

# Skidaway Island Republican Club **MAGAZINE**

www.skidawayrepublicanclub.com

2016 ISSUE NO. 2

## **SIRC**

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## 2016 ISSUE 2 CONTENTS

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### **PRESIDENTS DAY DINNER - February 15**

Colonel Allen West was the featured speaker at the virtual sellout audience on Presidents' Day. His remarks are summarized on page 2, with photos of the event on pages 9-11.

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### **TRUE PERSPECTIVES SEMINAR - March 20 - Chatham County Issues**

County Manager Lee Smith summarized progress in past two years. See page 3.

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### **TRUE PERSPECTIVES SEMINAR - April 21 - Georgia Legislative Actions**

Our local legislators Ben Watson and Jesse Petrea put them in perspective on page 4.

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### **FUTURE TRUE PERSPECTIVES SEMINARS - 2016**

May 10 - FBI Agent Eugene Kowel on domestic terrorism threats.

June 2 - Brent Bozell will provide insights on how the press is viewing the election year.

July 12 - Eddie DeLoach will outline progress in his first year as Savannah's Mayor.

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### **NEED A NEW SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE - Peter Muller for a Positive Change**

Page 5 outlines the reasons for change.

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### **FREDERICK DOUGLASS VALUES** - Retired Army Major K. Carl Smith summarized his

conversion to becoming a Republican after researching the progress of Fredrick Douglass from abject poverty as a slave to a successful career in the U.S. after the Civil War. His seminar remarks at Savannah State University are summarized on page 6.

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### **LIBERAL MYTHS on ENERGY**

Succinct review of the failures of the current Administration to help make America energy independent. See pages 7 and 8.

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### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Ask your friends and neighbors to join, as this year is the big push to take back the White House. And we have lots of True Perspectives Seminars planned. Family membership is \$40, Sustaining membership, \$100. Mail or tube to Membership Chair Mary Ann Senkowski, 8 Mainsail Crossing, Savannah, GA 31411. For questions, call or email her at: 912-598-0493, or [masenkowski@gmail.com](mailto:masenkowski@gmail.com).

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## Restoring Key Principles

At the SIRC annual dinner on February 15, retired Lieutenant Colonel (and former Congressman) Allen West led off his talk with a video illustrating the abject ignorance of the younger generation of how the economy works. The piece was a Fox News interview of the student organizer of the "Million Student March." She called for the top 1% to pay for all the free stuff students want: tuition, forgiveness of debt and a minimum wage of \$15 an hour. This really parrots Socialist Bernie Sanders' pandering for votes by decrying the income imbalance from a capitalist system.

It was obvious in Neil Cavuto's Socratic questioning of the student that she had no answers for how to possibly pay for all the extra free stuff. There is no substance to the 99%er cry for economic "justice" in outcomes when all the free market promises is equal opportunity to achieve.

What happens when the 1% decide to leave the country rather than pay 90% of their income to spread the wealth? What happened to Greece when they ran out of money from promising too much and had to default? Her answer pathetically was that there would always be a 1%. Never mind that the next 1% would have nowhere near the assets to pay for everyone else. Also she was genuinely incredulous of Cavuto's next statement that even taxing 100% of the income of the top 1% could not pay for the student demands on tuition giveaways.

## Confusion in the Student Class

A recent survey revealed that 43% of millennials (becoming adults after 2000) preferred socialism over capitalism. Yet when viewing some of the features of capitalism, they preferred the free market over the alternative.

As for relying on government power to try to achieve utopia, consider the wisdom attributed to Jefferson: "A government big enough to give you everything you want is one big enough to take away everything that you have."

West's remarks were really directed to combating the ignorance of the student leader, but not blaming her as much as an education system and the mainstream press. These are the groups that ignore the principles of our Constitutional republic that allowed America to become the most successful and longest lasting form of government in the history of the world.

## Can We Keep Our Constitution?

At the fragile start of this new experiment of government of, by and for the People, Benjamin Franklin was questioned on what had just been produced from the 1787 ratifying of the new Constitution. His answer: "a Republic if you can keep it."

The implication was that the frailties of human nature would always push for majorities trying to take away the rights of the minorities and pandering for votes for extra benefits for many paid for by a wealthier few.

What is sorely lacking today is the teaching of civics and the value of the Constitution and free markets in creating more overall wealth and prosperity.

Instead we have a culture of "participation trophies" which reward nothing but are feel good sentiments that decry success, in their "social egalitarianism".

What else is disappearing is the original moral fiber encouraged by the Judeo-Christian beliefs of the founding fathers. Instead we see a morphing towards secular humanism which has served to empty the churches in Europe. There is also a diminished recognition of a higher authority. The latter belief motivated the Constitution authors to promote certain inalienable rights given by that higher authority. These rights are not benevolently given by the government in power, because some future administration could just as easily take them away.

Also absent is the belief in strength through military power, not only in the White House today but in Democratic presidential aspirants. The recent deployment of 500 troops to conflict riddled Helmand Province in Afghanistan was for show only, as they were told not to be combatants. (What are they then? Targets, who are not allowed to shoot back without reading Miranda rights?) Aircraft sorties against ISIS are constantly returning with full bomb loads for fear of "collateral damage"

## Current Myths

Also promoted of late, by educators and the mainstream press, is the notion that Democrats have always supported minorities in this country. Totally forgotten was the main reason for forming the modern Republican Party in 1854: the abolition of slavery. Democrats formed the Ku Klux Klan. The first black members of the U.S. Congress after the Civil War were Republicans.

And it was a Republican Senator Everett Dirksen that led the passing of the Civil Rights Act, whose enactment was fought by Democrat and KKK member Robert Byrd.

It was Democratic President Lyndon Johnson who proposed the Great Society reforms which pandered to single mother households by rewarding the absence of fathers. At the time, 77% of black households with children had two parents. In contrast, now it's 24%!

This "progressive" philosophy has only served to create the notion of "victims" instead of victors.

## Crucial to Win in 2016

This may be the most important national election in a long time, not only for the domestic implications to preserve our Republic and constitutional values, but also for our reputation on the international scene.

As for litmus tests on supporting Republican candidates, West pointed out that in 2012, Republicans who stayed home on election day rather than supporting the eventual candidate caused the reelection of the current Administration and the disastrous decline in domestic and foreign policy positions.

West finished with an exhortation to connect better with young voters - the future of America. Use social media and other means to try to counter the liberal brainwashing they are getting in colleges and high schools.



## Chatham County Manager's Report

Lee Smith gave the Chatham County Manager's view of a number of issues at the third SIRC True Perspective's Seminar on March 20 at the Plantation Club. He is completing his second year as Manager, having been hired from Wayne County, North Carolina. He oversees some 1300 employees and a half a billion dollar annual budget to supply services to some 265,000 Chatham County residents.

### Monitoring SPLOST

He first heralded the SPLOST Highlights newsletter that tracks the progress of the 1% special supplemental sales tax that was approved two years ago. Residents can get the newsletter on line at ChathamCounty.org under the Engineering Department. (Editor's Note: The County had rejected the 1% T-SPLOST a year or so before that on special transportation projects that were not viewed as a great deal for our County.)

Another initiative is Mental Health, where fully 25% of the inmates in the County Jail need mental help, that was not formerly available and that may have contributed to their incarceration. Animal control was another issue being imaginatively handled now.

## Transportation Projects

Solutions to Chatham area transportation problems were next highlighted, first on Bay Street, where a median strip is targeted for a one-mile stretch of four lanes.

Next were a series of projects on bridges, interchanges, canals, road resurfaces, sidewalks and trails throughout Chatham County.

Also stressed was planning for a new Regional Traffic Management Center that is coordinated and capable of handling all of the County's traffic flows. Coordination is needed on this with Georgia Ports Authority and the Airport.

### The Roundabout Issue

In the Q&A session, the obvious one was raised first – what to do about the proposed Roundabout before the main entrance to the Landings Club. The County engineer was present, and also seemed to back off on the impression that they had already decided the solution. At the prior hearing on the matter, the audience had the feeling that the only "solution" was to build a \$2 million roundabout. This appeared to be opposed by 98% of the affected residents in attendance at the prior hearing. The County Manager did imply they had the \$2 million available to pay for it, if that was the right long term answer.

This provoked the final question to the County Manager about how to deal with a likely huge underfunding of the County Public Pension system – possibly of an order of magnitude of \$50 to \$100 million! (Other Counties in the U.S. were facing similar problems, some with underfundings of more than 50% of their County's annual budgets – e.g. in California and Illinois).

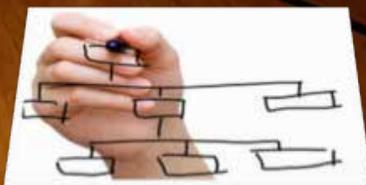
How was our County going to pay off the underfunding of a magnitude of more than \$50 million, if they spend \$2 million on an unneeded and unwanted roundabout? His initial response was that there were calculations that the pension underfunding might be as little as \$17 million. The

actuary who asked the question expressed skepticism about the latter number, since the County had been using an 8% investment return assumption, which was higher than virtually every other municipality or county in the country! The manager then agreed that he would look further into it, implying that the pension issue had not been his highest priority when starting his new job here in 2014.

## Chatham County Government Re-Structuring "A Work In Progress"

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – following agencies  
will become departments of the county

- CEMA (Chatham Emergency Management Agency) – under the authority of the County Manager's Office
- Marine Patrol – under the Command of CNT
- Animal Control – civilian operation



### Merging Police Departments

The Police Merger with Savannah was next addressed, where a future consulting study will help create better measures of efficiency and effectiveness for the reinstated combined entity. It is fully recognized that the final approach needs to change the culture in the department that was not functioning very well.

Indigent Defense was next covered, where \$5 million a year in costs were being inefficiently spent, with few effective controls on the public defenders.

## Pluses and Minuses on the Legislative Front

At various seminars this past month, our local representatives to the State Legislature reported on the latest Georgia state Legislative session.

Jesse Petrea, State Representative, spoke at the Chatham County Republican Party Saturday Morning breakfast April 9 and again at the SIRC True Perspectives Seminar on April 21. State Senator Ben Watson gave his report at the April 21 Seminar.

### Overall Budget Perspective

Jesse Petrea put the largest approved Georgia budget in history (\$23.7 billion) in perspective. Georgia has substantially increased its population since 1998 to over ten million. So the per capita budget adjusted for inflation is no greater than the 1990's – roughly \$2,160, and lower than 2001's of \$2,500. And the same percentage is devoted to education – about 55%.

On the latter focus, they have changed the Hope Scholarship's formulas to encourage courses in science and technology, where students were fearful of taking them as they were perceived to be harder to get Bs and As than the social sciences.

He heralded Georgia's AAA bond rating as one of the best in the country, citing our balanced budget amendments as a principal cause of us being rated one of the best states in which to do business. In fact Georgia is rated second best in the U.S. in per capita state taxes (behind only New Hampshire). At \$1,783, we are less than half that of California, New York and Connecticut and 62% of the \$2,865 national average!

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## Georgia is .... second best in the U.S. in per capita state taxes

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### Disappointing Veto

He also highlighted a very disappointing feature of this year's legislative session when Governor Deal vetoed a prominent bill (HB 757) carefully crafted by a bipartisan effort in the legislature – namely the Free Exercise Protection Act. This would have protected the religious liberty of faith based and charity based organizations against lawsuits by agenda driven entities to force employment or leasing agreements and other practices upon these organizations. In no way did this bill deal with selling products or services to the public, like some of its opponents claimed.

Did the Governor cave to pressure groups who didn't understand the bill? Or did these partisan groups

chose to flex their lobbying muscle as a message to threaten these types of religious freedom efforts?

### Campus Carry Law – HB 859 (and HB 792)

This allows adults (over 21) to continue to protect themselves on campuses that have blanket gun prohibition rules when attending classes and already have a concealed carry license (other than going to a dorm or attending an athletic event).

A second bill allows carrying stun guns or tasers for self defense on college campuses.

Other bills covered tax credits for donations to rural health organizations, reducing the extent of over testing of students and limiting the rights of rapists over children born of their rape.

Other measures limited fireworks use and drone activity, as well as combatting the extent of sanctuary cities and counties in Georgia. (Clayton and DeKalb were not as cooperative with ICE as other counties.)

### True Perspectives Insights

Petrea and Watson emphasized the following points.

The State Constitution of Georgia demands a balanced budget and that much of this year's legislative effort was devoted to making this happen. While 2016 is budgeted to spend nearly \$24 billion, the largest ever, population growth over the past two decades has increased far more rapidly than expenditures. Thus Georgia is now positioned as the 49th lowest out of 50 states in tax revenues per individual!

### Unexplained Veto

The aforementioned Religious Freedom Bill, which was combined with the House Pastor Protection Act, actually passed with a nearly two thirds majority in both houses. Yet the Governor vetoed it with little overall explanation as to why. Both Petrea and Watson professed their belief that, despite the Governor's veto this year, the Legislature will eventually make it into law.

State Senator Dr. Ben Watson was especially proud of the new fireworks ordinance which passes control to local officials and establishes an excise tax which will be used to cover fireworks-related injuries.

Also in the 2016 budget were funds for a 3% raise for teachers and public employees. These funds will be passed to local officials who may choose to use them for some other purpose.

The Parole Partisan board was a subject of much controversy. The threat of a bill demanding notice before release generated a voluntary agreement that six months notice will be given before release of a violent criminal. Much concern was expressed about the real meaning of sentences. Apparently some decades ago, 30 years didn't mean 30 years but meant parole possibility in a much shorter time. The legislature plans to address this issue again in 2017.

The 2016 Georgia state legislative session ended relatively early. This was in partial recognition that there is a May 24th General primary election, which is very early also.



## May 24: Important Election to Vote for a New Superior Court Judge in Chatham County

### Skidaway Island Can Make It Happen

May 24 is a little known but important upcoming election, specifically in the contest for a Chatham County Superior Court Judgeship. Overall voter turnout is expected to be very low. So a huge showing by voters on Skidaway Island can truly demonstrate that your votes really count.

Skidaway Island's Peter Muller is running against John Morse for Superior Court Judge on May 24th. A Peter Muller election will bring a much needed change to the Superior Court bench. But unseating an incumbent judge is unusual, so your help is needed!!

Superior Court handles felonies, divorces, child support and custody disputes, as well as business and injury lawsuits. It is crucial to elect a fair and hard-working judge with integrity to handle these cases. Peter Muller is that person.

### Justice Delayed Can Be Justice Denied

The incumbent has never had a contested election, so the voters have never really had an opportunity to be heard. Since a Democratic governor appointed him over 20 years ago, some have suggested that Morse has tended to treat his job complacently, causing backlogs and making people suffer through unnecessary delays. Cases can just sit on his desk, and some cases have dragged on for five years or more.

This has led to allegations of arrogance and his disrespecting attorneys on both sides of a case. Ask some lawyers who have dealt with him in court. Chatham County can do better with a change now.



### Muller is Well Qualified to be the New Judge

Peter Muller will make this judgeship a full-time job, make timely rulings, be attentive to trial procedures, treat parties and their attorneys with respect, try cases efficiently and avoid the useless waste of jurors' time. Peter will also install a civil case management system to track cases in Superior Court. Peter is risking much by running against a sitting superior court judge, and he needs our strong support.

Peter grew up in Savannah and has been in private law practice here for almost 30 years, after his BA and law degrees from the University of Georgia. He is managing partner of his firm's Savannah office. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. and Georgia Supreme Courts and is President Elect of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association (civil lawsuits).

He is a man of courage, determination and strength. He is fair, hard-working and dedicated to excellence and efficiency. Attorneys are saying he is our best hope. We need to bring a fresh approach and a strong work ethic to that bench.

### What You Can Do

Peter Muller can't win without strong support on Skidaway Island. With a huge turnout on Skidaway Island, he can win this difficult election to unseat an incumbent judge who has been allowed to serve uncontested for over 20 years.

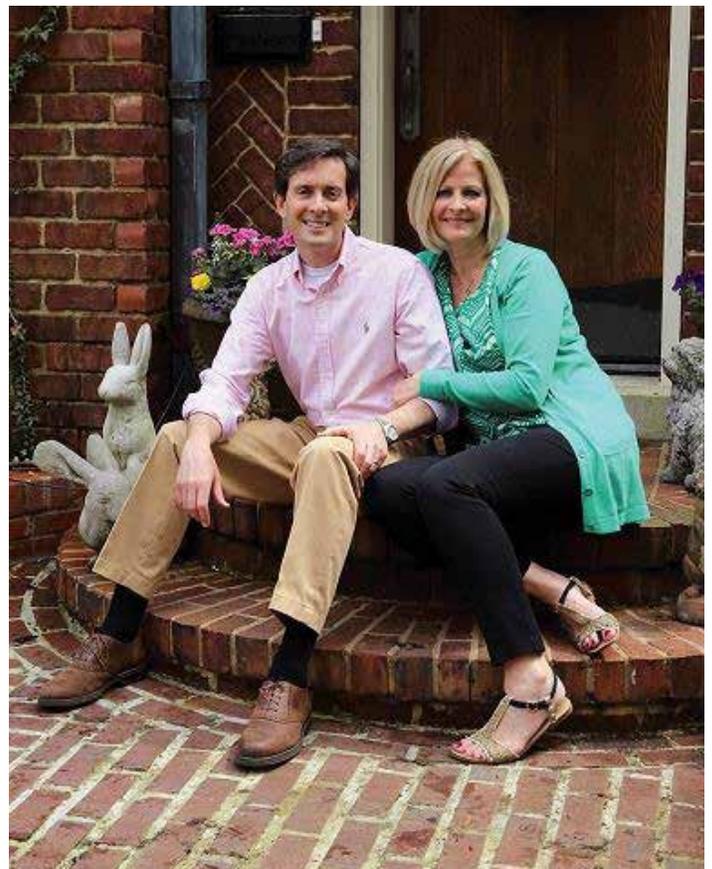
Please help elect Peter Muller for Superior Court Judge. Encourage your friends and neighbors to VOTE on May 24 or even consider early voting now until May 20 at 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite E in Savannah.

Make a financial contribution with a check made out to Peter Muller for Judge, and mailed to:  
Peter Muller for Judge  
532 Stephenson Ave. Suite 200,  
Savannah, GA 31405.

Or contribute online at [www.mullerforjudge.com](http://www.mullerforjudge.com).

Most importantly, please spread the word about Peter Muller and get people to the local polls on Skidaway Island on May 24!

### Message from The Board of Directors of the Skidaway Island Republican Club



## Frederick Douglass Values

A Seminar by K. Carl Smith

Frederick Douglass was born a slave in 1818 in Maryland. He had no formal schooling, as education or even reading was banned for slaves in the U.S. then. Yet he had a thirst for knowledge so he persuaded the wife of the slave master to teach him to read. He was a fast learner, yet the only three books he could find to read inspired him at age 10 to plan an escape, which he did at age 20.

The three books were: the *Bible*, a dictionary, and the *Columbian Orator*. The latter contained the wisdom of the ages from speeches by Socrates and Cicero and others. This book came in handy later, when he came to know the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. At a Garrison rally, Douglass was asked to speak to the crowd about how and why he escaped slavery. The crowd was astounded by the articulate and stirring speech by Douglass who had a masterful command of English and oratory. Many in the crowd even doubted his story of escape from slavery, because slaves were not schooled or even literate.

In 1845 Douglass published his own story to counter the skeptics. In *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, he named people, places and events that could be corroborated. He even exposed unfavorable events of crime and misdeeds perpetrated at his former locale growing up. He tried to persuade his former slave master to free the slaves on his plantation, and eventually succeeded - all this before the official "Emancipation Proclamation." Douglass's persuasive methods were taken from the *Columbian Orator*. In 1848, an abolitionist friend officially bought his freedom.

A co-founder of the NAACP, Mary Ovington, became a civil rights advocate after hearing a Frederick Douglass speech, admiring his rise from abject poverty to success. His net worth at his death in 1895 was the equivalent of \$15 million in today's values. He ultimately became advisors to five presidents, from Abraham Lincoln to Benjamin Harrison.

## The Constitution and Slavery

Douglass broke with the abolitionist Garrison's criticism of the Constitution as sanctioning slavery. In fact, the word slavery does not appear in the Constitution, which as a document belies the concept of slavery, beginning with "We the People." The Declaration of Independence also proclaimed that "all men are created equal."

Article I of the Constitution refers to a three-fifths weight for those not free. This was not, in fact, a commentary on the value of slaves. It was a measure by the free states in the North to expose the hypocrisy of the South. In apportioning electoral votes among the states, everyone free in the North, where no slavery existed, was counted fully. The Southern states, wanted to count each slave as one vote in apportionment evaluations, but would not allow them to vote or even own property or receive schooling. So the North's compromise was to only allow three-fifths of the non-free to apportion electoral votes and dilute the Southern influence in national voting.

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## Legacy of Frederick Douglass

Douglass's rise to success from abject poverty was attributed to three fundamentals:

- Avid reading (He in effect schooled himself.)
- Applying lessons from history (He adapted the sages of the past.)
- A work ethic devoted to service. (After educating himself, but he created a learning environment for the other slaves on his Plantation, and ultimately negotiated their freedom, through astonishing persistence.)

## Douglass Values: Lessons From Recent History

The 1964 Civil Rights Act was actually opposed by Southern Democrats and supported by Republicans. The only exception was noted conservative Barry Goldwater. However his opposition was not racially motivated, but a Constitutional one. He felt the federal government did not have jurisdiction. In fact, Goldwater was a staunch supporter of individual civil rights. He actually formed a local NAACP chapter in his home state of Arizona, and integrated the U.S. Senate cafeteria on his watch.

Some of the residual resentment among blacks against the term "conservative" may have come from Goldwater's reputation. (His book was named, *The Conscience of a Conservative*.)

In contrast, many black people adhere to the principles of conservatives:

- Support for the Constitution
- Respect for Life
- Belief in limited government.

Even the Second Amendment is popular among blacks, as means for self-defense. For 67 years the only blacks to serve in Congress were all Republicans.

So the current mantra of the Democratic Party is demonstrable false. On the Democratic website is an obvious misstatement – "leading the fight for civil rights for 200 years." The real story was that Republicans promoted Emancipation, and Southern Democrats fought against the Civil Rights Act, which was pushed by Republicans. If you repeat a lie often enough, some people are bound to believe it.

K. Carl Smith also has no problem leaving monuments up as historical records of the Civil War. As for a flag flying over a state capitol, his view is a little different, especially from his perspective of having served in the military. It's usually the victors who get to fly their flags, the vanquished. Yet there are no Union Jacks flying over Northern Capitols.



K. Carl Smith is the author of *Frederick Douglass Republicans, the Movement to Re-Ignite America's Passion for Liberty*. K. Carl retired from the Army as a Major. His father was a physicist, who worked with Werner von Braun on U.S. rocket development at the Huntsville facility in Alabama. K. Carl became interested in the story of Frederick Douglass after he completed his Army career. The above seminar was given at Savannah State University in January 2016.

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## Energy Myths in the United States

By Dick Miller

There are several pervasive myths about energy in the U.S. today that are stifling our ability to become energy independent and holding back on jobs creation.

### **Myth One: Oil and gas reserves are insufficient to allow energy independence, so renewable sources are the only answer.**

The U.S. has long been dependent on foreign oil sources, as our proven reserves were only a fraction of those in the Middle East, and elsewhere. This has changed dramatically with new technology, so we can become self-sufficient and may even be a net exporter of energy.

### **New Sources and Innovations**

The *Green River Formation* of shale in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming contains 3 trillion barrels of oil, half of which can be extracted economically. (The Rand Corporation confirmed that this new oil source approximates the entire world's "proven" oil reserves today!)

The *Bakken* discovery in North Dakota and Montana allows "fracking" to unleash huge amounts of oil and gas. This horizontal drilling and shale cracking allows access to sources of energy reserves previously unreachable.

The *Marcellus Formation* in the Appalachian mountain, vast sources of natural gas are available. Other shale locations for recovery have been found in Texas (*Permian Basin*), Arkansas and Louisiana.

Together these new production sources of gas and liquid petroleum have made the United States once again among the leading total energy producers in the world!

### **Environmentalism Resistance**

There were initial fears that fracking in these deep fields could pollute our drinking water. These fears were proven unfounded when testing showed no chemical contamination from the process. Yet some states continue to limit fracking operations, bowing to environmentalist lobbyists.

Yet the EPA still restricts energy expansion on federal lands, where natural gas production there has decreased by over 25 percent in recent years. In contrast, elsewhere it has increased by 33 percent.

### **Off-Shore Sources Also Abound**

New deep-water technologies have expanded the realistic recoveries of still more traditional oil fields offshore. (The U.S. government ironically granted stimulus loans to Brazil for such deep water drilling.) The current U.S. moratorium on offshore development dates back to 1987 when it was thought only 18 billion barrels of oil were recoverable offshore. Today the Gulf of Mexico, coastal Alaska and coastal California have recoverable amounts of nearly 100 billion barrels using new technologies!

There are risks in offshore drilling—like the BP tragedy (where BP likely took undue risks), but the Gulf of Mexico has recovered. Now all drilling firms have recommitted to stringent safety procedures.

### **Energy Independence Helps Foreign Policy and Jobs**

Oil money funds terrorism in the Middle East and beyond. Russia's oil supply blackmailed Western Europe into accepting Russian aggression in the Ukraine.

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If U.S. started exporting energy again, it could wield huge foreign policy advantages around the globe as well as having enjoying a huge jobs boost domestically - generally the major issue resonating with the American public.

If we exploited all the probable domestic reserves, we could be totally independent of all foreign oil sources for more than 200 years! That would give us time to exploit alternative energy sources that have been heralded of late but are nowhere near practical solutions for decades.

### **Myth Two: Renewable energy can replace oil and gas in the next five to ten years.**

The transportation needs of the U.S. right now consume 28% of all energy use, whereas renewable sources comprise the following total of our energy production: 2% hydro electric, 5% ethanol/biomass, 2% solar/wind/geothermal. (Nuclear supplies 8% of energy production, but is not considered a renewable source.)

How are America's cars, trucks and trains going to use those? Even if every car and truck converted to electric drive right, we would still be short.

The real question is: can renewable energy sources rise astronomically in the next few decades to supplant the fossil fuel sources which meet 85% of our needs today?

**Windmills** - Produce electricity, but not economically, and require a huge grid to export where needed, and require conventional backup. Environmentalists usually balk at the sight of the overhead system which can kill birds.

**Solar** - Doesn't work at night. Storage and recovery is crucial. Also requires a huge grid system to export from large production areas (e.g. Mojave Desert, where California environmentalists had massive protests.)

**Ethanol** - is now shown to be costly, inefficient to convert to fuel, and harmful to combustion engines. If produced from corn, it lessens the food supply, and makes food more expensive. In total, it worsens emissions.

**Biomass** - Technology is still evolving, but has some promise. It's not so good suitable as a gasoline component for the same reasons as corn ethanol. As a diesel fuel, it offers promise, but needs more breakthroughs before truck fleets can be converted.

**Hydro** - can't expand much as most efficient areas have already been tapped. It stores potential energy well behind big dams, and supplies irrigation often crucial in water starved areas. Yet it also has significant environmental pushback, because it harms some fish migration.

**Nuclear** - Offers great opportunity for electrical generation, especially with the expansion of electric vehicles, but vigorous environmental objections have actually constricted its expansion. France, interestingly, derives 80% of its electricity from nuclear sources, mostly utilizing U.S.-based technology.

Nuclear is not technically a renewable resource, but uranium has the potential to last centuries into the future.

Continued on page 8

So it could supplement fossil fuel supplies until breakthroughs are made in other alternative energy sources. Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant had a near meltdown from a colossal earthquake/tsunami in 2011. This discouraged building new plants around the world.

Ironically fears of how to store spent uranium are now proven unfounded, as the spent rods can be stored in heavy concrete modules to be disposed of 100 years later, and don't need to be immediately stored in caves.

**Coal** - is a huge source of today's electricity production, and yet the EPA is waging a war against Coal. The suspicion is that the same Green constituents opposing Keystone are motivating this action. The restriction of coal use is actually retrogressing our ability even to ramp up use of alternative energy to replace oil and gas. Clean burning coal generation of electricity has been proven successful.

The largest coal reserves in the world are in the U.S., yet the EPA is bent on closing as many plants as possible. Where will the electricity come from? And real jobs in the mining and transportation of that coal today are being lost due to the fear of CO2.

### **Conclusion: Alternative Fuels Are Not the Answer**

Realistically replacing carbon-based energy soon is not feasible. Today's renewable energy is mostly from water and ethanol from corn (now discredited as a viable large future source). The favored ones (wind and solar) yield a minuscule portion of our energy (less than 1% each).

Colossal breakthroughs are needed in wind, solar and biomass to make meaningful energy progress. Today's energy companies can productively exploit new sources, with a profit motive. The federal government is not good at trying to pick winners (e.g., Solyndra).

### **Myth Three: Carbon Produces Harmful Warming**

This subject is controversial, primarily because scientists are far from unanimous that it's a real danger over the next hundred years. It's popular with journalists and politicians who have not even read the full reports of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

### **Keystone Rejected Due to Global Warming Myth**

The Keystone XL Pipeline was vetoed by President Obama to placate liberal diehards who use it as an excuse to restrict fossil fuel use. (It is also only a symbolic protest, as Canada will export that fuel source by other means, such as selling it to China.)

Keystone would produce 42,000 productive high-paying jobs during the construction phase. Jobs would continue after start-up at a somewhat lower level.

### **Economists Reject Myth of Global Warming Calamity**

An international panel of economists has consigned spending remediation dollars because of global warming risk to 30th out of 30 risks facing the world today.

We have time to react if there is a proven threat, which has not been forthcoming so far. The melting of the glaciers and subsequent risk of ocean rise has been admitted by the full IPCC as a worst-case scenario that could

take "thousands of years" to develop. There's time to react before then. Reducing worldwide GDP by \$1 trillion a year for hundreds of years to stem possible melting is not worth it, given other more pressing world priorities.

### **Likely Fundraising Motivation**

The Cap & Trade proposals by governments are now seen as a clever revenue generator rather than a real remediation technique. The U.S. Senate in 1997 voted 95 to 0 to reject President Clinton's proposal for the U.S. to ratify the Kyoto Treaty. It would have saddled the U.S. with huge economic restraints while allowing China and India to build new coal plants at the rate of one a week.

In real terms, the cap-and-trade proposal is designed to take wealth from the "haves" (working people in this and other countries) and distribute it to the "have-nots".

### **Based on False Data**

A "hockey stick" fallacy was a mainstay of the 2001 IPCC report, where the earth's temperatures were reported as absolutely flat for about 900 years, to heighten the rise since the end of the last Little Ice Age in the 1800s. Totally ignored and even falsified was the Medieval Warming Period when there was farming in Greenland. Tree-ring data was used as a surrogate for world temperatures, as obviously good temperature records did not exist in the 1100s. And the data was adjusted to wipe out the obvious climate fluctuation in those earlier periods to make the last Century look like an alarming rise due to carbon dioxide.

After this fraud was exposed, the next IPCC Report excised the Hockey Stick effect, and only fit the warming curves from the end of the Little Ice Age to the present to overly emphasize the rising temperatures since then.

We are actually in a warming recovery period after the last full Ice Age ended some 20,000 years ago. One real certainty is that a next Ice Age is coming, as they've run in 100,000 year cycles for the last several million years.

### **Other Misleading Efforts**

Increased hurricane risk is also heralded by the alarmists whenever there is a recent storm. The fact is that there are about 15% fewer hurricanes in the U.S. since 1970, versus the prior 120 years. So the greater industrialized use of fossil fuel lately has not created more storms. And the last 50 years of storms have had 20% fewer major hurricanes per decade than the prior 120 years, so even the severity is lower. So much for the myth of greater hurricane risk due to global warming.

CO2 produced by manmade activity is less than 0.1% of the atmosphere. So trying to curtail it further could not realistically prevent the supposed disaster portrayed by global warming alarmists. CO2 is a naturally occurring substance that in many early times was ten times the atmospheric content of today. The use of fallacies in trying to alarm us into drastic action and the use of ad hominem attacks on those who question its harm only gives credence to the feeling that that there is an ulterior objective.



*Dick Miller was an executive in the energy industry, finishing his career with Mobil Oil Corp. before retiring to Savannah.*





Dinner Photos - Allen West





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