

Ethan Allen Institute

Newsletter - December 2015 (Printer Edition)

Renew Your Support for 2016!

As the Ethan Allen Institute prepares for an aggressive 2016 campaign, we need your help. It's time to renew your support for liberty, common sense, and constitutional government in Vermont. We are only as strong as our members make us! Thank you.

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Ethan Allen Institute
P.O. Box 543
Montpelier, VT 05601

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EAI Launches Energy-Focused Website

The Ethan Allen Institute, with the tremendous help of the Interstate Policy Alliance, launched a new website, vermontenergysense.com, to follow the issue of wind and solar facility siting around the state, as well as the policies behind renewable energy subsidization and what it means for Vermont.

Accompanying the website is a short, documentary film based interviews with Vermonters who have been victimized by the state's energy policy, as well as EAI energy expert Meredith Angwin and State Representative Harvey Smith, whose Addison County district is ground zero for renewable energy growth. ([Click To Watch](#))

Dale Hastings of New Haven and his wife Jess Whitney share their story of having a multi-acre solar installation dropped on residential/agricultural property mere feet from their house. The sea of panels has destroyed their view, their sense of place, as well as the value of their home. And, they were powerless to stop this from happening.

Mike Rice of Windsor is trying to stop a 19,000 panel solar factory from going in on a hill directly across from the farm owned and occupied by his family for generations. "This isn't in my back yard," says Rice. "It's in my front yard. I'm going to look at this when I eat a bowl of cereal every morning." Rice, like Hastings and Whitney, is frustrated by how powerless he and local citizens are in the face of the Public Service Board to protect the aesthetics and values of the community in which they live.

Given the legislature's mandate that Vermont get 75% of our current electrical

demands from renewable sources by 2032 and the goal of getting 90% of our total energy demands, including home heating and transportation, by 2050, many, many more Vermonters will find themselves in similar situations, unless the laws are changed. VermontEnergySense.com will serve as an information hub to share individual stories, data, and news items from around the state on an issue that will determine the aesthetic, ecological, and economic future of the Green Mountain State.

Please check out the site and the video, and make your voice heard by taking the EAI survey on energy policy and renewable development in Vermont.

EAI to Debate VPIRG on Carbon Tax

A year ago, the left wing organization VPIRG, sponsored a study (paid for by their donors and former board members in the renewable energy business) calling for a \$500 million a year Carbon Tax on gasoline, home heating fuel, etc. They assembled a coalition of over a dozen other Vermont organizations to back the plan. Two Carbon Tax bills were introduced and are under consideration in the legislature.

The Ethan Allen Institute was the first organization to launch a radio and social media campaign denouncing the idea that Vermonters really want to pay an extra 88¢ for every gallon of gas they put in their cars. We haven't let up since.

And we will continue to fight on behalf of hard working, taxpaying Vermonters this **Thursday, December 3rd, 7:00pm to 8:30 pm at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier**. Rob Roper and John McClaughry representing the Ethan Allen Institute will debate Paul Burns and Jon Erikson representing the Vermont Public Interest Research Group over the question:

Should the Vermont Legislature levy a state-wide Carbon Tax on gasoline, diesel, propane, butane and heating oil?

EAI will be arguing the negative.

This event will be moderated by Peter Hirschfeld of Vermont Public Radio. It is open to the public and free of charge (though seating is somewhat limited), so we encourage all to come out and show your support. There will be 30-40 minutes allotted for audience questions. If you are unable to attend but have a question, please submit your question via email [HERE](#) . It will be forwarded to moderator.

Hope to see you there. It should be a heck of a show!

Commentary: Freedom as the School District Solution

By John McClaughry

The ranks of people opposed to the controversial school consolidation act (Act 46) are rapidly growing. The Vermont School Boards Association has expressed grave displeasure with the provision that penalizes local school districts that spend more than the state thinks necessary.

Districts exploring merging into larger unified districts are complaining about the confusion and uncertainty of the process. And friends of parental choice in the 93 tuition districts fear – rightly – that the merger pressure will force them to abandon choice.

The latter two issues are interconnected, and fortunately there is a happier solution than the mare's nest of Act 46.

Imagine this: the voters of several towns agree to join a larger Unified District. That new district enjoys the combined tax base of the component towns and receives its budget funding from the Education Fund just as if it were one oversized town district.

So far, that is the current plan for unified districts, such as the newly merged Essex Jct., Essex Town and Westford district.

Now suppose the voters, in choosing to create the Unified District, were allowed to choose to make it an “Educational Freedom District”. Here's where things get interesting.

As defined by legislation proposed in 2001 by the then-chair of the House Education Committee, Rep. Howard Crawford (R-Burke), a majority of local voters could choose to opt their merged district out of the state-controlled public education system. They could, in its place, create a locally-designed Unified District characterized by parental choice for their children, competition for pupils among public and independent schools (and perhaps other educational providers), diversity of educational experiences, and responsiveness to local voters.

The EDF could choose to supply educational materials and technology to home schoolers, allow home schoolers to take selected classes, make use of joint library and cultural resources, and take part in extracurricular activities at public schools. These pupils would count in the Average Daily Membership and thus hold down the district's school homestead property tax rate.

The EDF could accelerate school completion for gifted students and dual enrollment of seniors for college credit. It could offer apprenticeship, community work-study alternatives, online blended learning, and exchange programs for study abroad.

The EDF could exempt teachers from state certification requirements, require periodic subject matter examinations for teachers, and offer merit pay. The teachers union, under state law, could of course try to organize the district, but the district could terminate the check-off of teachers' union dues, disallow agency fees for political activities, and require periodic union recertification elections.

The EDF would be exempt from many state mandates and required supervisory overhead (except for civil rights, special education compliance, and financial accountability). It would be free to lease or share public school facilities with independent schools, and contract for instruction, maintenance, transportation, and management.

It's unlikely that any EDF planning committee would offer a proposal including

all of these options, many of which would be intensely controversial. Its job is to offer the voters a proposal which is likely to win majority support.

Most Vermont towns probably would not merge into an Educational Freedom District, but a few would, especially if it were an alternative to the heavy handed requirements of Act 46.

The people of those EDFs would then have the opportunity to design their own innovative educational program for their children. In due course other towns would make similar choices and learn from the experience of the pioneers.

The proposal does not require radical wall-to-wall educational changes across the whole state, but it does allow voters to democratically approve a broad range of locally-favored innovations.

There are two political obstacles to allowing local voters to create an EDF. One is that as in any mega-district composed of formerly separate town districts, the vested education interests will be far better able to organize and deliver the votes to defeat any disturbing (to them) innovations.

The other is this: creation of even one such district would threaten to undermine the overgrown public education establishment. It – and especially the Vermont-NEA teachers union - would leap into full battle mode to protect the iron hand of the Agency, the State Board of Education, and the union over citizens working for local democracy, innovation, greater opportunity for their children, and yes, freedom.

- John McClaughry is the founder and vice president of the Ethan Allen Institute (www.ethanallen.org).

Commentary: Telling the Truth About Vermont's Energy Policy

By Rob Roper

How often have we heard advocates for extensive wind and solar development on Vermont ridge lines and pastures (heavily subsidized by tax and ratepayers) say that these efforts are necessary to curb global climate change, prevent future Tropical Storm Irene, and save the maple sugar and ski industries? Pretty often.

However, under recent questioning, high-ranking members of the Department of Public Service and a leading Vermont climate scientist have admitted that not only will Vermont's energy policy have no impact on climate change, affecting climate change isn't even a goal.

Vermont law mandates that Vermont get 75% of current electricity demands from renewable sources by 2032, and sets a goal for 90% of all energy, including transportation and home heating, by 2050. This is a tremendous undertaking that will require extensive industrialization of now-pristine landscapes. All Earth Renewables founder, David Blittersdorf, has stated he expects one third of Vermont's useable ridge-lines (200 miles) would be capped with wind towers in this effort. Still, this would only provide a fraction of the required power and an estimated additional 30,000 acres of solar panels would also be necessary.

This level of development will have negative impacts on bird and bat populations, and the habitats and migratory corridors of deer, bear and other wildlife. There are

serious questions about the impact to water quality. It will change the character of Vermont from an aesthetic point of view, thus affecting the “Vermont Brand” we have all worked so hard to nurture.

It will affect the human population as well. Economically, the need to subsidize these projects through higher energy prices and, as some are now advocating, a Carbon Tax that would ultimately add 88¢ to the cost of a gallon of gasoline, will make Vermont an even more unaffordable place to live and work.

But the payback for all this hardship and sacrifice was supposed to be the knowledge that we were saving our grandchildren from an “unspeakably horrid” environmental future, to use the colorful phraseology of our governor.

This is not the case.

At a public forum to discuss the Comprehensive Energy Plan, Chris Recchia, Commissioner of the Public Service Department, said when asked about what kind of impact Vermont’s renewable energy policy would have on global temperatures,

I disagree with the characterization that the reason we’re doing this is to try and improve global warming. ... [P]rimarily why we’re doing it is to have stable energy pricing and really secure energy resources that are renewable in our state.” ([VT Watchdog, 10/23/15](#))

Asa Hopkins, the Energy Policy Director for DPS, told a similar story.

Hopkins told Vermont Watchdog global warming targets aren’t in the plan because Vermont’s efforts won’t affect climate change. “Climate change is a classic tragedy-of-the-commons problem where no one person’s actions, no one state, or even one country’s actions is attributable to even more than maybe a few percent of the global challenge. ([VT Watchdog, 10/9/15](#))

Of course Vermont can’t save the planet all by itself, so our policy is to be a leader and influence others to follow our example, and, therefore, have an indirect impact on climate change, right? Actually, not.

Asked if the draft had targets for states or nations following Vermont’s lead, Hopkins replied, “No. We are focused on trying to take a path forward that works for Vermont. We’re not taking action ... in hopes of inspiring action elsewhere.” ([VT Watchdog, 10/9/15](#))

The science behind these policy statements is backed up by Vermont climate scientist Alan Betts, who said, “If the whole world went carbon neutral tomorrow, the earth has huge lags in it, and we’ll be faced with rising temperatures and greater extremes for the next 50 years. It’s totally unrealistic to pretend that Vermont will control a global problem....” ([VT Watchdog, 9/24/15](#))

So, in summary, the vast building and subsidizing of renewable energy facilities throughout Vermont will not affect climate change, and, therefore, will not prevent tropical storms or other extreme weather events, nor will it save the maple sugar and ski industries decades down the road. Our policies are not even aimed at doing these things.

And, those telling us otherwise are not telling the truth.

By following these policies we will not pass on to the next generation a Vermont

that is one iota cooler or more stable than it otherwise would be. It will be, however, uglier, less accessible, more expensive, and harder to find a job. Talk about a call to burn down the village in order to save it!

- Rob Roper is president of the Ethan Allen.

EAI's 2016 Agenda

Our goal is to empower citizens and voters with the information, the tools, and the networks they need to be successful activists within their own communities. Thus armed and motivated, together we can turn our state around.

With the help hundreds generous Vermonters, over the last year the Ethan Allen Institute was able to do significantly more paid media than we have in the past, weighing in with radio and social media campaigns on two critical issues: a state-wide Carbon Tax, and single payer healthcare's potential impact on Medicare services.

In the first case we were successful in stalling the Carbon Tax, forcing its advocates to drag the debate into this coming election year. This battle has already renewed. In the second case, our efforts to inform seniors, and their reaction to learning the facts of the scheme, helped inform Governor Shumlin's decision to scuttle the "first in the nation" single payer healthcare plan.

Looking ahead, we have a long and important to-do list for 2016...

- **Kill the Carbon Tax Forever.** In order to help subsidize a radical "green" agenda key members of the legislature (in partnership with VPIRG) are pushing for a \$500 million Carbon Tax, which will be up for debate and, if proponents get their way, a vote in 2016. This would add roughly a dollar per gallon to the cost of gasoline, home heating oil, and other fossil fuels. Help us launch another, stronger campaign on this issue.
- **Stop Subsidizing the Industrialization of our Landscape.** In 2015 the legislature passed a law mandating that Vermont get 75% of its current electricity from renewable sources by 2032, and has a goal of 90% of all energy by 2050. The impact of doing this will require the development of an estimated 200 miles of pristine ridge line with wind towers, and as much as 30,000 acres with solar panels, all significantly subsidized by tax and rate payers. As Vermonters begin to understand what's at stake with this policy a serious backlash is building, not just in regard to the high cost and irreparable harm this policy will have on Vermont's signature rural aesthetic, but also to the legislature's stripping away of local control over zoning decisions for these projects. EAI just launched a new website vermontenergysense.com, dedicated to this issue.
- **Save School Choice in Vermont.** Last year the legislature passed a law incentivizing school districts to consolidate (and punishing those who resist), a policy that threatens 150 years of school choice for 90 plus Vermont "tuitioning" towns. This potential loss, as well as other problems with the law, has energized broad local opposition, and has actually created an opening to expand school choice. With your help, we can take advantage of this opportunity to provide a

better education for our children at lower cost to the taxpayer.

- **Block Expanding the Sales Tax to Services.** As the state scrambles for new revenue sources to deal with a structural budget deficit, one idea that has been raised repeatedly by the Speaker of the House and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee is expanding Vermont's 6% sales tax to currently untaxed services. This would place a serious, new financial and regulatory burden on two thirds of Vermont's existing businesses. New Hampshire is salivating at the prospect of its passage.

For each of these issues EAI will make sure the public is aware of and educated about the legislation, who is behind it, and the impact it will have on the lives and well being of our citizens.

In this effort we will, of course, continue to provide our core public services, such as: Roll Call Reports, Roll Call Profiles, and the sponsorship of Common Sense Radio on WDEV (11-noon weekdays, AM550, FM96.1) to spread a free market message to a broad public audience. We will also continue the publication of a monthly e-newsletter, and a quarterly print newsletter. John McClaughry and Rob Roper will continue to write commentaries, submitted weekly to local papers around Vermont.

Vermont continues to provide tremendous challenges, but also some unique opportunities. We are excited for the year that lies ahead, and all of us at the Ethan Allen Institute would be most grateful for your support.

As always, we are grateful to our supporters for all you have done for us and for your steadfast efforts to promote liberty, property, markets, and fiscal sanity in this the Green Mountain State. Thank you!

Events

December 1. Rob Roper will be a guest on the Sound Off! show with Linda Kirker, 7:00 pm, channel 15 in St. Albans.

December 3. EAI vs VPIRG Debate On the Carbon Tax. Thursday, December 3rd, 7:00pm to 8:30 pm at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier.

News & Views

Tax Foundation Ranks Vermont 46th for Business Climate. The Tax Foundation is out with its annual State Business Tax Climate Index. In what has become a recurring theme for these sorts of things, Vermont is once again stuck near the bottom at 46th. According to the report, "The states in the bottom 10 tend to have a number of afflictions in common: complex, non- neutral taxes with comparatively high rates." The Tax Foundation takes into account 100 different variables in determining its overall rankings, but breaks these down into 5 main categories. Therefore, Vermont's overall ranking of #46 is comprised of separate rankings in Corporate Tax (#44), Individual Income Tax (#44), Sales Tax (#15), Unemployment Insurance Tax (#17), Property Tax

(#48).

Vermont Employment At Lowest Point Since 2003. Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers by the left-leaning [Public Assets Institute](#) states, “Vermont’s unemployment rate, which counts only those actively looking for work, remained steady at 3.7 percent last month. But that’s not the whole story. In October the number of Vermonters working, including the self-employed, slid to its lowest point since 2003. Based on household surveys, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated 332,440 Vermonters employed in October—2,000 fewer than in September and a drop of about 4,500 since July.”

Vermont Gets D- for Good Government. "A national watchdog group that rates states on public accountability says Vermont is doing a bad job when it comes to good government. The Center for Public Integrity released its 2015 State Integrity Investigation report Monday, handing Vermont a D- overall rating on its integrity report card and ranking the state 39th out of 50."
(VT Watchdog 11/12/15)

What Act 46 is Doing To School Choice Towns. Apologists for Act 46, the school district consolidation bill, continually insist the bill does nothing to harm school choice where it exists in Vermont. Tom Pelham of Campaign for Vermont, commenting on a VT Digger story, sums up neatly how false this narrative is. “This opinion [by the State Board of Education to disallow choice towns from merging with operating districts without abandoning choice] leaves many districts that tuition their students in the lurch. They can’t merge with their non-choice neighbors, Act 46 denies many of them their small school grants, their spending per pupil will cause them to incur the Act 46 excess spending penalty, and they will be obligated to pay the higher property taxes to fund the tax breaks Act 46 gives to school districts that can merge.” But, hey, there’s no bias in the law against school choice towns....

The Voters Speak Out! Screw the Voters! A vote regarding an industrial wind project in Swanton got a walloping thumbs down from local residents, who rejected the idea of constructing seven five hundred foot turbines by a margin of 731 to 160. Unfortunately for the powerless residents the vote was not binding and, according to Seven Days (11/20/15), “Developers of a proposed utility-scale wind facility in Swanton say they are "moving forward," despite a vote three days ago in which residents overwhelmingly opposed the project.” This follows a similar vote in Irasburg rejecting a wind project 274-9. Our politicians tell us this renewable energy policy is what Vermonters want. Vermonters seem to disagree.

Time to Cry in Our Craft Beer? Heady Topper, 14th Star, Magic Hat... the list of great Vermont craft beers is long, and this explosion of entrepreneurial activity has become an important part of the Vermont economy and the “Vermont Brand.” A threat to this industry is now looming in the form of Obamacare. We passed it, and now we are finding out what’s in it. This includes a provision that requires brewers to provide calorie counts for every variety of beer. Determining this could cost tens of thousands of dollars. A drop in the bucket (or keg) for Anheuser Busch, but a major blow to small producers. ([Source: Watchdog.org, 11/17/15](#)) Yet another example of how Big Government benefits Big

Business to the detriment of the little guy.

Artisan Cheese, Too! New FDA regulations changing the allowable microbial content of cheese will, according to one Vermont artisan cheese maker, “make the production and sale of some raw-milk cheeses nearly impossible.... effectively regulating many raw-milk cheeses out of the market.” They go on, “The rub here is that there is no public health benefit to these new rules. Instead, many delicious cheeses that have long traditions and excellent food safety records may disappear from American cheese counters.” (Source: [Jasper Hill Farm](#)) Yeah, but the public will be so much better off with government looking out for our gastronomical well being. Instead of someone unwittingly eating some dangerous Roquefort, we could all dine free of worry at, I don’t know, a government inspected and approved Chipolte, right?

Free at Last! Annette Smith, the executive director of Vermonters for a Clean Environment in Danby, said she paid all her [Vermont Health Connect] invoices for January through November but was disenrolled Oct. 31. She received a notice of termination for nonpayment from Blue Cross Blue Shield on Nov. 12, and she gained coverage retroactively on Monday after several phone calls. “They (at Blue Cross Blue Shield) told me that thousands of people had been dumped,” Smith said. “Clearly Vermont Health Connect did it.... I was thrilled to find out I could ditch them, which I did today,” she said.... “The visceral reaction of being liberated from Vermont Health Connect surprised me. I was thrilled.” VTDigger 11/25/15)

Government Subsidies and Penalties Do Not a “Free Market” Make. "Indeed, Vermonters are innovating market-solutions to climate change by building businesses that offer clean energy solutions to our neighbors." - Duane Peterson, co-president of solar farm developer SunCommon and VPIRG Director (BFP 11/19/15). Peterson's "market-based solutions" are heavily derived from the Federal and state subsidy "market", which space does not allow us to explain in detail, but which includes the present solar investment tax credit scheduled to drop from 30% to 10% at the end of 2016, and without which SunCommon is dead in its tracks. That's why VPIRG is going all out to push through a carbon tax, to cover the lost tax incentive.

Global Warming Update. "A new NASA study published in the Journal of Glaciology shows snow in Antarctica began a long-term accumulation 10,000 years ago and is adding much more ice to the continent each year than it is losing as some glaciers melt. The thinning of some glaciers has been shown to be due largely to geologic (volcanic) activity below the ice mass. Jay Zwally, a glaciologist with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the lead author of the study, stated, "The good news is that Antarctica is not currently contributing to sea level rise, but is taking 0.23 millimeters per year away." The persistent ice mass accumulation in Antarctica confounds climate model predictions. As NASA's analysis shows, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2013 report, which said Antarctica was overall losing land ice, is just dead wrong." - Sterling Burnett, Climate Change Weekly (11/06/15)

Welch Promoting a Global Warming Police State. According to an article in the Daily Caller, Vermont Congressman Peter Welch is one of two legislators actively seeking signatures from fellow lawmakers on a letter “demanding records from oil companies

they say are ‘hiding and spreading disinformation to both the public and lawmakers alike concerning the science of climate change.’” To date, eighteen Democrats have signed on. This is clearly little more than a bullying tactic, and an attempt to intimidate people from speaking out with counter-arguments and/or new scientific data that counters the politically correct narrative on climate change, and another frightening effort by those entrenched in power to criminalize the actions and opinions citizens who oppose them.

Why We Need to Simplify the Tax Code. “Remember the story from a few years back about GE paying near-zero federal corporate income taxes. The New York Times piece on it had this paragraph:

Minimizing taxes is so important at G.E. that Mr. Samuels has placed tax strategists in decision-making positions in many major manufacturing facilities and businesses around the globe.... Company officials acknowledged that the tax department had expanded since he joined the company in 1988, and said it now had 975 employees. Think about that. Think of the dead-weight loss of GE paying nearly 1,000 people to produce nothing of value, but merely to comply with and game tax law. Worse, think of how GE changes its business practices to provide not what is in demand, but what can minimize taxes. This is bad for the economy. You can't blame GE for playing this game, but you can see how this game is bad for the economy while being good for the biggest businesses — the ones who can afford a 975-head tax division.” – *Tim Carney writing in the Washington Examiner, 11/18/15*

Political Correctness Is Jumping the Shark. “For over half a century, American universities, with few exceptions, have ceased teaching and begun indoctrinating. In the last few weeks, this downhill spiral has accelerated. The university is now a caricature of an educational institution. It is difficult to come up with an idea or policy that is more absurd than the ideas and policies that now dominate American campuses.” – Dennis Prager, [American Universities Begin to Implode](#), 11/24/15)

Now this is funny! Stephen Colbert, the partisan left-wing late night comedian, took over hosting duties for the Late Show, making the program essentially a propaganda machine for Progressives. As a result, the ratings have tanked. The Late Show is now running third behind Jimmies Fallon and Kimmel. Meanwhile, over at Comedy Central, Jon Stewart’s replacement on the Daily Show Trevor Noah has led the program to a 37% drop in viewership.

More Money Flows Toward Left Wing Indoctrination. The EPA is giving the Vermont Energy Education Program \$91,000 “to educate elementary and high school students and teachers across the state on climate change and climate science.” (Source: WCAX). According to the group’s website, “We guide students in developing a deep understanding of energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy technologies, and climate change. We also provide ways for students to take action on the issues they are learning about so that they can make a difference.” This is what we’re up against, folks. Please support EAI in 2016!

Happy Thanksgiving, and A Merry Christmas. “Whoever wants peace among nations must seek to limit the state and its influence most strictly.” - Ludwig von Mises

Book of the Month

Good Profit

How Creating Value for Others Build one of the World's Most Successful Companies

By Charles Koch

Crown Business, 2015, 288 pages.

<http://www.goodprofitbook.com>

We hear so many descriptions of “the Koch Brothers” and Koch Industries from Bernie Sanders, Harry Reid and the vast, Left-Wing, Alinskyite hate machine, that its worth picking up *Good Profit* by Charles Koch just for a glimpse of the other side of the story.

The book itself is a mix of secrets of business success, general economic theory, family lore, and grandfatherly wisdom. All of these pieces come together in an examination of why – the good decisions made, the failures learned from, etc. -- Koch Industries has been one of the most successful companies in the world, at least in the eyes of its CEO.

The main lesson *Good Profit* imparts is encapsulated in its subtitle, *How Creating Value for Others Built One of the World's Most Successful Companies*. Key phrase: “creating value for others.” This, of course, is the bedrock of free market economic theory. In true free market, where people are unable to take what they want from others through force (government or otherwise) or fraud, the only way to prosper is by creating something that somebody else values and wants to acquire through voluntarily exchange, which requires something of value they have created. A society based on such exchanges, Koch writes crediting a “life changing” read of economist Ludwig von Mises, is “the system most conducive to human well being, progress, civility, and peace.”

The idea that success and wealth comes to those who find ways to enrich the lives of others by creating value for our fellow human beings – an that it is the duty of each individual in society to due just that – is what drives Charles Koch. This is the definition of Good Profit. This is very different than wealth accumulated through confiscation, which is necessarily how government operates.

We often talk about “free markets,” “creative destruction” and such things as theoretical concepts. Good Profit is a valuable book because it puts these ideas to the real world test, and shows them to be successful.

- Review by Rob Roper, president of the Ethan Allen Institute

The Final Word

December Survey:

Many elected officials and activist are telling us that the proliferation of large scale wind and solar projects around the state are “just what Vermonters want/are asking for. A number of headlines from around the state paint a different picture: [Swanton Voters Deliver Fresh Blow to Green Energy Plan](#), [Opposition to Burlington Solar Project Rises](#), [Revolt: Vermont Town Votes 274-9 Against Wind Turbines](#), [Big Windsor Solar Project Stalled](#), [Bennington Select Board Votes to Oppose Two Solar Projects](#).

These stories cover the state from Bennington to Swanton, from Burlington to Irasburg. In 2015 the State Senate rejected legislation that would have granted local communities “substantial deference” when siting renewable energy projects 10-19. (You can see the Roll Call Report [HERE](#).)

QUESTION: Should the legislature revisit in January 2016 giving towns “substantial deference” when siting renewable energy projects, this time passing the measure into law?

**Make Your Voice Heard! Take the survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFSVJRF>**

October Survey Results:

Should the legislature repeal act 56, the Comprehensive Energy Plan?

YES. 100% (45)

NO. 0% (0)

Don't Know. 0% (0)