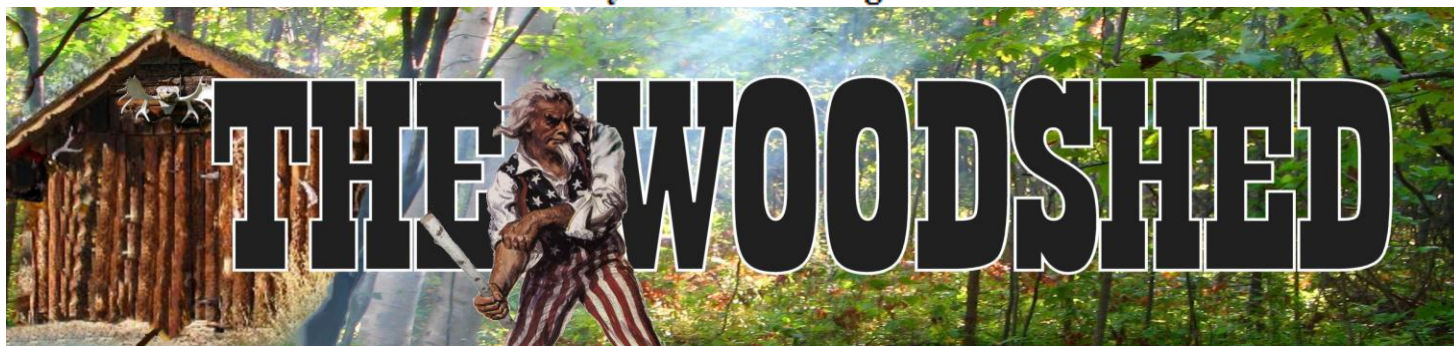


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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1 BY AND FOR FREEDOM LOVING ALASKANS
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As Americans nearly freeze to death, EPA pushes to criminalize many woodstoves

Friday, January 10, 2014 by: J. D. Heyes Tags: [EPA](#), [woodstoves](#), [freezing weather](#)

(NaturalNews) Only a government bureaucracy would seek to impose insane heating rules during the dead of winter, but that's Washinton, D.C., for you - short on common sense, high on authoritarianism, and drunk with power.

That's the only way to explain a new Environmental Protection Agency proposal to impose regulations on new heat stoves, as reported by *Fox News*:

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new standards for wood stoves that would reduce the maximum amount of fine particulate emissions allowed for new stoves sold in 2015 and 2019.

The *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* newspaper further reported:

The EPA's much-anticipated wood stove regulations are proposed to go into effect throughout the country in 2015, requiring newly manufactured stoves to cut maximum emissions by more than a third. Those standards would tighten dramatically in 2019.

Maybe wood doesn't burn the same in Washington, D.C.


The new proposed rules ostensibly come as a result of "increasing research and scrutiny of fine particulate air pollution," the paper continued, which is known as PM 2.5. The agency said such particulate matter has been linked to long-term negative health impacts, like heart and lung disease - though there is nothing from EPA geniuses about the negative health effects of, say, freezing to death.

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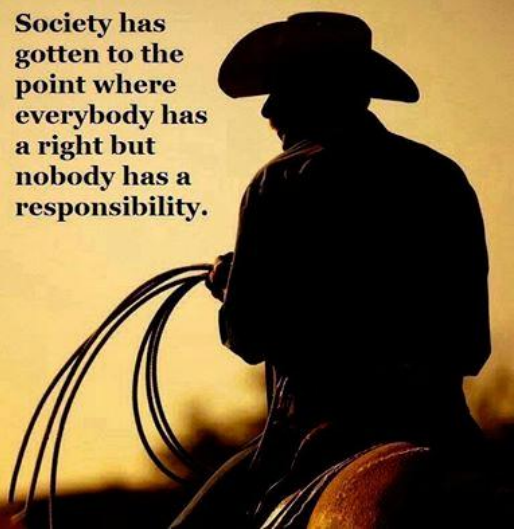




**“Every time we run to the middle,
we lose. It happens over and
over again - whether it's
Gerald Ford, Bob Dole or
Mitt Romney - it's not a
winning strategy.”**

-Sen. Ted Cruz (R) Texas

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**Society has
gotten to the
point where
everybody has
a right but
nobody has a
responsibility.**

Alaska seems to be of particular interest to the agency, which appears to be saying that, despite its distance from the ruling class, Alaska is still not too far away to be messed with by petty little tyrants who draw paychecks from Alaskan taxpayers, as well as those "in the lower 48." From the Miner:

Fairbanks and North Pole have been struggling to meet the EPA's air pollution standards, with much of the focus being placed on wood burning as the primary source of PM 2.5. The [EPA](#) set a deadline of 2014, but compliance isn't expected to be reached for a number of years.

Under current regulations, a non-catalytic wood stove meets EPA certification if it produces less than 7.5 grams of PM 2.5 per hour.

The new rules would require those emissions to be trimmed down to 4.5 grams of PM 2.5 for all stoves made after the date the regulations would go into effect. Presumably, the physics behind the manner in which [wood](#) in a fireplace is burned will remain the same.

Alaskan legislators, apparently in an effort to head off the rules, have proposed regulations that would set a limit of 2.5 grams of PM 2.5 for all heaters in areas that are deemed incapable of reaching the EPA's limitations:

In the justification for its limits, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation wrote that the EPA's current regulations, which were first adopted in 1988, are no longer effective.

We must control... wood heaters!

"ADEC proposes more stringent emission standards for wood-fired heating devices than those currently adopted by EPA because the existing federal emission standards have been and continue to be inadequate to prevent deterioration of air quality in Alaska and exceedances of (National Ambient Air Quality Standards)," the state agency's justification document stated, as reported by the Miner.

As you might expect, right now, only a small portion of stoves on the EPA's "certified stove list" (yes, they actually have one of those 'you can only use these kinds of stoves' list) would meet the new requirements.

Though it's not clear where the data came from, the EPA bureaucrats claimed that the changes will bring instant health to the land:

"When these standards are fully implemented, EPA estimates that for every dollar spent to comply with these standards, the American public will see between \$118 and \$267 in health benefits," it said. "Consumers will also see a monetary benefit from efficiency improvements in the new wood stoves, which use less wood to heat homes. The total health and economic benefits of the proposed standards are estimated to be at \$1.8 (billion) to \$2.4 billion annually."

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Less wood would be nice, but will "less wood" translate into *more heat*? That's generally not the case, but maybe the laws of physics don't apply in the world of an EPA control freak.

Learn more: http://www.naturalnews.com/043467_EPA_woodstoves_freezing_weather.html#ixzz3PrSyiErK

Sources: <http://www.foxnews.com> <http://www.newsminer.com> <http://www2.epa.gov>

PM2.5, Health & Correlation

By Lance Roberts

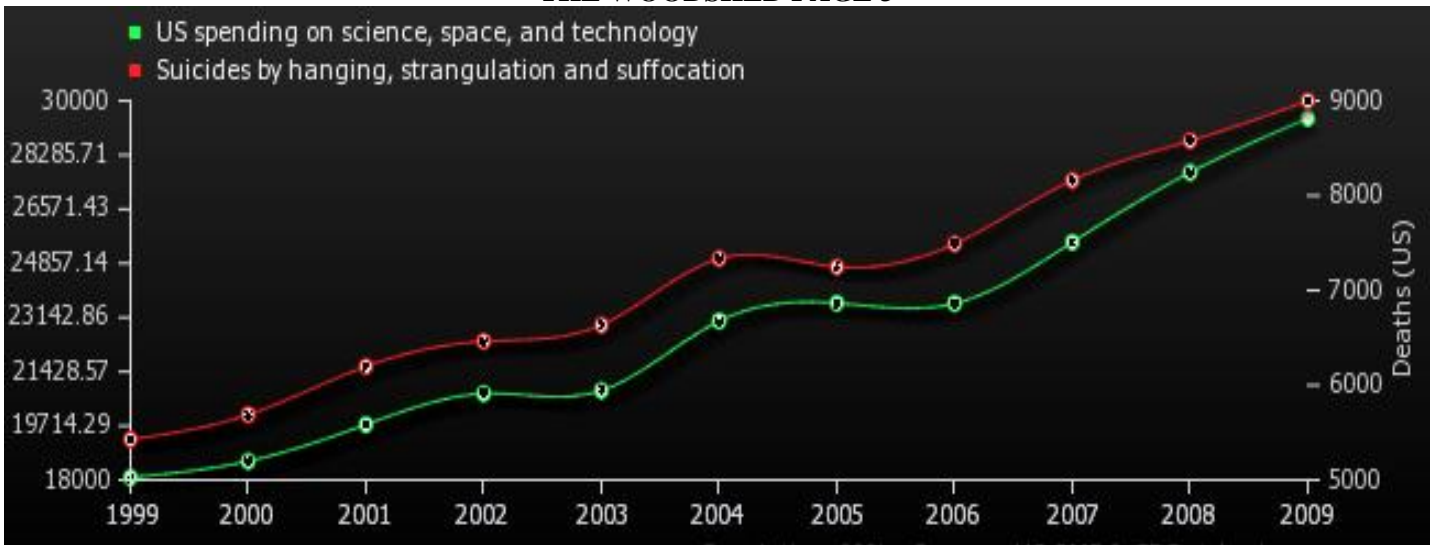
Did you know that there from 1999 to 2009 there is almost complete correlation between US spending on science, space and technology and suicides by hanging, strangulation and suffocation? Correlation is a statistical measure that shows how strongly or not two variables relate to each other. It can be a very useful tool to indicate fruitful areas of research, and helps in crafting scientific theories, but is stretched too far, when some take that correlation to be causation, and say that one event is caused by another. In fact, they could be unrelated, as the example in the first sentence; they could both have the same cause, but not be causing each other; or one may be caused by a subset of the correlated event. In the case of PM2.5, there have been some correlative studies that show bad health effects in certain communities, but the direct link to allow anyone to say that PM2.5 is a major cause of those effects is stretching the bounds of those studies.

Let me give you some real-world examples of health and correlation. Malaria, a word taken from the Latin for "bad air", names a disease that has killed, according to some, half the people who have ever lived, having been with us for the full extent of known human history. It was historically linked to air and water, and was found to be correlated to swampy areas. One of the largest medical discoveries ever made was in 1898 when Ronald Ross proved that malaria was spread by mosquitoes. So removing swampy areas removed mosquitoes, but as you can imagine, this is seldom a practical solution. The knowledge of the actual cause of the disease allowed the development of effective solutions like DDT that killed mosquitoes and to date has saved many millions of lives.

Another example of correlation is exemplified in the gluten-free diets that many in the U.S. are now on. A large and increasing amount of people over the last few decades have found that abstaining from gluten products has substantially stopped a multitude of symptoms they were experiencing. Between these anecdotal stories, and studies that have been done because of them, it has been shown that there is a strong correlation between gluten and their symptoms. Of course the question always arises: how can something that humanity has been consuming since time immemorial suddenly be the cause of these problems? Well, recently it was brought to light that the majority of wheat farms in the U.S. are using herbicide to kill the wheat before they harvest it, since it makes the wheat easier to harvest, and also produces more seed. So the idea that is currently spreading is that it is the herbicide which can never be completely cleaned out of the wheat that is causing the medical problems and not the gluten itself. Note, I'm not saying that there are not those with inherited or acquired gluten allergies. This discovery allows a more targeted solution of using truly organic wheat instead of non-gluten alternatives, and has been found to work for some, thereby allowing them more flexibility in their diets.

Scientists recognize the problems with correlation and do their best to implement controls in their study to factor out other causes, but perfection can't be achieved in the real world. There could be quite a few other possibilities when trying to

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determine the link between PM2.5 and health. You could have another component not considered in the PM2.5 output be the causative factor, or it could just be one sub-component like the Sulfates, Nitrates or Carbon. Let's also remember that symptoms it is blamed for like asthma attacks, can also be caused by cold air, mold, dust mites, sickness, indoor air pollution, tobacco smoke, pet dander, as well as food additives and fragrances.

Modern citizenry has been subjected to many agendas designed to implement control measures based upon perceived or real correlation. This has led to many be skeptical of any statistics or emotional appeal based upon correlative studies. I see this is a healthy outlook, as we should always be striving to determine exact causes, so that we can implement precise solutions. While it's one thing to identify the problem, it is quite another to identify a workable, and cost-effective solution.

Lance Roberts is an engineer, born and raised in Fairbanks. He is a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly. The views expressed here are his own and do not represent the assembly or borough administration.



Fracking — A New Bubble for a New Year

Mark Abdelnour January 22, 2015 Tags [Booms and Busts](#)[Financial Markets](#)[Global Economy](#)

Another year is under way, and we are in the midst of yet another central bank-induced credit bubble. This time, the culprit is shaping up to be the oil and gas industry. Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” has seen a marked rise in usage in the United States over the last six years. It represented a new and innovative way to extract hydrocarbons from rock formations deep underground. Many may be tempted to say that the emergence of fracking, as well as the jobs it has created, is further evidence of the free market at work. However, as David Stockman makes clear in [this excellent article](#), the fracking bubble would never have materialized if not for artificially low interest rates instituted by the Federal Reserve in the advent of the 2007–2009 financial crisis.

Oil and natural gas exploration and extraction via hydraulic fracturing is a highly capital-intensive venture. Given that the shelf life of a typical oil well is only two years, these firms need to establish new ones as maintaining existing wells proves too expensive. If not for the six years of Zero Interest Rate Policy (ZIRP) and several rounds of Quantitative Easing (QE) from the Federal Reserve, many of these upstart wildcatting firms would not be able to sustain the cost of exploration and extraction. Having record low borrowing costs has led to [massive increases in production](#), and an influx of new jobs in the field due to economies of scale. In fact, a large percentage of the job gains we have seen since 2008 have been in the fracking industry.

The situation bears strong similarities to the inflating of the housing bubble from 2002–2007. Overproduction due to expectations of increasing demand because of the false impression of a strong economy, a large spike in job growth in the sector that will surely reverse as the bubble bursts, and companies (oil and gas wildcatters in place of homebuilders)

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issuing large sums of debt to fund their seemingly profitable ventures. However, just as in the case with the housing bubble, this boom was not induced by market fundamentals and an increased demand to feed this increase in supply. Firms, able to see energy as an indispensable sector just as housing, began directing their resources there and had no reason to believe oil prices would crash (sound familiar?).

Now companies and media outlets are [scrambling](#) to discover what the break-even oil prices are, because as the price continues to fall so does the collateral underpinning the large sums of bank debt. It is also worth mentioning that these oil and gas companies comprise approximately 17 percent of the overall high-yield debt market. This is a debt market for businesses with shorter track records of debt service and lower credit ratings, and offers slightly higher interest rates than standard investment-grade corporate bond markets in order to compensate the investor for heightened risk of default. A wave of defaults from these fracking companies would lead to ripples in the overall high-yield debt market, contributing to a market sell-off in the asset class that drives bond prices down sharply and inversely raises borrowing costs for other firms in the junk bond space.

Given the tentative strategy of the Federal Reserve in raising the benchmark interest rate, a sudden and unexpected increase in borrowing costs for businesses in the high-yield debt space is a serious cause for concern. The potential damage could be severe, as many of those bubble-created jobs would be in jeopardy. Whatever the result, the slowly unwinding fracking bubble should serve as a stark reminder about the importance of the Austrian business cycle theory. Years of QE and ZIRP have recreated an asset bubble in our economy with tremendous implications, and as the specific asset class may continue to change the same underlying problem of malinvestment and misallocation of resources will persist if central bankers do not change course.

Note: The views expressed on Mises.org are not necessarily those of the Mises Institute.

West Virginia Bill Would Block Unconstitutional National Guard Deployments

By Michael Boldin January 22, 2015

A bill introduced in the West Virginia House of Delegates this week would block unconstitutional foreign deployments of the state's national guard troops, effectively restoring the Founders' framework for state-federal balance on the Guard.

House Bill 2168 ([HB2168](#)), the Defend the Guard Act, was introduced by Del. Pat McGeehan (R-Hancock, 1), a former Air Force intelligence officer who did tours in Afghanistan and the Middle East, and cosponsored by ten other delegates. If passed, the bill would block the federal government from deploying West Virginia Guard troops overseas unless there is a declaration of war from Congress, as required by the Constitution.

“This bill essentially says, ‘If you don’t follow the highest law of the land, then we will withhold our Guard troops.’ The language and intent of the Constitution is so clear on this one issue,” McGeehan told the *Wheeling News-Register*.

Guard troops have played significant roles in all modern overseas conflicts, with over 650,000 deployed since 2001. More specifically, West Virginia National Guard troops have participated in missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Kosovo and elsewhere.



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Since none of these missions have been accompanied by a Constitutional declaration of war, the Defend the Guard Act would have prohibited the deployments. Such declarations have only happened five times in U.S. history, with the last being in World War II.

BACKGROUND

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 15 and 16 make up the “militia clauses” of the Constitution. Clause 16 authorizes Congress to “provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia.” In the Dick Act of 1903, Congress organized the militia into today’s National Guard, limiting the part of the militia that could be called into federal service rather than the entire body of people. Thus, today’s National Guard is governed by the “militia clauses” of the Constitution, and this view is [confirmed by the National Guard](#) itself.

Clause 15 delegates to the Congress the power to provide for “calling forth the militia” in three situations only: 1) to execute the laws of the union, 2) to suppress insurrections, and 3) to repel invasions.

During state ratifying conventions, proponents of the Constitution, including James Madison and Edmund Randolph, repeatedly assured the people that this power to call forth the militia into federal service would be limited to those very specific situations, and not for general purposes, like helping victims of a disease outbreak or engaging in “kinetic military actions.”

“Defending one side or the other in a Middle East civil war doesn’t qualify as ‘repelling an invasion,’” said Mike Maharrey, national communications director for the Tenth Amendment Center. “The Founders didn’t trust presidents on war, and one way they insisted on balancing that power was by keeping a strong military force at home, in the states.”

RETURNING TO THE CONSTITUTION

It is this limited Constitutional structure that advocates of the Defend the Guard Act seek to restore. That is, use of the Guard for the three expressly-delegated purposes in the Constitution, and at other times to remain where the Guard belongs, at home, supporting and protecting their home state.

“For decades, the power of war has long been abused by this supreme executive, and unfortunately our men and women in uniform have been sent off into harm’s way over and over,” said McGeehan. “If the U.S. Congress is unwilling to reclaim its constitutional obligation, then the states themselves must act to correct the erosion of constitutional law.”

Maharrey agreed. “While getting this bill passed isn’t going to be easy, it certainly is, as Daniel Webster once noted, one of the reasons state governments even exist.”

Referenced by Maharrey was an 1814 speech on the floor of Congress where Webster urged similar actions to McGeehan’s Defend the Guard Act. He said, “The operation of measures thus unconstitutional and illegal ought to be prevented by a resort to other measures which are both constitutional and legal. It will be the solemn duty of the State governments to protect their own authority over their own militia, and to interpose between their citizens and arbitrary power. These are among the objects for which the State governments exist.”

NEXT UP

HB2168 has been assigned to the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee. It will need to pass by a majority vote before being

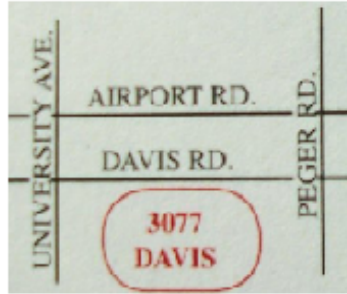
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sent to the House Judiciary Committee. Should it pass that stage, the full House will have an opportunity to consider whether to send the bill over to the state Senate.

ACTION STEPS

In West Virginia, support this bill by following all the action steps at [THIS LINK](#)

All other states, contact your state rep and senator, urging them to introduce legislation similar to HB2168. Find their [contact info here](#).

Michael Boldin [[send him email](#)] is the founder of the [Tenth Amendment Center](#). He was raised in Milwaukee, WI, and currently resides in Los Angeles, CA. Follow him on twitter - [@michaelboldin](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and on [Facebook](#).



VICTORY IN VERMONT

11/10/2014 <http://www.democratsagainstunagenda21.com/the-way-we-see-itour-blog>

So many of us, everywhere, have begun looking at the workings of our city, our county, and our state, and seeing UN Agenda 21 where we had not seen it before. This is our job: the informed electorate educates itself and takes an active and aggressive part in re-erecting liberty. Party affiliation is a mask, a diversion, a convenience for those who would divide us in order to mask UN Agenda 21.

Here is a note we just received from Cabot, Vermont. BE INSPIRED!

I am a resident of Cabot, Vermont. About a year ago, I started to learn about Agenda 21. One of your videos suggested I look into my own town for signs of the Ag. 21 creep. Sure enough, in my own small, rural town, run by Select Board members my husband grew up with, was a brand-new set of Zoning Regulation changes about to be passed. I started attending my town's Planning Commission hearings, Selectboard meetings, and snooped into other town happenings. Turns out, it was about to pass through my government.

By pure luck, I heard about a loop hole in Vermont's Agenda 21 Statute (#24), which allowed rural towns to petition for a ballot question to return zoning decisions to the voters. In short, we did it. We petitioned, and last week we passed a ballot question returning zoning decisions in our town to the voters of our town. The final tally was 408 in favor, 54 against, and only 28 blank ballots. This was all despite numerous tricks by the Select board, including changing the wording of the ballot and the election location. Now the Planning Commission and their \$28,000 consultant are back to the drawing board, working on a version that would be palatable to the voters (as opposed to the 140 page document they were about to pass without anyone knowing about it).

Rosa, I want to thank you for inspiring me. Any plans to come to Vermont? We could use you here.

Thanks!



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Some Thoughts

By Tim Sovde

I would like to say the story Victory in Vermont is a heartening story of how a community can pull together and defeat the onslaught on private property rights. I can not. At best they have only slowed down the experts who know better. The experts work fulltime with almost unlimited resources to eventually rezone your property to the Comprehensive Plan for your town, city, borough, or state.

But the local Comprehensive Plan was developed locally and with local input? Wrong. The public employees are all trained experts in community planning. The planners have been indoctrinated that there is only one way planning and zoning works and one goal.

I will leave you to decide what that goal is.

This reminds me very strongly of the fight to keep the FNSB from regulating woodstoves. The Vermont town is doomed to lose when someone figures out how to make a buck off the rezoning. Then by fair means or foul planning and zoning will come to their town.

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