

# STANDING GROUND

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American Stewards of Liberty Quarterly Journal

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

Fighting China - 9  
BLM 30x30 Rule - 13  
Midwest Land Grab- 15

## MONETIZING THE AIR WE BREATHE

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*By: Margaret Byfield*

**AMERICAN STEWARDS**  
*of Liberty*

## NATURAL ASSETS

A new international scheme is being launched in America based on the idea that intrinsic values in nature can be quantified and converted to become investment products. The Rockefeller Foundation founded the Intrinsic Exchange Group (IEC), which has partnered with the New York Stock Exchange to create a “natural asset” investment vehicle called “Natural Asset Companies (NACs).”

Their concept is that the air we breathe, the water we drink, and products we use that are derived from nature all have value that is not being considered by financial markets. IEC claims this value can be converted to new public investment vehicles like NAC.

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American Stewards of Liberty is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to protect property rights and the liberties they secure by defending the use of our land and restoring local control. We educate federal, state, and local officials, and property owners, on actions that erode property rights and identify responses that bring these actions in alignment with full Constitutional protection of these rights.



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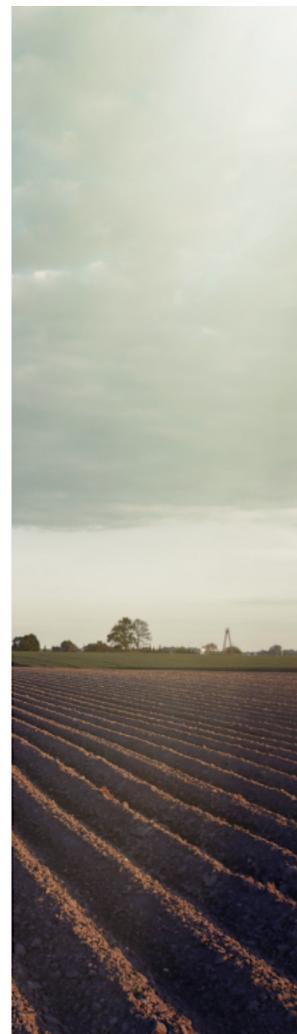


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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- 1      **NATURAL ASSETS**  
MONETIZING THE AIR WE BREATHE  
*By Margaret Byfield*
- 9      **STANDING AGAINST CHINA**  
NORTH DAKOTA CITIZENS FIGHT BACK  
*By Dan Byfield*
- 13     **TAKING OUR LAND**  
PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
*By U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse & Margaret Byfield*
- 15     **GOVERNOR NOEM INVESTOR**  
**IN ETHANOL**  
NOT STANDING WITH LANDOWNERS
- 17     **WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS**  
WILL CAVIN & BECKY NORTON DUNLOP  
PLUS ASL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT
- 19     **STOP 30X30 SUMMIT**  
RED CARPET PREMIERE OF EPOCH TV'S  
"NO FARMERS NO FOOD"



# MONETIZING THE AIR WE BREATHE (continued)

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At the same time, the Biden Administration is working to record the value of these natural assets on the federal balance sheet. In January, the Administration issued The National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions: A U.S. System of Natural Capital Accounting and Associated Environmental-Economic Statistics. According to the report, new “Natural Capital Accounts” will be used to “quantify” nature’s value and list those values as new assets of the federal government.

This would provide a basis to increase the national debt and impose new fees and taxes on the American people. It will also establish the fixed and intrinsic value for the federally protected lands, positioning them to be enrolled in the private NAC accounts.

These efforts combined are intended to create an entirely new economy, virtually out of thin air. None of it should make sense to any serious investor. Investment products are based on tangible assets such as land, homes, and companies—things that have value because they can be secured and held by an owner to the exclusion of others, and that provide a benefit for which consumers are willing to pay. This new economy requires valuing things that no one has a right to own exclusively, such as breathable air.

The actual purpose of this plan seems to be to transfer the natural resource wealth held by America’s landowners to a green cartel that now includes IEC, the government, and special-interest environmental and conservation groups. From this perspective, the plan makes sense not as a wise investment for most Americans, but as a diabolical scheme to finance the growth of government while removing land from private citizens.

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## HOW IT WORKS

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There is a glaring problem with the way IEC is selling its natural asset model, which is that no investment professional can explain how investors will make money. The problem is that IEC and the Biden Administration are pretending that fixed financial values can be placed on naturally occurring elements—including air—that cannot be held to the exclusion of others.

To fix this problem, the natural asset economy also places a financial value on services to protect nature. The economy includes a new industry called “ecosystem services” that will support and protect the natural assets.

These NAC protected assets can be based on three types of land types: Natural (protected), Working (some productive uses highly regulated) and Hybrid (a mix of Natural and Working). They state the cashflow will come from “ecotourism revenue or carbon credit sales on natural lands and commodity crop production on working lands.” Revenue is also expected to come from “ecosystem services,” which they describe as the benefits derived from protecting the environment as well as the goods and services provided by entities that protect and manage the resources, such as environmental non-government organizations.

The NACs must have rights to fixed natural assets such as land, water, conservation easements, federally protected lands, and crops to offer exclusive rights to the intrinsic elements they claim are produced by protecting the area. The act of monetizing these intrinsic elements is what appears to be their basis for claiming this new economy will be four times larger than today’s economy.

For example, a forest will be reserved to sequester carbon dioxide, and will be managed by an ecosystem services’ provider. This way, the clean air and sequestered carbon are effectively converted from intangible assets to tangible assets, and the ecosystem services to protect them generate a new value that can also be financially quantified. These acrobatics are the basis for any returns that would be paid to investors in NACs.

Under this new plan, the value of the trees is not tied to their potential for conversion to paper or construction material, but for sequestering carbon that can be sold in the form of carbon credits. The local economic contributors will shift from timber companies, which purchase equipment, fuel and other job-producing goods and services, to environmental service providers. These are the domain of non-profit environmental organizations and consultants whose contribution will be to “protect” the resources.

The equity in natural asset companies also includes conservation easements on private land. For example, the value of a conservation easement or development right sold to a land

trust by a landowner is recorded on the land trust’s balance sheet. The 2022 financial report for The Nature Conservancy lists the asset value of the easements it owns at \$2.5 billion. The examples IEG provides indicate that easements will be important tangible assets used to stand-up NACs. This can be done without a landowner’s consent because easements are a property right owned solely by the land trust.

Land trusts will earn direct income for the “ecosystem services” they provide, as well as receive payments from the conservation easements they own after they are enrolled in the NAC. They are poised to reap billions of dollars on the backs of America’s landowners.



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## BUT, WILL IT WORK?

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The natural asset industry admits that it does not produce anything that the natural world does not already contribute on its own, with or without their protection services.

Can the scheme work? Possibly, if our society is fundamentally transformed.

First, citizens must believe we are in a climate crisis and that our exploitation of natural resources is the cause. For example, we must be convinced that too much man-made carbon dioxide is being pumped into the atmosphere, and then believe the cure for this is to set aside more forests to absorb the CO<sub>2</sub>. This creates public support to protect more forests for carbon sequestration.

Second, natural assets need to be valued acre-by-acre across America. An inventory must be taken of all lands and natural resources, including private and government lands, easements, wetlands and water, grasslands and crop lands, carbon sequestration areas and carbon sinks, and mineral reserves and energy resources. After that, a financial value must be placed on every single element in the inventory.

Third, every citizen must have an emission account that tracks our impact on the climate – similar to carbon credits now being sold to corporations. If you drive an SUV, you pay more. If you drive an EV, you pay less.

Fourth, climate crisis advocates must gain control of federal agencies so voting citizens no longer determine the direction of national environmental policy. In addition, regulations must compel citizens to participate in the natural assets' economy, such as by requiring electric stoves over gas stoves.

Fifth, the government must clear title to the lands that will be conscripted into the program. The trees that sequester the carbon and the land under the trees must be owned by a willing partner in the natural asset company – either the landowner, government, an environmental land trust, or an investment backer such as the Rockefeller Foundation or Blackrock.

All these necessary components of the scheme are in place. Americans are being pressured to believe the contrived climate crisis is mostly their fault. The Biden Administration is producing an inventory of natural assets through numerous programs across the federal Departments, including the newly created 30x30 American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas. Carbon credits are being sold on the open market, and the federal government is using tax-payer dollars and regulatory powers to compel citizens to buy renewable energy over hydrocarbon products.

America's landowners are being pressured to "voluntarily" sign up for federal conservation programs that promise financial benefits while also creating a federal nexus to their property. These programs, as well



as conservation easements that constrain property owners in perpetuity, are promoted as helping them "do more" with their land. In fact, these programs erode private property rights, transfer the new value assigned to their lands to the natural asset companies, and accelerate the natural assets agenda.

The Biden Administration is working hard to lock in these advances. It has most recently established arbitrary deadlines to prevent debate over provisions of its plan. Most importantly, its "30x30" initiative—to protect 30 percent of all U.S. land, water, and oceans by 2030—is intended to make undoing the scheme impossible.

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## INVESTORS BEWARE

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IEC is waiting approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to list its Natural Asset Companies as a



publicly-traded investment on the New York Stock Exchange. Before this can occur, however, the NYSE has requested “unique listing requirements” for the NACs. Neither the IEG nor NYSE public information addresses why “unique” requirements are necessary, raising the obvious question – would NACs be a viable investment without special rules?

Will the investment plan work? Perhaps, if they acquire enough natural assets—land and water rights, and dominion over every other natural element—before enough Americans determine that the scheme is a fraud.

Another questionable component of the scheme is how IEC promotes the ecosystem services industry as the income-producing component of the company that provides the “goods and services.” But these services are not self-sustaining. They are currently largely funded by government and private

grants made by backers of the investment product. The climate cartel is funding the ecosystem services’ industry, essentially making it appear to be a viable investment.

IEC also supposes that the exchange will deliver financial gains to every person who invests. In fact, the Intrinsic Exchange Group claims that the natural assets’ economy is worth \$5,000 Trillion, which dwarfs the value of the entire world’s economy, which it claims is \$1,540 Trillion.

However, the most important take away is that proponents do not need the plan to work for the scheme to succeed. The “Natural Asset Companies” only need to appear to make money long enough for climate change advocates to gain control of our natural resources. That will allow them to control how much we will pay even for the air we breathe.

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## A MASSIVE WEALTH TRANSFER

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The natural asset industry also poses a challenge to traditional property rights that are the foundation of America’s Republic. The scheme diminishes liberty in exchange for “solving” the purposely-defined climate crisis. Overall, the plan will lead to the largest transfer of land ownership and wealth in American history. The transfers will flow from the middle class who own most U.S. private properties today to a now fast-growing environmental cartel.

What may be most alarming is that this same scheme is already much further advanced in other countries, largely the third world countries who are debt ridden and compromised, making it easier for the natural asset proponents to acquire rights to their natural resources.

We will know if they have succeeded when it is announced the climate crisis has been averted and protected lands can once again be mined, grazed, drilled and harvested. But instead of profits flowing to small landowners, they will flow to the green cartel. America’s middle class will be serfs on lands they once owned.

The natural assets scheme makes clear that the conservation agenda is not about whether we will use our nation’s natural resources. It is about who will productively use the resources. The scheme attempts to ensure that green elites will make the decisions while reaping the profits.

## HOW DO WE FIGHT BACK?

The most meaningful step to stop the natural asset movement is to stop the 30x30 agenda. Currently, 60 percent of U.S. lands are privately owned. That means “We the people” still have enough power to stop this scheme. It is why the Biden Administration has been working since 2021, to enroll America’s private lands in federal conservation programs and forever-easements while also restricting the use of our federal lands.

Every citizen can play a key role in stopping this agenda.

1. Americans who own land, whether large acreage or a small residential lot, should reject all government incentives that would encumber their property or create a federal nexus to their land, including conservation easements of all kinds.
2. Americans need to unite and confront every attempt to lock up the productive use of our federal and state lands under the ruse of conserving, restoring, or protecting nature to mitigate climate change.
3. Voters need to ask members of Congress to cut off funding, subsidies and tax incentives that support the 30x30 initiative, a

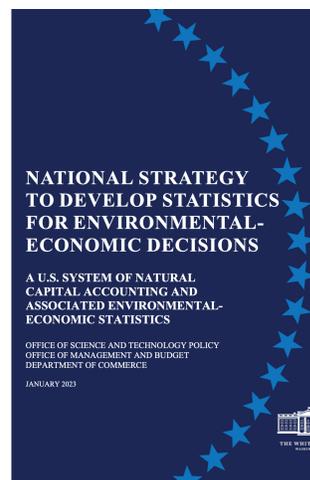
decarbonization agenda, and federal control of America’s food supply.

Those behind this agenda have forgotten, or possibly never accepted, that the foundation of our Republic rests on the rights of individual citizens to own and control their private property. Government initiatives that undermine these rights should be alarming to every American. The 30x30 initiative and the natural asset industry it is designed to spawn are more than alarming; they are critical elements in a plan to upend our nation and ensure the government, rather than its people, control our destiny.

Our Founders warned against the consolidation of power and wealth in the hands of too few individuals. It is why they separated the powers of our government, and why they saw to it that our lands were owned by private citizens. That is the path our nation took until the end of the 1800’s, when the federal government took ownership of over 50 percent of land in the Western United States.

Government is currently fixed on taking control of even more land. They will not succeed if Americans refuse to be pawns in the natural assets’ Ponzi scheme.

*For more information on Natural Assets, go to the Intrinsic Exchange Group Website.*



GRAPHS ARE FROM THE INTRINSIC EXCHANGE GROUP. THE NATIONAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT CAN BE FOUND ON THE WHITE HOUSE WEBSITE.

# STANDING AGAINST CHINA CITIZENS FIGHT BACK

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*By: Dan Byfield*

China's impact on American sovereignty runs deep and is at a dangerous crossroad.

From our President down to the local government level, China has infiltrated and influenced lawmakers, universities, corporations and much of our society.

Some may argue, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is destroying the fabric of our nation from within without even firing a shot. It's well known they have been stealing our technological secrets for years and, more recently, have begun buying up American companies. Now, they are purchasing more of America's farmland, awakening our politicians, media, and citizens nationwide.

One example that quickly became a high-profile story was a 300-acre farm outside Grand Forks, North Dakota purchased for \$2.6 million by the Fufeng Group in 2020. Fufeng's CEO Li Xuechun, was a leader in the People's Congress in China, which means he was, and still is, a member of the CCP.

After buying the farmland, Fufeng boasted that they were going to invest \$700 million in the construction of a corn milling plant and bring over 200 hundred jobs and other

opportunities for logistics, trucking, and support services to the local community.

However, the milling plant would be located in an area where corn isn't one of the main crops grown in the region and this raised local citizen's suspicions. They questioned why someone from China was buying farmland outside of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

For over a year, the local citizenry raised concerns, but were all shut out of the process by Grand Fork's Mayor Brandon Bochenski and the City Administrator. Then, citizens organized and began showing up at Grand Fork's City Council meetings.

And, finally, in 2022, the story began to unravel. It became obvious that the Fufeng Group might want the land for a different purpose other than a corn mill facility.

The citizens raising questions became identified as "Concerned Citizens of Fufeng Group." Ben Grzadzilewski started gathering signatures on a petition to bring the Fufeng Group's future plant to a vote. And, soon they had more than enough signatures to force a vote, but the city attorney, apparently, found legal reasons to deny their petition.

Discouraged, but not defeated, the citizens continued to raise issues and attend City Council meetings for over a year.

Then, a surprise arrived. An Air Force officer named Maj. Jeremy Fox, circulated a memo about the Fufeng project in April of 2022, describing it as a national security threat to the United States alleging it fits a pattern of Chinese espionage that uses economic development projects to get close to Department of Defense installations.

Maj. Fox is from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and is trained in cryptology and intelligence. The controversy in Grand Forks got his attention because Grand Forks Air Force Base is 12 miles from the Fufeng Group site.

As it turns out, Grand Forks Air Force Base is home to the 319<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing that remotely flies the RQ-4 Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicles performing reconnaissance and espionage missions all over the world.

Fox argued the Fufeng project was strategically located where passive receiving equipment could intercept sensitive drone and space-based communications to and from the base.

“Some of the most sensitive elements of Grand Forks exist with the digital uplinks and downlinks inherent with unmanned air systems and their interaction with space-based assets,” he wrote in his report. Collecting this type of data “would present a costly national security risk causing grave damage to the United States’ strategic advantages.”

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## FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

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This whole ordeal with Grand Forks has raised the issue of foreign ownership of American land. This pertains to all foreign ownership, not just that of China or any other enemy of the United States and brings up new issues.

To address China, several U.S. Representatives and Senators have filed legislation to ensure that U.S. land never comes under the control of the CCP by prohibiting the purchasing of U.S. public or private real estate by any member of the CCP or any entity under the control or influence of the CCP.

In 2010, China's U.S. ownership of farmland was around 14,000 acres. As of December 2021, it was reported to be 383,935 acres. Those figures are recorded in the Foreign Holdings of Agricultural Land (December 2021) Report and are probably higher today.

That Report is the product of the 1978 passage of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA), requiring all foreign persons holding agricultural land to report to the Secretary of Agriculture within 90 days of acquiring the land.

Should foreigners not disclose or file the requisite paperwork, they are subject to a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. However, it's not known whether the USDA or federal government has ever enforced this requirement, leaving one to wonder if it contains accurate ownership figures.

What is a growing concern with China owing our farmland, is their ability to threaten our food supply infrastructure and expand their espionage capabilities within our borders.

However, the number of other foreign countries and foreigners owning American soil is growing. Most of the foreign owners are not hostile to or threatening towards the U.S., raising the issue of whether legislation should be filed preventing them from owning land.

In an interview with Senator Jon Tester (D-Mont), he discussed legislation that would prevent adversaries of the U.S. from owning land in America. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) introduced a bill called “Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security Act (PASS Act).

Tester said: "I think it (this discussion about foreign ownership) needs to be divided up into adversarial countries who own farmland, and other folks. I think this bill is really [focused] on China and Russia and North Korea, Iran. And, quite honestly, I think it is inappropriate for any four of those countries to buy or have ownership of land in this country. I think it puts security and national security at risk. And that's really what this bill is focused at. It's focused at ag land, it's also focused at agribusiness."

That appears to be a growing sentiment among legislators on both sides of the aisle.

As reported in the USDA's Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Lands Report, as of December 2021, foreign investors held an interest in approximately 40 million acres of U.S. agricultural land (forest land and farm land). This is an increase of over 2.4 million acres from December of 2020 and represents 3.1 percent of all privately held agriculture land in the United States.

Since 2015, foreign holdings have increased an average of 2.2 million acres annually.

Canadian investors own the largest amount of foreign-held land with 30 percent, or 12.8 million acres. Other countries that own land in America include the Netherlands, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Germany.



However, it's China's 383,935+ acres that has brought hostile foreign ownership to a head. Their desire to spy on our nation and collect data and technology is well documented.

And now, with the surveillance balloons China is flying over the United States, it shows their blatant disrespect of, and willingness to, violate of our national sovereignty.

These violations appear to signal a turn in the Chinese Communist Party's attitude and aggression towards the U.S. Unfortunately, the Biden administration's lack of concern is alarming, but not surprising with all the ties he and his son Hunter have with China.

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## CHINESE COMPANY IN MICHIGAN MUST ADHERE TO CCP CONSTITUTION

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Another disturbing aspect of China buying land and moving companies into our rural areas comes from a report by Bruce Walker with The Center Square, a partner with John Solomon's Just the News who recently reported on a \$2.3 billion Chinese electric vehicle battery materials processing plant called "Project Elephant" in Mecosta County, Michigan.

Gotion Inc., a subsidiary of China-based Gotion High-Tech Co., Ltd., a global manufacturer of electric vehicle batteries based in California, purchased 115 acres in Big Rapids Township, MI to build electric batteries.

Gotion's bylaws include articles requiring the company "perform its duties in accordance with the Constitution of the Communist Party of China and other Party Regulations..."

For Gotion to do business on American soil, it must adhere to the Constitution of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Just last year, Gotion secured commitments of \$1.14 billion from the Michigan State Legislature and local government for a facility in Big Rapids, Michigan. This included a 30-year tax break underwritten by the citizens of Michigan. The company's founder, Li Zhen, is a

former government employee and participant in the local communist government.

China is infiltrating America and doing it openly and aggressively. Local citizens need to be very vigilant when a foreign company comes into their community and begins buying rural land for any type of manufacturing facility where they promise thousands of good-paying jobs.

In fact, in a story published May 4, 2023, in World Net Daily, Michigan has now targeted a horse farm with investigation for refusing to sell to Gotion. Lori Brock, the owner of Majestic Friesians Horse Farm in Big Rapids posted she was being targeted by the State for runoff from her property into waterways.

“For 20 horses on 150 acres, there’s no way I’m in violation of anything.” Brock said. “They’re (Gotion) absolutely cannibalizing all the land near us and are scaring people into selling their property,” she continued. “They’d be the last person in this world that I’d ever sell my property to.”

Leaders in communities with Chinese companies buying land need to wake up and realize China is not our friend. They are using local and state governments to obtain tax incentives and tax breaks that ultimately come from taxes American citizens pay.

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## LOCAL LEADERS STEPPING UP

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The lesson to be learned from Grand Forks is, in America, the individual citizen can stand, fight, and win against the largest of foes.

American Stewards of Liberty has always known the power of the citizen. It is how we stopped the \$80 billion Trans-Texas Corridor 10 years ago. We organized five small towns in one county in Texas where the mayors of those towns didn’t represent more than 5,000 citizens combined.

Those mayors, along with their small rural school districts, stood up against a Spanish corporation named Cintra Zachery, our entire Texas Legislature, and our Republican Governor Rick Perry, to stop a quarter mile-wide highway that would have run from the Pacific Coast of Mexico through the center of the U.S. to Canada devouring thousands of acres of private property.

An interesting twist to that story is that the Trans-Texas Corridor was planned to connect ports in Mexico owned by China, allowing the cargo, or whatever else they decided to import, to be offloaded and driven through the heart of America without inspection.

We proved back then that if we stand and fight, we can win just like the Concerned Citizens of Grand Forks did earlier this year.

They would not back down and finally on January 31, 2023, the Mayor declared his intention to stop the project saying the federal government requested the city’s help..and... “the only remedies the city has is to refuse to connect industrial infrastructure and deny building permits.” “As mayor of the city of Grand Forks, I am requesting these remedies be undertaken and the project be stopped, pending City Council approval.”

On February 6, 2023, the Grand Forks City Council voted unanimously to block Fufeng’s proposed corn mill project.

The power of the individual citizen in America cannot be understated or ignored. This is another wonderful lesson in perseverance by individuals exercising those rights preserved for us by our Founding Fathers through our U.S. Constitution.

We all must be vigilant to foreign powers infiltrating our nation, especially the CCP, and be ready to take a stand when our elected leaders fail us.

Liberty is our greatest God-given gift and it’s up to us to keep it!



U.S. REP. G.T. THOMPSON (R-PA); MARGARET BYFIELD; TX AG COM. SID MILLER; U.S. REP. DAN NEWHOUSE

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# WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT TAKING OUR LAND?

## THE 30X30 FEDERAL OVERREACH

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*By: Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Margaret Byfield  
Published in The Washington Times, June 20, 2023*

As one of his first actions in office, President Biden signed an executive order calling for at least 30% of U.S. lands and waters to be conserved by 2030. This program, commonly referred to as 30x30, was launched without congressional or constitutional authority, leading to an immediate and justified outcry against federal overreach.

The Biden administration argues the program is needed to mitigate climate change and calls for more federal restrictions. Yet these solutions will not stop the devastating wildfires we are witnessing, eradicate invasive weeds, restore our watersheds, or help in recovering

species. Rather, seizing more control over America's lands will lead to more of the same results.

The 30x30 program backlash has caused the administration to advance its agenda using administrative avenues. In April, the Biden administration took the boldest step to date when the Bureau of Land Management circumvented Congress to issue its Conservation and Landscape Health proposed rule.

The rule will significantly restrict resource development on federal lands while prioritizing "conservation" over statutorily defined multiple

uses. The agency audaciously proposed the rule outside all of the checks and balances Congress has placed on the rulemaking process. If left to stand, it will affect 240 million acres managed by BLM, as well as every rural community in the West.

First, some context. When Congress passed the Federal Land Policy Management Act – the seminal law that directs how BLM lands are to be managed – it was to ensure the lands would always be open to multiple uses, such as recreation, grazing, mining, and oil and gas development.

The law directs BLM to manage these resources to ensure the land, wildlife, and local economies flourish. If the agency now argues the lands are so degraded they must be “protected and restored,” as cited in the proposed BLM rule, it is clear the agency has failed in its mission.

But we know this is not the case. We have decades of proof that effective conservation and public access to lands, including for recreational and even commercial uses, are not mutually exclusive. Instead, conservation is made more effective by multiple uses, responsible development, and active private management.

Our longest-standing partners in land stewardship are our ranchers, sportsmen, foresters, mineral and energy developers, and landowners. No one knows better the importance of stewarding our lands than the citizens whose livelihoods depend on these resources.

Every American who visits and enjoys our federal lands needs the rural communities in these areas to thrive as well. The counties maintain the roads, fund the hospitals, and answer the search and rescue calls that make visiting federal lands a safe and good experience. Local taxpayers – not federal agencies – fund these services.

Leasing the lands for conservation only instead of the fuller array of authorized multiple uses will undermine local economies, making it impractical for Americans to enjoy the lands at all. The result will be no hunting, no fishing, and no recreation on these lands of any kind.

If the Biden administration’s priority is “tackling climate change” rather than demonizing citizens who are the best stewards of our lands, federal agencies should support their time-tested, science-based practices. These landowners know how to produce the best conservation outcomes for our lands and waters.

So, why is the Bureau of Land Management attempting to bypass Congress and change decades of proven best practice? That’s a question only the Biden administration can answer, and Congress should ask.

This proposed rule, Conservation and Landscape Health, has been published in the Federal Register and is open for comments until July 5, 2023.

Rep. Dan Newhouse, Washington Republican, is chairman of the House Western Caucus, and Margaret Byfield is executive director of American Stewards of Liberty.

### **MULTIPLE-USE ALLIANCE FORMED TO CHALLENGE 30X30 PLANNING RULES**

American Stewards of Liberty (ASL) has organized a group of counties and organizations to challenge the Biden Administration’s planning rule changes for America’s federal lands.

The entities leading this effort are: Chaves County, New Mexico; Custer County, Idaho; Garfield County, Colorado; Garfield County, Utah; Jackson County, Colorado; Kane County, Utah; Lea County, New Mexico; Modoc County, California; Moffat County, Colorado; Otero County, New Mexico; San Juan County, Utah; Center for a Constructive Tomorrow; Center for Energy & Environment, Competitive Enterprise Institute; Coalition of Arizona/ New Mexico Counties; Kansas Natural Resource Coalition; Protect the Harvest.

All counties, local and State governments and organizations who want to help stop the lock-up of America’s federal lands are invited to join the Alliance. Contact ASL for more information.

# GOVERNOR NOEM INVESTOR IN ETHANOL NOT STANDING WITH LANDOWNERS

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On Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, nearly 600 landowners rallied at the South Dakota state Capitol demanding Gov. Kristi Noem call a special session to address private companies using eminent domain to take private property.

The landowners and elected officials organized the rally after a private pipeline company issued over 80 condemnation letters to South Dakota landowners, with plans to issue over 200, for a carbon sequestration pipeline.

They have already begun physically entering these properties. In some areas, it has been reported they are drilling 200-foot deep into the subsurface for a line they plan to bury four feet. Many places they come flanked with armed guards, presumably to keep the landowners from interfering. In every instance, they are tearing up good productive farmland across the 100-foot right-of-way.

In one area, the right-of-way zigzags through the middle of several farm operations, between houses and the barns, and barns and feedlots, etc, -- when by simply moving the line a few miles one way they could have made a clean straight shot without disrupting any operations or having to make so many turns. The local landowners explain the route they selected will make future expansions impossible and normal operations expensive, not to mention dangerous as their heavy equipment is forced to cross the compressed gas lines daily.

What may be most shocking, however, is that they are doing all this prior to being issued a permit from the state authorizing them to build the pipeline.

At issue is a pipeline company named Summit Carbon Solutions that plans to transport captured carbon dioxide produced at ethanol plants through eastern South Dakota and pump it into the ground in North Dakota. They claim they are combatting climate change by removing carbon, the gift God gave us to grow trees and plants, from the atmosphere.

Gov. Kristi Noem, up until the rally, remained silent on the whole issue of eminent domain and appeared to be opposed to stopping any legislation that would prevent it from happening. Then, it was revealed one of the reasons might be she is an investor in an ethanol plant named Granite Falls Energy that is partnered with Summit Carbon Solutions.

While in Congress and as Governor of South Dakota, Noem's financial disclosures reveal she and her husband are investors in the plant and from 2010 until the end of her term in Congress in 2019, she made between \$25,006 and \$70,000 in dividends from the plant. As Governor, she remains an investor in the ethanol company, but her disclosures only require the identification of income sources, not amounts.

This, along with accepting major campaign contributions from Summit, raise questions about why Noem has remained silent on anti-pipeline legislation that failed in this year's Legislative session. Ed Fischbach, an area farmer whose land is being crossed by the pipeline said: "She and the people in her office wouldn't even

come talk to us when we came to the Capitol.” Mr. Fischbach and hundreds of other landowners supported legislation that would have restricted private carbon pipeline companies from using eminent domain for financial gains. The Bill passed the House, but died in Senate Committee as Gov. Noem remained publicly silent.

Summit, like many other carbon capture pipeline companies, are being paid \$85 per metric ton of carbon sequestered, as well as making huge profits from selling carbon dioxide removal credits (CDRs) to companies around the world promoting themselves as “climate-friendly” companies.

It’s a huge scam being perpetrated on the public and Noem is a willing participant. To add to the case against Gov. Noem, it was revealed she had signed a bill in March 2022, that established taxes for carbon dioxide pipelines similar to oil and natural gas pipelines, which gave companies like Summit the same ability to use eminent domain even though they are a private corporation and not carrying a product beneficial for an end use. All they intend to do is pass through private property taking carbon from the atmosphere, pressurizing it, and pumping it into the ground.

Interestingly, Summit testified in favor of the legislation and about a month after Noem signed the bill into law, Granite Falls CEO Jeffrey Oestmann said the proposed pipeline is vital to the company’s survival. “We can’t compete without it,” he said.

To add to her problems, it was also revealed Noem’s son-in-law, Kyle Peters, is a registered lobbyist for Gevo Inc., a company that has made a billion-dollar investment in South Dakota to turn corn into jet fuel that plans to partner with Summit Carbon Solutions by connecting to the pipeline once production begins.

Noem is definitely caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place getting hammered by landowners whose land is being trampled on by Summit and landowners who grow the corn being used to produce the ethanol that creates carbon as a byproduct to be sold to Summit.

In the one public interview she has given on the topic, Governor Noem claims her hands are tied and blames the legislature for failing to pass a bill she could sign, a bill which died as she remained publicly silent. She then tells the familiar story she uses to convince voters she is a protector of property rights. It is something her father told her: “Kristi, they aren’t making any more land....”

At the end of the rally, Jared Bossly, a landowner fighting for his private property rights and Rep. Karla Lems of Canton, SD, delivered 2,000 signed petitions demanding a Special Session to change the law.

As of the date of this article, crickets are the only thing being heard from the Governor’s office.

#### STATEHOUSE RALLY ATTENDED BY 500 CITIZENS COMPEL GOV. NOEM TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION



S.D. REP. KARLA LEMS; JARED BOSSLEY, LANDOWNER

# WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS

## WILL CAVIN & BECKY NORTON DUNLOP

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Within the past month, it has been our privilege and honor to welcome two new Board members to our organization. The first to come on is Will Cavin from Roswell, NM, and the second is Becky Norton Dunlop from Draper, Virginia.

Will is a lifelong Roswell resident, who graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute in 1985. In 1989, he received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Eastern New Mexico University and spent 25 years as a teacher and coach for the Roswell Independent School District. He also served as a Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce. Will is married to Kim Cavin. They have six children and four grandchildren, with one more on the way.

We first worked with Will over eight years ago when he began his first of two terms on the Chaves County Board of Commissioners. Will served as chairman his second and final term and was not able to run again because of term limits.



*"I was always impressed with how America Stewards aided our county and stood with us against federal overreach.*

*When asked to serve, I knew my philosophy and theirs were the same – hard work and a 'can do' attitude. I'm looking forward to serving," stated Cavin.*

Will is also running for Roswell City Council. Becky Norton Dunlop is our latest addition. Becky is widely known and loved amongst conservatives where she has been a prominent national leader and strategist for many years. She has the distinct honor of serving in the two Presidential administrations of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

Under Reagan, she was a senior official in the administration from 1981-1989, and served in the White House, at the Justice Department, and the Interior Department. In 2002, George W. Bush

appointed her to a part-time post as chairwoman of the Federal Service Impasses Panel resolving several hundred cases of disputes between federal agencies management and labor unions.



*"I have fought for Constitutional principles my entire career. Joining the board of the American Stewards of Liberty is an honor enabling me to advance this work, focusing on the foundational principle, protection of property rights but encompassing protection of all our God-given rights. ASL has set a high standard in the on-going struggle to maintain, indeed rescue our constitutional republic. I am happy to be part of this dedicated and talented team of patriots," declared Mrs. Dunlop.*

Becky has also served as Virginia's natural resources chief, where she streamlined, decentralized and down-sized state agencies while protecting the environment. She authored "Clearing the Air" (Alexis de Tocqueville Institute, 2000), chronicling her experiences as a "free-market environmentalist" during those years.

Most recently, Becky was The Heritage Foundation's Ronald Reagan Distinguished Fellow. Becky is a graduate of Miami University in Ohio and is married to George S. Dunlop.

*"We've been blessed with exceptional Directors leading ASL over our 30-year history," commented Board Chairman, Mike Dail. "Will and Becky bring a depth of experience and profound love for this country, our land, and our liberty. I'm looking forward to their expertise and help leading American Stewards."*

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

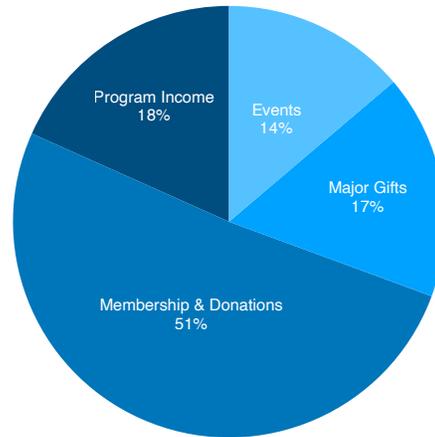
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We are funded by America's landowners and those who treasure our unique American way of life. It is our small donors, with an average gift size of \$180, who provide 51 percent of our operating revenue. Only 17 percent of our funding comes from major gifts of \$5000 or more. Eighteen percent of our revenue comes from program income - our local training classes, special projects and professional service contracts where we work directly with the local community to help protect the productive use of the lands. Fifteen percent of our income comes from our Annual conference and other events.

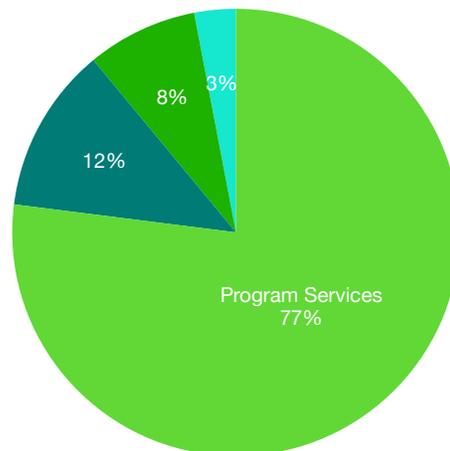
With a small staff of three employees, our operations are efficiently managed with minimal overhead so that the majority of our funding can go directly to fulfilling our mission educating Americans, advocating for property rights, and helping the rural communities protect their way of life. Seventy-seven percent of our expenses are allocated to our program services, 12 percent to management and operations, 8 percent towards fundraising, and a minimal 3 percent to advocacy under the safe harbor of election "h" of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our total revenue for 2023 was \$452,155.68. Our total expenses were \$441,341.50. Many are surprised by these figures given our impact on local, state and federal property right issues. The credit goes to our members, who answer our call and continually support or organization's needs.

● Events ● Major Gifts ● Membership & Donations ● Program Income



● Program Services ● Management ● Fundraising ● Advocacy



# “STOP 30X30 SUMMIT”

## AND EPOCH TV PREMIERE OF “NO FARMERS NO FOOD”

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JAMES TAYLOR



GABRIELLA  
HOFFMANN



CRAIG RUCKER



ELIZABETH  
NICKSON



TAYLOR GAGE

The 2nd National “Stop 30x30 Summit,” and special “Red Carpet Premiere” of Epoch TV’s extraordinary documentary, “No Farmers No Food,” takes place September 21st-23rd in Irving (Dallas), Texas.

The two-day Summit is packed with presentations from national and international experts, those fighting the green agenda in the Halls of Congress and those fighting these policies in rural America.

Our host is Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Sid Miller. No other Texas statewide office holder has done more to protect property rights and our agriculture industry. He has been a great leader educating Americans on the very real threat the 30x30 agenda imposes on our nation.

He is joined by a stellar group of speakers including U.S. Representative Tom Tiffany, Chairman of the Federal Lands, Natural Resource Subcommittee; Marc Morano, Author of “The Green Fraud,” and “The Great Reset;” Elizabeth Nickson, Author of “Eco-Fascists;” James Taylor, President of The Heartland Institute; Craig Rucker, Founder CFACT; Tom DeWeese, President, American Policy Center; Gabriella Hoffman, Outdoor Writer; and many more.

South Dakota State Representatives Julie Auch and Karla Lems will be joined by landowner Mark Lapka to discuss the fight to stop private companies from condemning private property to build the Midwest Carbon Sequestration Pipeline.

Rob Gordon, veteran Natural Resource Committee and Department of Interior staffer will lead a panel of experts on the 50-year failure of the Endangered Species Act.

Local leaders and County Commissioners from across the nation will report on the fights in their communities covering National Monuments, Wilderness Designations, National Historic Trails, Wildlife Corridors and how they are fighting back.

A trio of policy and communications experts will share how to message conservative issues to achieve policy goals. These are Taylor Gage, Communication’s Director for U.S. Representative Flood (R-NE), Bill Dolbow with CSG Strategies, and Brad Cameron, owner of Pipeline Advisors, Media Metrics and The Federal Newswire.

Two key trainings will also be held to equip attendees with strategies that can roll back 30x30. One will teach local and state governments how to move federal agencies into

the “Coordination Process” to achieve consistency with local plans and policies. The second workshop will teach leaders how to organize effective opposition when elected officials are implementing the green agenda in their area.

Policy roundtables will also be held where state and local elected leaders can trade solutions that protect property rights and the local economy.

The Friday evening event will be the “Red Carpet Premier” of Epoch TV’s documentary, “No Farmers No Food.” This special evening will feature Roman Balmakov, host of “Facts Matters.”

Balmakov has spent the last year traveling the world documenting the global effort to destroy small farmers and ranchers. He will speak on his findings, interview attendees, and lead the “Red Carpet Premiere” of the film.

“We are very excited to bring Americans together to fight for our land and liberty,” commented Margaret Byfield, the Summit organizer. “Every speaker on the agenda is stellar. Some of the people you will recognize from national news programs. Others you may not know. But every speaker on the agenda is here because they are on the front lines stopping 30x30.”

21-23 | SEPTEMBER | 2023

IRVING TEXAS

# STOP 30X30 SUMMIT

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Marc Morano**  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
THE GREAT RESET

**Sid Miller**  
TEXAS AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER

**Tom Tiffany**  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (R-WI)  
CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL LANDS

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## RED CARPET PREMIERE

**Roman Balmakov**  
EPOCH TV HOST,  
"FACTS MATTER"

ATTEND

SPONSOR

VOLUNTEER

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.stop30x30summit.com](http://www.stop30x30summit.com)

Scan here to view our website