to remind the rich to help the poor, to respect them, to promote them.' These words, which may come to define Francis's papacy, remind all Catholics that what Pope Saint John Paul II called the 'preferential option for the poor' is at the heart of Christian teaching [...]But Pope Francis's words have also led us to support a group outside the church: the nonprofit community associated with Charles and David Koch, including Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce." [John and Carol Saeman – Washington Post, [11/28/14](#)]

Saemans: We Have Seen The Kochs "Demonstrate A Deep Concern For The Least Fortunate." According to an opinion by financial contributors to Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, John Seamen -president of Medallion Enterprises- and Carol Saeman for the Washington Post, "In 25 years of knowing Charles and his wife, Liz, and in more recent interactions with David and his wife, Julia, we have seen them demonstrate a deep concern for the least fortunate." [John and Carol Saeman – Washington Post, [11/28/14](#)]

Saemans: The Koch Nonprofits "Bear The Common Mission Of Advancing Free Enterprise" Which Reflects The "Conviction That Limited Government Is Most Conducive To Lifting People Out Of Poverty." According to an opinion by financial contributors to Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, John Seamen -president of Medallion Enterprises- and Carol Saeman for the Washington Post, "The nonprofits associated with the Kochs, which bear the common mission of advancing free enterprise and free societies, reflect our shared conviction that limited government is most conducive to lifting people out of poverty. The two of us, along with hundreds of other philanthropists and businesspeople, support their efforts." [John and Carol Saeman – Washington Post, [11/28/14](#)]

Saemans: The Kochs "Are Fighting To Replace This Broken System With A Limited, Responsible Government. They Oppose The Cronyism And Corporate Welfare That Prop Up The Rich At The Expense Of The Poor."

According to an opinion by financial contributors to Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, John Seamen -president of Medallion Enterprises- and Carol Saeman for the Washington Post, "We support the Kochs' efforts because they are fighting to replace this broken system with a limited, responsible government. They oppose the cronyism and corporate welfare that prop up the rich at the expense of the poor. They encourage personal responsibility, ethical business practices and community engagement. Indeed, given what we have seen, we believe the Kochs are doing more to help the poor than the 'social justice' campaigners who so often attack them." [John and Carol Saeman – Washington Post, [11/28/14](#)]

Tim Busch: Capitalism Fits With Catholicism "Better Than Any Other Economic System" In Part Because "It Is Also The Single Most Effective Means Of Alleviating Poverty." According to an opinion by Tim Busch for the Wall Street Journal, "The encyclical, along with the resulting body of literature from successive popes, lays out the qualities that must be present in a just economic system. Among other things, the list includes the protection of private property and human freedom, a concern for the common good, and, most important, a deep respect for human dignity and a 'preferential option' for the poor. Capitalism meets these criteria better than any other economic system. It is also the single most effective means of alleviating poverty. In the past 20 years alone, it has lifted more than a billion people out of extreme poverty, according to the Economist. It is also single-handedly responsible for creating a global two-billion-person middle class over the past 300 years." [Tim Busch – Wall Street Journal, [1/22/15](#)]

Busch: "Cronyism And Corruption" And "Corporate Welfare" Are "Rampant" And "Perversions Of A Free-Market Economy That Do Not Fit Catholic Teaching." According to an opinion by Tim Busch for the Wall Street Journal, "But free markets only work within a moral culture. When business is unmoored from a concern for the common good, capitalism can slide into cronyism and corruption—exactly what Pope Francis has critiqued in recent months. It is such perversions of a free-market economy that do not fit Catholic teaching. These issues should be addressed in part through the education of future business leaders. Cronyism and corporate welfare are rampant across the world. Even in the U.S., they are increasingly evident in the interaction between business and politics. Business leaders now regularly and proudly collude with politicians

and bureaucrats, boosting their companies' bottom lines at the expense of economic growth. There are subsidies that benefit the rich at the expense of the poor, handouts, mandates, favorable regulations and so on." [Tim Busch – Wall Street Journal, [1/22/15](#)]

...But Some Prominent Catholics Do Not Believe The Kochs' Political Agenda Is Consistent With Church Teachings On Social Justice

Mother Jones' Kevin Drum: "A Sizeable Majority Of US Catholics... Share The Pope's Belief That The Climate Change Is A Serious Threat. Heartland" Is "Trying To Shift Their Views By Portraying Climate Activists As Hostile To Catholic Values." According to an opinion by columnist Kevin Drum for Mother Jones, "As my colleague James West reported, a sizeable majority of US Catholics actually share the pope's belief the climate change is a serious threat. Heartland seems to be trying to shift their views on the issue by portraying climate activists as hostile to Catholic values." [Kevin Drum – Mother Jones, [4/27/15](#)]

"THE POPE'S CLOSEST ADVISER" CRITICIZED CLIMATE SKEPTICS "BLAMING CAPITALIST MOTIVATIONS"

Politico: "The Pope's Closest Adviser," Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga "Slammed Climate-Change Skeptics, Blaming Capitalist Motivations" From "Movements" In The US For Fighting The Pope's Climate Advocacy. According to Politico, "The pope's closest adviser on Tuesday slammed climate-change skeptics, blaming capitalist motivations from 'movements in the United States' for opposing the Catholic Church leader's upcoming environmental letter. The ideology surrounding environmental issues is too tied to a capitalism that doesn't want to stop ruining the environment because they don't want to give up their profits,' said Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga at a news conference in Rome marking the start of Caritas Internationalis, an annual meeting of Catholic charitable groups, according to The Boston Globe" [Politico, [5/12/15](#)]

Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga: "The Ideology Surrounding Environmental Issues Is Too Tied To A Capitalism That Doesn't Want To Stop Ruining The Environment Because They Don't Want To Give Up Their Profits." According to Politico, "The ideology surrounding environmental issues is too tied to a capitalism that doesn't want to stop ruining the environment because they don't want to give up their profits,' said Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga at a news conference in Rome marking the start of Caritas Internationalis, an annual meeting of Catholic charitable groups, according to The Boston Globe." [Politico, [5/12/15](#)]

RNS: "MANY CATHOLICS – INCLUDING POPE FRANCIS – SAY THE KIND OF UNREGULATED CAPITALISM" PROMOTED BY THE KOCHS IS "COUNTER TO CHURCH TEACHING"

Religion News Service: "Many Catholics – Including Pope Francis – Say The Kind of Unregulated Capitalism That The Kochs Promote Runs Counter To Church Teaching." According to the Religion News Service, "Billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch recently made headlines by pledging nearly \$900 million to help elect candidates who support their libertarian strain of economic conservatism, but the industrialists are also nearly doubling their investment in the business school of Catholic University of America, which is overseen by the U.S. bishops. That's despite the fact that many Catholics — including Pope Francis — say the kind of unregulated capitalism that the Kochs promote runs counter to church teaching." [Huffington Post, [2/2/15](#)]

Commonweal's Associate Editor Grant Gallico: "You Can't Drop A Few Catholic-Friendly Terms... Into A Blender With Ayn Rand's Philosophy And Produce Something That Flows Easily Into The Catholic Tradition." According to an opinion by associate editor Grant Gallico at Commonweal, "Busch is right that Catholic doctrine is down on crony capitalism and political collusion that degrades human dignity. But you can't drop a few Catholic-friendly terms--human dignity, subsidiarity, the common good--into a blender with Ayn Rand's philosophy and produce something that flows easily into the Catholic tradition. If that is what students of this Catholic business school are being fed, then they're not getting their money's worth. Although the Kochs may be getting theirs." [Grant Gallico – Commonweal, [1/27/15](#)]

CATHOLIC SCHOLAR MICHAEL WINTERS: KOCHS' AGENDA IS NOT "THE LEAST BIT CONSISTENT" WITH CHURCH TEACHINGS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Michael Sean Winters For The National Catholic Reporter: The Koch Brothers' Political Agenda Is Not "The Least Bit Consistent With What The Catholic Church Teaches About Social Justice." According to an opinion by Michael Sean Winters for the National Catholic Reporter, "In this case, however, two Catholic philanthropists, John and Carol Saeman, do their best to make the case that their charitable donations to the Catholic Church are akin to their donations to 'the nonprofit community associated with Charles and David Koch, including Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce.' The Saemans' speak of 'our shared conviction that limited government is most conducive to lifting people out of poverty' and they claim that 'Catholic teaching supports our conviction.' In this great, free country of ours, the Saemans are free to think what they want, and to spend their money as they wish. They are not entitled to claim the mantle of Catholic teaching for the conviction that the Koch brothers' political agenda is the least little bit consistent with what the Catholic Church teaches about social justice." [Michael Sean Winters – National Catholic Reporter, [12/2/14](#)]

Winters: "The Charity To Which We Are Called Is Directly Opposed To The Dominant Capitalist, Consumer Culture The Koch Brothers And Their Friends Champion." According to an opinion by Michael Sean Winters for the National Catholic Reporter, "Let me stipulate, for the sake of argument, that the Saemans are generous, good-hearted people and that we should all commend them for their charitable donations. They note that when they met the pope, he spoke about the importance of charity. Indeed, as we all know, Pope Benedict XVI introduced the idea of charity as integral to Catholic Social Teaching in his masterful encyclical Caritas in Veritate. But, for both Pope Benedict and Pope Francis, charity has a deeper meaning than writing tax deductible checks at year's end. Charity is not a privatized activity of the rich, but a disposition of the heart and mind that should infuse both individual and societal behavior. Charity does not displace or replace justice in Benedict's or Francis' writings, but actually increases the demands on us all, urging us to not only work for social justice but to insist that the poor and the marginalized deserve more than justice. They deserve our love as well as our work for a more just society. In the writings of both Pope Benedict and Pope Francis, the charity to which we are called is directly opposed to the dominant capitalist, consumer culture the Koch brothers and their friends champion. This could not be more clear in Francis' apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, released one year ago." [Michael Sean Winters – National Catholic Reporter, [12/2/14](#)]

Winters: The Saemans' Washington Post Op-Ed "Has An Orwellian Quality To It. The Words Of Pope Francis Are Guttled Of Their Obvious Meaning And Made To Justify A Libertarian Agenda." According to an opinion by Michael Sean Winters for the National Catholic Reporter, "The whole article by the Saemans has an Orwellian quality to it. The words of Pope Francis are gutted of their obvious meaning and made to justify a libertarian agenda. Words like 'limited government' mean something different to a libertarian than they do to most people. President Obama is not without his faults, but he is hardly a totalitarian. The Koch brothers and the 'nonprofit community' with which they are associated focuses on destroying the Affordable Care Act, they are opposed to environmental regulations, they have led the charge on anti-immigrant laws like Arizona's SB 1070 and on efforts in multiple states to make it harder for poor people and minorities to vote." [Michael Sean Winters – National Catholic Reporter, [12/2/14](#)]

Winters: "To Believe That The Teachings Of The Church Can Be Reconciled With The Koch Brothers' Agenda Is Alice In Wonderland-Quality Foolishness." According to an opinion by Michael Sean Winters for the National Catholic Reporter, "Certainly in Catholic Social Teaching, health care is a right and, following the principle of subsidiarity, if other social actors have repeatedly failed to provide it, the government must step in and do so. We can argue about the method, about this legislative action or that government regulation, but nowhere on the Koch agenda does one see any demonstrable effort to propose a real alternative to the ACA. Certainly, in the social doctrine of Pope Benedict, concern for environmental protection was dynamically embraced and brilliantly rooted in aspects of Christian scholarship that had not previously been used to address that issue. We all know Pope Francis' commitment to immigrants and his repeated, explicit denunciations of a 'culture of exclusion.' If I were looking for a particular example of a 'culture of exclusion,' I would point to the Koch's efforts at making it more difficult to vote. It is repugnant in the extreme. To believe that the teachings of the church can be reconciled with the Koch brothers' agenda is Alice in Wonderland-quality foolishness." [Michael Sean Winters – National Catholic Reporter, [12/2/14](#)]

Winters: The Koch Agenda Is "Precisely The 'Poisoned Spring' About Which Pope Pius XI Spoke, The 'Erroneous Autonomy' About Which Pope Paul VI Spoke, And The Hyper-Individualistic, Materialistic Consumer Culture" Pope Francis Denounces. According to an opinion by Michael Sean Winters for the National Catholic Reporter, "Having said all that, I wish the Saemans well. I hope they will continue to donate large sums of money to the charities of the church. I

hope, too, that they will come to recognize that the libertarian ideology of the Koch brothers is precisely the ‘poisoned spring’ about which Pope Pius XI spoke, the ‘erroneous autonomy’ about which Pope Paul VI spoke, and the hyper-individualistic, materialistic consumer culture against which Pope Francis could scarcely be more clear in his denunciations. Hope springeth eternal.” [Michael Sean Winters – National Catholic Reporter, [12/2/14](#)]

Winters: Koch-Funded Efforts To “Disenfranchise Poor People” Are The “Antithesis Of America’s Founding Creed And Of The Christian Gospels.” According to an opinion by Michael Sean Winters in the National Catholic Reporter, “Indeed, many of these efforts to disenfranchise poor people are funded by very wealthy, conservative donors such as the Koch Brothers who put up big bucks to elect state legislators who will follow the dictates of well funded groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council. Alas, to paraphrase the Master, the rich we will always have with us. But, shame on all of us, and especially my quiet conservative friends, who do not raise their voices against these bald efforts at voter suppression. No one should condone a culture of exclusion that is the antithesis of America’s founding creed and of the Christian gospels.” [Michael Sean Winters – National Catholic Reporter, [10/14/14](#)]

Michael Sean Winters Is An Author And Visiting Fellow At Catholic University’s Institute For Policy Research And Catholic Studies. According to Michael Sean Winters’ biography on the National Catholic Reporter website, “Michael Sean Winters is the author of *Left At the Altar: How Democrats Lost The Catholics And How Catholics Can Save The Democrats* (Basic Books, 2008). His biography of the Rev. Jerry Falwell, *God’s Right Hand: How Jerry Falwell Made God a Republican and Baptized the American Right* was published by Harper One in January 2012 to critical acclaim. He is a Visiting Fellow at Catholic University’s Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies.” [NCROnline.org, accessed [6/10/15](#)]

FAITH IN PUBLIC LIFE: KOCHS’ PROMOTE “SELF-SERVING POLICIES” WHICH “RIG THE GAME FOR A PRIVILEGED FEW”

Catholic Program Director At Faith In Public Life John Gehring, on The Kochs: “The Self-Serving Policies Promoted By A Vast Network Of Lobbying Groups Funded By Their Largesse Rig The Game For A Privileged Few.” According to an opinion by John Gehring, Catholic program director at Faith In Public Life, for Talking Points Memo, “The authors personally vouch for the fact that the Koch brothers have ‘a deep concern for the least fortunate.’ Their charitable giving is surely laudable. But even as the industrialists take pride in philanthropy, the self-serving policies promoted by a vast network of lobbying groups funded by their largesse rig the game for a privileged few at the expense of struggling families and the working poor. When a Koch foundation recently gave a \$1 million donation to the business school at The Catholic University of America in Washington, 50 prominent theologians and clergy reminded the university that the Koch’s opposition to labor rights, environmental stewardship and Medicaid expansion ‘contradict Catholic teaching on a range of moral issues.’” [John Gehring – Talking Points Memo, [12/2/14](#)]

Gehring: The Kochs’ Fight For Deregulation Of Industries “That Make Them Very Wealthy” Contradicts Catholic Teaching, Which States That “Human Dignity” Should Not Be “Sacrificed By A Profit-Driven Utilitarianism.” According to an opinion by John Gehring, Catholic program director at Faith In Public Life, for Talking Points Memo, “While the Kochs fight for sweeping deregulation of industries that make them very wealthy, Catholic teaching articulated by popes and bishops over the years assert the need for prudent oversight of markets so that human dignity is not sacrificed by a profit-driven utilitarianism. One of the pope’s top advisors, Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, spoke at a conference in Washington last summer and laid waste to the idea that Catholic teaching is compatible with libertarianism. Society must address the ‘structural causes of poverty and injustice,’ the cardinal said in a stinging rebuke to those who think the market’s invisible hand can set us free.” [John Gehring – Talking Points Memo, [12/2/14](#)]

FACULTY AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES HAVE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO KOCH FUNDING OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT THEIR SCHOOLS

Creighton University

Creighton University Has Established An Economic Center With Funding From The Charles Koch Foundation. According to the World-Herald, “Creighton University is now part of a loosely connected but growing network of U.S. universities with economic teaching and research funded, in part, by Charles Koch, the Kansas billionaire and backer of conservative candidates and causes. Critics of the new Institute for Economic Inquiry say it favors a brand of economics that contradicts long-established Catholic social thought, endorsed by Pope Francis and his predecessors. One Omaha priest accuses the Charles Koch Foundation of pushing its ideas ‘to the very doorstep of the Vatican.’” [World-Herald, [12/7/14](#)]

Senior Pastor Rev. Clifford Stevens Reported The Institute To The Vatican, Arguing That It Is Part Of A Campaign By The Kochs To “Unseat Pope Francis As The Moral Voice Of Catholicism.” According to the World-Herald, “In a report sent to the Vatican, the Rev. Clifford Stevens, senior pastor in residence at Boys Town, said the Creighton institute is part of a Koch-supported campaign to ‘unseat Pope Francis as the moral voice of Catholicism ... by a band of nominal Catholics whose devotion to free market economics is almost religious.’ Instead of viewing economic activity and wealth as a means to advance the common good of society, as Catholicism has taught for generations, the institute comes from a school of economic thought — considered mainstream among U.S. universities — that says people’s economic decisions are based on self-interest, although benefits to others may follow.” [World-Herald, [12/7/14](#)]

Creighton Theologian Thomas Kelly: Free Market Economics Is “Extreme’ In Its Opposition To Catholic Social Thought” And “Is Inconsistent With Who We Are In A Catholic University.” According to the World-Herald, “Creighton theologian Thomas Kelly said he is not opposed to wide-open discussion, but he’s not sure institute officials are interested in doing that. ‘They’re just kind of doing their things.’ Proponents of free market economics, he said, characterize traditional Catholic social teaching as ‘wishful thinking’ because of what they see as an unrealistic belief that people make economic choices with the common good in mind. That economic viewpoint is ‘extreme’ in its opposition to Catholic social thought, Kelly said. ‘It is inconsistent with who we are in a Catholic university. They essentially take starting points and take positions that really disagree with our heritage.’” [World-Herald, [12/7/14](#)]

Kelly: “We Would Have Never Accepted Pro-Choice Money, Yet We Accept The Austrian School Of Economics Money. In Terms Of What Kind Of Society Do We Have, It’s Certainly Not One Committed To The Common Good.” According to the World-Herald, “In addition, [Theologian Thomas Kelly] said, there was no advance discussion about accepting money from the Koch Foundation. ‘It’s been disturbing for many of us on the arts and sciences side to sort of see that the money came in without any debate campuswide. We would have never accepted pro-choice money, yet we accept the Austrian school of economics money. In terms of what kind of society do we have, it’s certainly not one committed to the common good.’” [World-Herald, [12/7/14](#)]

There Was No Open Discussion Or Debate At Creighton Prior To Accepting The Koch Funding. According to the World-Herald, “In addition, [Theologian Thomas Kelly] said, there was no advance discussion about accepting money from the Koch Foundation. ‘It’s been disturbing for many of us on the arts and sciences side to sort of see that the money came in without any debate campuswide.’” [World-Herald, [12/7/14](#)]

Creighton’s Justice and Peace Studies Program Director Roger Bergman: When Speaker At Koch-Funded Institute Discarded Liberation Theology, “I Could Feel My Blood Pressure Going Up. That’s Intellectually Irresponsible.” According to the World-Herald, “The institute’s first campuswide event was a Nov. 12 speech by the Rev. Robert Sirico, a parish priest from Michigan who also is director of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, a think tank funded in part by the Koch Foundation. He wrote a book, ‘Defending the Free Market,’ that is on the reading list of the institute’s student reading group [...] [Director of Creighton’s Justice and Peace Studies Program Roger] Bergman said when Sirico during his speech implied that the Catholic church is discarding ‘liberation theology’ — a long-held Catholic idea that the teachings of Jesus call for liberating the poor from unjust economic, political and social conditions — ‘I could feel my blood pressure going up. That’s intellectually irresponsible.’” [World-Herald, [12/7/14](#)]

Catholic University of America

The Charles Koch Foundation Gave More Than Half Of A \$3 Million Dollar Gift To Catholic University’s Business And Economics Program To “Hire Four Faculty Members With An Interest In Integrating Business Practices And Catholic Social Doctrine.” According to the Washington Post, “A \$3 million gift to the Catholic University of America’s Business and Economics program will allow the school to hire four faculty members with an interest in integrating business practices and Catholic social doctrine, the school announced Thursday. More than half of the gift came from the Charles Koch Foundation, which has given millions to U.S. colleges, and whose family has been generous to conservative political groups, sometimes stirring debate.” [Washington Post, [1/23/15](#)]

Fifty Catholic Educators Protested Catholic University’s Acceptance Of A Koch Grant, Saying That It Sends A Message “That A School Created By U.S. Bishops Agrees With The Kochs’ ‘Anti-Government, Tea Party Ideology.’” According to the Free Expression Policy Project, “Churchmen have also expressed reservations. In 2013, fifty

Catholic educators signed a letter protesting Catholic University of America's acceptance of a \$1 million grant from Koch, saying that the grant sends 'a confusing message' – 'that a school created by U.S. bishops agrees with the Kochs' 'anti-government, Tea Party ideology.'" [Free Expression Policy Project, [11/13/14](#)]

RNS: Critics Of The \$1.75 Million Gift From The Kochs To CUA Pointed Out That “Catholic Charities Are Not Allowed To Take Any Money From Any Person Or Group That Supports Abortion Rights Or Gay Rights,” Both Of Which “David Koch Supports.” According to the Religion News Service, “The \$1.75 million dollar grant from the Charles Koch Foundation, one of several nonprofits with ties to the industrialist brothers, is part of a \$3 million pledge to CUA announced in January that includes \$500,000 from the Busch Family Foundation and \$250,000 each from three business leaders. [...] While [Tim] Busch is a practicing Catholic, the Kochs are not, and in fact David Koch supports gay marriage and abortion rights. Critics of the CUA gift say it is ironic that the school would seek such massive support from a social liberal when Catholic charities are not allowed to take any money from any person or group that supports abortion rights or gay rights.” [Huffington Post, [2/2/15](#)]

The Kochs And The Catholic Church Have Been On Opposing Sides Of Issues Beyond Climate Change

MINIMUM WAGE

Catholic Leaders Have Called For Raising The Minimum Wage

The Pope Called For An End To Inequality And “Unfettered Markets”

Pope Francis “Sharply Criticized Growing Economic Inequality And Unfettered Markets.” According to the Washington Post, “Pope Francis on Tuesday sharply criticized growing economic inequality and unfettered markets in a wide-ranging and decidedly populist teaching that revealed how he plans to reshape the Catholic Church. In his most authoritative writings as pontiff, Francis decried an ‘idolatry of money’ in secular culture and warned that it would lead to ‘a new tyranny.’ But he reserved a large part of his critique for what he sees as an excessively top-down Catholic Church hierarchy, calling for more local governance and greater inclusiveness — including ‘broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church.’” [Washington Post, [11/26/13](#)]

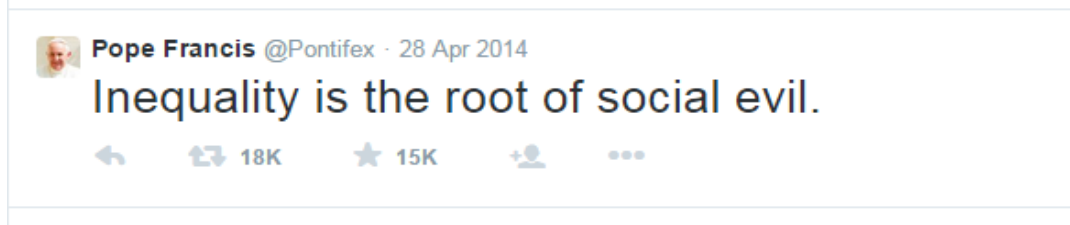
Pope Francis Strongly Criticized “Trickle-Down” Economics. According to the Washington Post, “In a paper outlining a philosophy that he says will guide his papacy, Pope Francis decries an ‘idolatry of money’ and warns it would lead to ‘a new tyranny.’ On Tuesday, he showed a willingness to use tough language in attacking what he views as the excesses of capitalism. Using a phrase with special resonance in the United States, he strongly criticized an economic theory — often affiliated with conservatives — that discourages taxation and regulation. ‘Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world,’ Francis wrote in the papal statement. ‘This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system.’” [Washington Post, [11/26/13](#)]

Pope Francis: “Trickle-Down Theories Which Assume That Economic Growth, Encouraged By A Free Market, Will Inevitably Succeed In Bringing About Greater Justice And Inclusiveness” Have “Never Been Confirmed By The Facts.” According to the Washington Post, “In a paper outlining a philosophy that he says will guide his papacy, Pope Francis decries an ‘idolatry of money’ and warns it would lead to ‘a new tyranny.’ On Tuesday, he showed a willingness to use tough language in attacking what he views as the excesses of capitalism. Using a phrase with special resonance in the United States, he strongly criticized an economic theory — often affiliated with conservatives — that discourages taxation and regulation. ‘Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world,’ Francis wrote in the papal statement. ‘This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system.’” [Washington Post, [11/26/13](#)]

Pope Francis: Trickle-Down “Expresses A Crude And Naive Trust In The Goodness Of Those Wielding Economic Power.” According to the Washington Post, “In a paper outlining a philosophy that he says will guide his papacy, Pope Francis decries an ‘idolatry of money’ and warns it would lead to ‘a new tyranny.’ On Tuesday, he showed a willingness to use

tough language in attacking what he views as the excesses of capitalism. Using a phrase with special resonance in the United States, he strongly criticized an economic theory — often affiliated with conservatives — that discourages taxation and regulation. ‘Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world,’ Francis wrote in the papal statement. ‘This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system.’” [Washington Post, [11/26/13](#)]

Pope Francis Tweet: “Inequality Is The Root Of Social Evil.” [Twitter, [4/28/14](#)]



Prominent Catholics Have Called For Raising The Minimum Wage

Bishop Stephen Blair, Head Of The U.S. Bishops' Committee On Domestic Justice And Human Development, Told A Senate Hearing That A Just Wage Is “Critical For Workers” And Would Help The Economy. According to an editorial by managing editor Scott Alessi for the U.S. Catholic, “Today marked the 75th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the law that first established a federal minimum wage. And a Senate committee that gathered for a hearing in honor of the occasion got a great lesson in Catholic teaching on labor and economics, courtesy of Bishop Stephen Blaire. Blaire, who heads the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, made a strong case for protecting the rights and dignity of workers, calling on the teachings of several popes including Leo XIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and of course Pope Francis. In his testimony, Blaire argued that a just wage--one that realistically allows a worker to support their family based on the current cost of living--is critical for workers and would be a positive first step in fixing the economy. ‘Work should be a ladder out of poverty for families, it should not trap them in poverty,’ said Blaire. ‘Yet this is where we find ourselves--a growing number of families are working but do not make enough to live in dignity. It is a scandal that the richest country world has allowed over 23 million children in working poor families to become the norm.’” [Scott Alessi Editorial - U.S. Catholic, [6/25/13](#)]

Bishop Blair: “It Is A Scandal That The Richest Country World Has Allowed Over 23 Million Children In Working Poor Families To Become The Norm.” According to an editorial by managing editor Scott Alessi for the U.S. Catholic, “Today marked the 75th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the law that first established a federal minimum wage. And a Senate committee that gathered for a hearing in honor of the occasion got a great lesson in Catholic teaching on labor and economics, courtesy of Bishop Stephen Blaire. Blaire, who heads the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, made a strong case for protecting the rights and dignity of workers, calling on the teachings of several popes including Leo XIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and of course Pope Francis. In his testimony, Blaire argued that a just wage--one that realistically allows a worker to support their family based on the current cost of living--is critical for workers and would be a positive first step in fixing the economy. ‘Work should be a ladder out of poverty for families, it should not trap them in poverty,’ said Blaire. ‘Yet this is where we find ourselves--a growing number of families are working but do not make enough to live in dignity. It is a scandal that the richest country world has allowed over 23 million children in working poor families to become the norm.’” [Scott Alessi Editorial - U.S. Catholic, [6/25/13](#)]

The Kochs Have Fought To Eliminate Regulation And The Minimum Wage

“Many U.S. Catholics Cringed” When Catholic University Accepted A \$1 Million Contribution “From The Libertarian Koch Brothers, Who Have Advocated Eliminating The Minimum Wage Altogether.” According to National Catholic Reporter, “Fresher still on the mind, many U.S. Catholics cringed in the fall of 2013 when Catholic University's newly opened business school accepted a \$1 million contribution from the libertarian Koch brothers, who have advocated eliminating the minimum wage altogether (NCR, Feb. 28-March 13).” [National Catholic Reporter, [4/30/14](#)]

Charles Koch: Minimum Wage Is An “Obstacle” And “We’ve Got To Clear Those Out.” According to the Wichita Eagle, “In his interview he [Charles Koch] emphasized several times that he believes his ideas on economics will help

disadvantaged people. Government regulations – including the minimum wage law – tend to hold everyone back, he said. [...] ‘Anything that people with limited capital can do to raise themselves up, they keep throwing obstacles in their way. And so we’ve got to clear those out. Or the minimum wage. Or anything that reduces the mobility of labor.’” [Wichita Eagle, [7/9/13](#)]

Koch Brothers’ “Top Political Strategist” Richard Fink Argued The Minimum Wage Leads To “Fascism.”

According to the Huffington Post, “At a political strategy summit hosted on June 16 by the conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch, Richard Fink, their top political strategist, told the private audience that when he sees someone ‘on the street’ he says, ‘Get off your ass, and work hard like we did.’ Fink's anecdote came during his presentation titled ‘The Long-Term Strategy: Engaging the Middle Third,’ which capped off a session of four speeches detailing the intellectual foundation of Charles Koch’s political ideology. [...] ‘Psychology shows that is the main recruiting ground for totalitarianism, for fascism, for conformism, when people feel like they’re victims,’ said Fink. ‘So the big danger of minimum wage isn’t the fact that some people are being paid more than their value-added -- that’s not great. It’s not that it’s hard to stay in business -- that’s not great, either. But it’s the 500,000 people that will not have a job because of minimum wage. He continued, ‘We’re taking these 500,000 people that would’ve had a job, and putting them unemployed, making dependence part of government programs, and destroying their opportunity for earned success. And so we see this is a very big part of recruitment in Germany in the '20s.’” [Huffington Post, [9/3/14](#)]

- **Fink: Minimum Wage Puts “500,000 People” Out Of A Job, “Making Dependence Part Of Government Programs...So We See This Is A Very Big Part Of Recruitment In Germany In The '20s.”** According to the Huffington Post, “[Richard] Fink's anecdote came during his presentation titled ‘The Long-Term Strategy: Engaging the Middle Third,’ which capped off a session of four speeches detailing the intellectual foundation of Charles Koch’s political ideology. [...] But it’s the 500,000 people that will not have a job because of minimum wage. He continued, ‘We’re taking these 500,000 people that would’ve had a job, and putting them unemployed, making dependence part of government programs, and destroying their opportunity for earned success. And so we see this is a very big part of recruitment in Germany in the '20s. If you look at the Third -- the rise and fall of the Third Reich, you can see that,’ Fink said. ‘And what happens is a fascist comes in and offers them an opportunity, finds the victim -- Jews or the West -- and offers them meaning for their life, OK?’” [Huffington Post, [9/3/14](#)]

Americans For Prosperity Urged The Senate To Vote No On A Minimum Wage Increase. According to a vote alert from Americans for Prosperity, “Dear Senators: On behalf of more than two million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I write to urge you to vote NO on S. 2223, increasing the minimum wage to from \$7.25 to \$10.10. This is a misguided policy that will mean fewer jobs in this sluggish economy.” [Americans for Prosperity Vote Alert, [4/29/14](#)]

AFP: “Raising The Minimum Wage Does More Harm Than Good.” According to a “Legislative Alert” on Americans For Prosperity’s website, “A minimum wage hike is simply an ineffective way to help Americans rise out of poverty. It only reaches half of those it is intended to help and not in a positive way. Increasing employment opportunity gives low-skilled workers the best chance of finding employment and climbing up the economic mobility ladder. Raising the minimum wage does more harm than good.” [AmericansForProsperity.org, [12/19/13](#)]

AFP: “Mandating A High Minimum Wage Actually Prevents Individuals And Business Owners” From “Reaching An Agreement That Works Best For Them.” According to web post from Americans For Prosperity, “At first glance, Mr. [Rusty] Hicks’ statement appears to be more appropriate for The Onion than the generally fact-based LA Times. That’s because mandating a high minimum wage actually prevents individuals and business owners for [sic] from reaching an agreement that works best for them. Whether that means initially being paid less while a worker develops new skills that pay off down the line, or more modest wages for increased flexibility or benefits.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/article, [5/29/15](#)]

Generation Opportunity: “A Mandatory Minimum Wage Increase Could Have Some Sobering, Unintended Consequences That Harm The Very People They Are Supposed To Benefit Most.” According to a web post from Generation Opportunity, “Unfortunately, however, Seattle’s mandated increase in minimum wage is causing businesses to close. It hits franchise locations especially hard because they’re considered to be big businesses, even though each location may only employ a handful of people. It’s validating the concern that a mandatory minimum wage increase could have some sobering, unintended consequences that harm the very people they are supposed to benefit most.” [GenerationOpportunity.org, [5/9/15](#)]

HEALTH CARE

The Pope And Catholic Leaders Have Called For Increased Access To Health Care

Both Pope Francis And Pope Benedict XVI Called For Accessible And Affordable Healthcare

Pope Francis: “Effective Policies Are Needed To Promote The Principle Of Fraternity, Securing For People...Access To Capital, Services, Educational Resources, Healthcare And Technology.” According to Pope Francis’s World Day of Peace message, “Moreover, if on the one hand we are seeing a reduction in absolute poverty, on the other hand we cannot fail to recognize that there is a serious rise in relative poverty, that is, instances of inequality between people and groups who live together in particular regions or in a determined historical-cultural context. In this sense, effective policies are needed to promote the principle of fraternity, securing for people – who are equal in dignity and in fundamental rights – access to capital, services, educational resources, healthcare and technology so that every person has the opportunity to express and realize his or her life project and can develop fully as a person.” [Message of His Holiness Francis For The Celebration Of The World Day Of Peace, [1/1/14](#)]

Pope Benedict XVI “Said It Was The Moral Responsibility Of Nations To Guarantee Access To Health Care For All Of Their Citizens, Regardless Of Social And Economic Status Or Their Ability To Pay.” According to Catholic News Service, “Pope Benedict XVI and other church leaders said it was the moral responsibility of nations to guarantee access to health care for all of their citizens, regardless of social and economic status or their ability to pay. Access to adequate medical attention, the pope said in a written message Nov. 18, was one of the ‘inalienable rights’ of man.” [Catholic News Service, [11/18/10](#)]

Pope Benedict XVI: “Justice In Health Care Should Be A Priority Of Governments And International Institutions.” According to Catholic News Service, “Because an individual’s health is a ‘precious asset’ to society as well as to himself, governments and other agencies should seek to protect it by ‘dedicating the equipment, resources and energy so that the greatest number of people can have access.’ ‘Justice in health care should be a priority of governments and international institutions,’ he said, cautioning that protecting human health does not include euthanasia or promoting artificial reproductive techniques that include the destruction of embryos.” [Catholic News Service, [11/18/10](#)]

Catholic Health Association: The Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act Is “The Most Important And Substantial Social Policy To Be Made In Decades.” According to an article in Catholic Health Association’s publication Health Progress, “The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act — the most important and substantial social policy to be made in decades — is not wildly popular. Although many of its benefits have already helped millions of people, it is no better liked by the public at large than it was following the controversial months leading to its passage. In fact — although there is a silver lining — the law it is now viewed more unfavorably than ever.” [Health Progress, [Jan/Feb 2012](#)]

The Kochs Fought The Affordable Care Act And “Poured” Money Into Efforts Opposing Health Coverage Expansion For Poor Americans

Americans For Prosperity “Has Poured More Money And Resources Than Anyone Else Into Convincing Republicans Around The Country To Repel State Efforts” To Expand Medicaid. According to the Washington Examiner, “Meet the group persuading states to block Medicaid expansion. The D.C.-based advocacy group Americans for Prosperity has poured more money and resources than anyone else into convincing Republicans around the country to repel state efforts to grow the federal health insurance program for the low-income and disabled.” [Washington Examiner, [4/8/15](#)]

AFP Spent More Than \$35 Million In Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan And New Hampshire On Ads Opposing Obamacare And Connecting Democratic Senate Candidates The Law. According to CNN, “The conservative non-profit political advocacy group backed by the deep pockets of billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch announced Wednesday that it will spend around \$2.5 million over the next two weeks to run television commercials critical of the federal health care law in four states where Democrats face a challenge in keeping Senate seats in party hands. The ad buys in Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan and New Hampshire bring to more than \$35 million in AFP spending this election cycle on TV spots that highlight how the group says Obamacare has negatively impacted average Americans. The ads have criticized Democratic senators or Senate candidates for their support of the health care law, and have applauded Republicans opposed to it. AFP’s also run Obamacare-related spots in about a dozen or so competitive House races.” [CNN, [4/23/14](#)]

The LIBRE Initiative Spent “Millions On Ads Attacking Obamacare Supporters,” While Latinos “Are More Likely To Be Uninsured Than Any Other Group In The US.” According to The Nation, “LIBRE appears to believe that

Hispanics need ‘truth’ more than healthcare or relief from a broken immigration system. Instead of pressing Republicans for comprehensive immigration reform, which LIBRE claims to support, the group has spent millions on ads attacking Obamacare supporters. Meanwhile, Latinos are more likely to be uninsured than any other group in the US, and they’ve lagged behind others in enrollment in the new insurance exchanges.” [Nation, [9/4/14](#)]

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza: Medicaid Is “An Inefficient And Unsustainable Program With Poor Health Outcomes.” According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, “Daniel Garza, Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative, released the following statement: ‘This administration needs to stop measuring success by growing the number of people dependent on government. Coercing states to expand Medicaid, an inefficient [*sic*] and unsustainable program with poor health outcomes, disregards state priorities and prevents them from exploring better and less costly ways to ensure quality Healthcare for low-income families. Pushing more Americans into Medicaid puts taxpayers on the hook and appears to be causing a surge in costly emergency room visits nationwide, which ultimately threatens care for the neediest among us.’” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [5/7/15](#)]

An AFP Ad Which Claimed “Obamacare Means Higher Costs For Struggling Families” Was “Contradicted By The Fact That The Law Expands Medicaid Eligibility...And Reduces The Number Of Uninsured.” According to Factcheck.org, “The ad, from the David Koch-founded Americans for Prosperity, starts off by highlighting President Obama’s claim that ‘if you like your plan, you can keep your plan’ by calling it the ‘lie of the year.’ [...] It shows the news headline, ‘Arizona Man: Obamacare Will Double My Premiums,’ while an announcer says, ‘Obamacare means higher costs for struggling families.’ As we’ve said many times, the health care law will affect Americans differently. Some who buy their own insurance will pay more and some will pay less, depending on individual circumstances, such as their health status, age and income level. Some families — whether they’re ‘struggling’ or not — may face higher costs. But the ad’s blanket statement is contradicted by the fact that the law expands Medicaid eligibility, offers federal subsidies to low- and mid-income Arizonans who buy their own insurance, and reduces the number of uninsured.” [Factcheck.org, [1/16/14](#)]

While Florida Medical Centers May Lose Millions Of Dollars To Cover The Medical Expenses Of The Poor Or Uninsured If It Does Not Receive Federal Funding, AFP Said It “Opposed” Medicaid Expansion In “Any Form.” According to WFTV.com, “The money is part of a federal program known as the Low Income Pool, or LIP, a program that is coming to an end. Locally, LIP funding contributes \$55 million to Orlando Regional Medical Center and another \$85 million to Florida Hospital to help pay for the medical expenses of the poor and uninsured. In February, Gov. Rick Scott told Eyewitness News that he was confident that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would extend LIP funding, a cornerstone of his budget. Following the announcement that CMS would not extend LIP in Florida, Scott sent a letter to President Obama to make the state’s case for continued funding, writing: ‘As with previous negotiations we are optimistic that you will not terminate LIP and we will be able to reach an agreement.’ CMS has yet to reverse its position. [...] ‘We’re opposed to expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare in any form,’ Andres Malave of Americans for Prosperity said. ‘There are a lot of hospitals that are trying to make this about LIP funding, but we should be looking at solutions and being innovative about things like this. Let’s expand scope of practice, look at reforming certificate of need, let’s look at bringing tele-medicine to Florida.’” [WFTV.com, [3/12/15](#)]

AFP-NC Director Donald Bryson And AFP Policy Analyst Akash Chougule Urged The Governor Not To Expand Medicaid And Asked “What Would We Be Paying For? Nothing That Should Comfort Taxpayers.” According to an op-ed by AFP-North Carolina state director Donald Bryson and AFP policy analyst Akash Chougule for The Times-News, “Governor McCrory and General Assembly leaders should now ignore renewed calls for Medicaid expansion. [...] North Carolina taxpayers would be on the hook for these cost overruns from a program that is already the single largest item in state budgets, nationally (Medicaid currently consumes roughly a quarter of state spending nationwide). The difference would be made up through funding cuts to things like roads and schools, or through tax increases — or both. And what would we be paying for? Nothing that should comfort taxpayers. Potentially crowding out funding for roads and schools for the return on investment we would receive from Medicaid expansion would be ludicrous.” [Donald Bryson & Akash Chougule - Times-News, [12/8/14](#)]

AFP-Utah’s First Action As An AFP Chapter Was to Launch A Campaign Against A Proposal Called “Healthy Utah.” According to the Deseret News, “Americans for Prosperity Utah announced Monday it has launched a ‘thank you’ mail campaign to support state lawmakers who opposed Gov. Gary Herbert's Healthy Utah alternative to Medicaid expansion. The campaign is the first action by the new Utah chapter of the main political advocacy group for the Koch brothers, the billionaire industrialists pouring millions of dollars into conservative and libertarian causes.” [Deseret News, [6/1/15](#)]

- **The Proposal Would Have Provided Health Care “To Low-Income Utahns.”** According to the Deseret News, “The mailer is going out in the districts of 11 GOP House members, who last session helped defeat the governor's plan to provide health care to low-income Utahns using \$258 million available under President Barack Obama's health care law.” [Deseret News, [6/1/15](#)]

AFP Supported The Ryan Budget, Which Would Cut Medicaid And The Children's Health Insurance Program

Americans For Prosperity Supported The Ryan Budget Plan For 2014. According to a post on Americans for Prosperity's website, “On Tuesday, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan released his budget for the next fiscal year. Chairman Ryan's budget takes on Washington's budget problems, putting the country on a path of lower spending, lower taxes, and lower debt. It provides a starkly different vision than the one Senate Democrats proposed today, or what the President will likely propose in April. Overall, AFP supports the Ryan plan because it includes a number of positive policy provisions. But his plan is not without some substantial flaws. The following are highlights from the plan.” [Americansforprosperity.org, [3/14/13](#)]

- **House GOP's 2014 Budget Plan Proposed To Cut Medicaid And CHIP By A Combined \$810 Billion Over A Decade.** According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, “The House GOP plan again proposes sharp cuts to the Medicaid health program for the poor, tighter food stamp eligibility rules and claims \$1.8 trillion in savings over a decade by repealing Obama's signature overhaul of the U.S. health care system. (A small share of these cuts could come from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which the Ryan budget would merge into its new Medicaid block grant.) This would be an estimated cut to federal Medicaid and CHIP funding of about 21 percent over ten years relative to current law and comes on top of the loss of the significant additional funding that states are slated to receive under the Affordable Care Act to expand Medicaid coverage, and to extend their CHIP programs through 2015.” [CBPP, [3/27/13](#)]

In 2012, The U.S. Conference Of Catholic Bishops Wrote To Congress To Protest The Cuts In The Ryan Budget Urging Lawmakers For “Moral And Human Reasons” To Not Accept Cuts To Hunger And Nutrition Programs.

According to the Washington Post, “But this spring, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops took the unusual step of repudiating the deep cuts envisioned in Ryan's budget proposal as out of keeping with the teachings of Jesus. One of a series of their letters to congressional committees read in part: ‘I write to urge you to resist for moral and human reasons unacceptable cuts to hunger and nutrition programs [that would] hurt hungry children, poor families, vulnerable seniors and workers who cannot find employment. These cuts are unjustified and wrong.’” [Washington Post, [8/11/12](#)]

The Bishops Renewed Their Protests When Rep. Paul Ryan Reintroduced His Plan For 2014, And Warned It Would “Drastically Cut” Programs For The Poor And Vulnerable.

According to The Hill, “Ryan's fiscal 2014 budget cuts spending by \$5.7 trillion while reducing the top tax rate to 25 percent with the goal of reaching a balanced budget in 10 years. The bishops said the revamped plan would ‘drastically cut’ spending by \$800 billion over 10 years. ‘This figure is very concerning, since 70 percent of the spending in this budget category goes for programs to help poor and vulnerable people,’ they wrote. The bishops warned the Ryan budget would likely slash safety net programs likes Pell Grants, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, school lunches and the Earned Income Tax Credit, among others. Ryan first drew the ire of the bishops last year when he said his Catholic faith helped shape his budget plan.” [The Hill, [3/20/13](#)]

LABOR

The Pope Condemned Unfair And Dangerous Labor Practices

In A 2013 Speech Pope Francis Condemned “Selfish Profit.” According to Business Insider, “Pope Francis on Wednesday condemned as ‘slave labour’ the conditions for hundreds of workers killed in a factory collapse in Bangladesh and urged political leaders to fight unemployment in a sweeping critique of ‘selfish profit’. The pope said he had been particularly struck by a headline saying workers at the factory near Dhaka were being paid just 38 euros (\$50) a month.” [Business Insider, [5/1/13](#)]

Pope Francis: “Not Paying Fairly, Not Giving A Job Because You Are Only Looking At Balance Sheets, Only Looking At How To Make A Profit. That Goes Against God.” According to Business Insider, “‘How many brothers and sisters find themselves in this situation!’ he [Pope Francis] said, as protesters in May Day demonstrations around the world rallied against unfair work conditions and unemployment. ‘Not paying fairly, not giving a job because you are only looking at

balance sheets, only looking at how to make a profit. That goes against God!’ the pope said in his strongly-worded address.” [Business Insider, [5/1/13](#)]

Pope Francis: “We Do Not Get Dignity From Power Or Money Or Culture, No! We Get Dignity From Work.”

According to Business Insider, “The Vatican has often been sharply critical of unregulated capitalism, particularly in recent years during the global financial crisis. ‘We do not get dignity from power or money or culture, no! We get dignity from work,’ he [Pope Francis] said, adding that many political and economic systems ‘have made choices that mean exploiting people.’” [Business Insider, [5/1/13](#)]

“Pope Francis Spoke About Societies That Put Company Profits Above Human Dignity Or Even Human Life” And Asked “What Point Have We Come To?” According to America Magazine, “On the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, the pope spoke about societies that put company profits above human dignity or even human life. ‘What point have we come to?’ he asked. He noted that Jesus was a worker and lamented companies that put much more attention to profits than the dignity of labor.” [America Magazine, [11/30/13](#)]

Pope Francis: “I Address A Strong Appeal That The Dignity And Safety Of The Worker Always Be Protected.”

According to America Magazine, “Expounding on the theme of the dignity of work, Francis said: ‘We do not get dignity from power or money or culture. We get dignity from work.’ He noted: ‘Work is fundamental to the dignity of the person. Work, to use an image, ‘anoints’ with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God who has worked and still works, who always acts.’ Those familiar with the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises will note that this theme of God working or laboring comes from the signal contemplation for attaining the love of God where Ignatius speaks of a God who labors in all things. He ended his homily with the admonition: ‘I address a strong appeal that the dignity and safety of the worker always be protected.’” [America Magazine, [11/30/13](#)]

Kochs Have Promoted Policies That Make It Harder For Workers To Organize

Koch Groups Advocate For “Right To Work” Laws And Attack Labor Unions

The National Right To Work Committee “Has Received Significant Funding From The Conservative Billionaire Koch Brothers.” According to the New York Times, “Greg Mourad, a spokesman for a lobbying organization called the National Right to Work Committee, which has received significant funding from the conservative billionaire Koch brothers, compared the experience of being made to pay union dues to being kidnapped and extorted.” [New York Times, [6/14/15](#)]

Freedom Partners Directed \$1 Million To The National Right To Work Committee. According to an opinion by Carl Deal and Tia Lessin in the Daily Beast, “This calculus may be why in 2012, Freedom Partners—a group that Politico dubbed the Koch’s private bank—directed \$1 million to the National Right to Work Committee (NRWC). And why Republican legislators and governors, buoyed by Walker’s success in kneecapping public sector unions, are intent on eliminating all unions, public and private sector alike. Backed by big money like AFP and other groups in the Koch political funding network, and relying on pre-fab ‘right to work’ legislation authored by the NRWC and the Koch-funded American Legislative Exchange Council, they have introduced or will soon introduce union-busting legislation in key battleground states: Ohio, Colorado, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, as well as Wisconsin.” [Carl Deal & Tia Lessin – The Daily Beast, [12/22/14](#)]

Fred Koch In A 1960 Pamphlet: “Labor Unions Have Long Been A Communist Goal. How Far They Have Been Penetrated By Communists I Have No Idea, But It Must Be Very Far Indeed.” According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “‘Labor Unions have long been a communist goal. How far they have been penetrated by communists I have no idea, but it must be very far indeed,’ Fred Koch writes in his 1960 pamphlet A Business Man Looks at Communism. When unions are not busy plotting the overthrow of America, they conspire to have the ‘worker do as little as possible for the money he receives. This practice alone,’ Koch adds, ‘can destroy our country.’” [PR Watch, [3/3/15](#)]

AFP: “Higher Mandated Wages Means More Money Flowing Into Union Coffers. Thus, It’s Hardly Shocking That Big Labor Has Made Raising The Minimum Wage A Top Priority Both Locally And Nationally.” According to web post from Americans For Prosperity, “Unions benefit immensely from higher mandated minimum wages since negotiated union wages often use the minimum wage as a baseline. And higher mandated wages means more money flowing into union coffers. Thus, it’s hardly shocking that Big Labor has made raising the minimum wage a top priority both locally and nationally.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/article, [5/29/15](#)]

LIBRE Press Release Headline: “Right To Work’ Laws Associated With Stronger Growth.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [2/9/15](#)]

David Koch In 2012: “We're Helping Him, As We Should...What Scott Walker Is Doing With The Public Unions In Wisconsin Is Critically Important. He's An Impressive Guy, And He's Very Courageous.” According to Bloomberg Politics, “‘We're helping him, as we should,’ David Koch told the *Palm Beach Post* in February 2012. ‘What Scott Walker is doing with the public unions in Wisconsin is critically important. He's an impressive guy, and he's very courageous.’” [Bloomberg Politics, [2/17/15](#)]