

The Answer to Every Question

For many years now, we have fought against the steady advancement of the Federal agenda and the destruction of our rights and our liberties within our own state government, our schools and our nation, and when we asked our Republican friends in government how we could fight this invasion, we always received the same answer, “What we need are more Republicans!”

“What we need are more Republicans,” was the answer to every question!

These were our friends, our only defenders in state government, and so we believed them. We worked hard for them at election time. We contributed to their campaign funds. We knocked on doors and we sacrificed our weekends with our families to make signs, to do talk radio, to wear out shoe leather in their behalf. We were their boots on the ground in our communities and our churches and we were very successful in their behalf. We elected more Republicans, many, many more Republicans. We took the State House. We took the Senate. We held the Governor’s mansion. For the first time in one hundred and thirty six years, the Republicans absolutely, unequivocally controlled the government of Alabama.

It felt like a miracle had transpired. We had the answer to every question, to every problem that confronted us, at our disposal. We had fulfilled our part of the bargain. We had given them more Republicans! We had nearly all Republicans! The euphoria lasted right up until the day that the Legislature convened.

First let me say, that there have been some very good pieces of legislation coming out of Montgomery. Ethics reform, although many of us believe it did not go far enough, was a valiant and mostly successful effort by our new Republican majority. And curbing the AEA’s abuse of tax payer dollars is an ongoing and worthwhile battle being waged by both House and Senate Republican members. Further, I believe that the Republicans will eventually make the tough decisions necessary to re-gain control of our state’s finances.

But on at least one issue I believe that the Republican leadership is being led astray. Believe it or not, at the present time, many in our Republican leadership seem to be assisting a socialist style agenda involving government control and ownership of land.

So what has changed in Montgomery with the demise of Democrat control? On one issue at least, apparently not much.

Would you have believed it? The **FIRST THING OUT OF THE BOX** in the regular session is Forever Wild, a massive Socialist style land grab using money that should have gone into the Alabama Trust Fund to protect our citizens in times of financial crisis. A crisis just like the one we are now entering. Instead, that money is going to fund the purchase of land to be turned over to an unelected board, with practically no oversight, which will take timber land out of production and off of local tax rolls- forever. This will result in an increase in cost of everything related to timber products and a big increase in

property taxes for the remaining property owners. When you take more and more property off the tax rolls, there are only two choices- increase taxes or lay off employees and curtail government services.

Unbelievably, when asked on talk radio recently what his top priorities were, one of the most powerful members of the Alabama Senate answered without hesitation, “Number one is Illegal immigration and number two is Forever Wild.”

Say what! I agree that illegal immigration is a serious problem, but get real. His top priorities were not dealing with the state’s financial disaster or the huge budget cuts to come. Not trying to keep or bring jobs to Alabama! Not defending Alabama citizens from the excesses of an out of control Federal Government! Not defending our citizens from Obamacare, which will destroy the best health care system in the world. Not defending our state’s sovereignty, our citizen’s independence or their individual God given unalienable rights!

No. His number two priority is giving control of another 225,000 acres of Alabama land to the environmental groups that are using the “Greening of America” to destroy our economy, collapse our tax structure and ultimately bring down our government.

Obviously, more Republicans was not the answer to every question. In fact it has brought about more questions than answers. **A lot of our newly elected Republicans are valiantly attempting to hold the line and reverse the trend toward socialism**, but for some within the leadership of the Republican Party, at least on this issue, it seems to be business as usual in Montgomery. All they did was hang up a sign that read, “Under new management.”

The authors of our U.S. Constitution clearly understood that the purpose of the constitution was to restrict the destructive powers of government and protect the individual citizen. As Thomas Jefferson once said, “In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.”

The Alabama Constitution, the same constitution that every one of our Republican leaders swore an oath to defend, states very clearly in Article 1, Section 35, “That the sole object and only legitimate end of government is to protect the citizens in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and **when the government assumes other functions it is usurpation and oppression.**”

Funding Forever Wild, no matter how warm and fuzzy it makes them feel at the moment, is usurpation and will lead to oppressive land use controls. The purpose of government is not to remove property from private ownership and hand it over to government- forever. It is not to assume the entitlement mentality of these socialist organizations who now call themselves social and economic justice advocates, and who rail in defense of redistribution of wealth. It is not to furnish hunting grounds to “Welfare Hunters” at tax payer’s expense. It is not to take money from our citizens and spend it on “feel good”

programs so that politicians can pat themselves on the back and feel good about themselves politically. It is not to give huge tax breaks to timber corporations at the individual taxpayer's expense in order to expand this Socialist Utopian agenda. All these things are the purview of liberals and Marxists. We, the people, did not knowingly elect liberals or Marxists.

What are you Republican leaders thinking?? You are squandering the loyalty of those who worked to elected you.

Our citizens are awakening. They are engaged and they are watching. It has been an expensive lesson but now we know that there is a big difference between Republicans and Conservatives. Now we know that "more Republicans" is not the answer to every question. **The answer is... TO QUESTION... the motives of EVERY politician**, no matter what letter he or she has next to their name. At the moment, that question is, "Why are you pushing Forever Wild?"

Recently when I asked one of our state senators, who because of his committee responsibilities is very familiar with the Alabama budget crisis, why the Forever Wild re-authorization was being pushed so hard nearly a year and a half before their funding was scheduled to be reduced, he stated candidly that the state's financial outlook for 2012 was very, very bad and that the 2013 budget would be even worse. He predicted that a financial blood bath of proration and lay offs would occur in 2013. **He indicated that the promoters of Forever Wild knew that once the people of Alabama realized the true depth of the crisis, and the massive lay offs and cut backs started, voters would never support this 300 million dollar land grab by the environmentalists or the loss of revenue to the state's tax base it entailed.** Those promoting Forever Wild know this, and therefore wish to subvert the will of the people by taking this issue off the table before that blood bath begins.

The organizations pushing Forever Wild have always supported the Democrats and the liberal agenda. They have never once supported Republicans. Why do you not realize that you are aligning yourselves with the liberal establishment and against those who elected you.

Supporters of FW are well organized and lavishly (mostly with our money) funded so they appear stronger than they really are. They have used our universities, such as Auburn University's "Alabama Grassroots Clearing House" to link every radical environmental group in Alabama and bring them all to bear on this issue. They have organized support for all these "Socialist Utopian" agendas and they have also co-opted several government departments (who are trying to save their jobs from the budget ax by continuing this program) into supporting them. But if you added up every bird watcher, tree-hugger and Earth Worshiper in the state of Alabama, this group would still only comprise a tiny fraction of our citizens. The support for Forever Wild is Astroturf. As they say, it is a mile wide and an inch deep and it relies upon deception to make you think its support is much deeper than it is. When you dig in shallow waters a lot of dirt comes

to the surface. Do a little research and you will find it. We did, and we will continue to find more.

Liberals hope that come next election cycle, disenchanted by your actions, your free help and support from Tea Party members and conservative activists will have evaporated. They pray that you will have split your base and thereby lost your majority. Normally, Senator Bedford and other old time Democrats should be walking proudly in lock-step with these Wilders, yet they are not proclaiming their support. Have you asked yourself, “Why not? I believe that they know that this issue will go toxic and Democrats intend to keep it at arms length so that they can use it against you at election time. **Why can you not see this?**

Wake up! You still have time to save yourselves and rejoin the conservative movement that is trying to save our country. **Vote No on Forever Wild.**

We do not need more Republicans, we need more conservatives. **Conservatism and the Constitution, these are the real answers to every question!**

Ken Freeman, ACR

P.S: Just to remind you of whom and what the major supporters of Forever Wild are, I have included (below) a few quotes from the friends of Forever Wild.

“I think all private property should be in the public domain. We should get it all. Be unreasonable. You can do it. Yesterday’s heresy is today’s common wisdom. So, I say, let’s take it all back.” -Brock Evans, VP, National Audubon Society-... (Audubon Society- A friend of Forever Wild)

“We reject the idea of private property.” Peter Berle, (former) President, National Audubon Society, Board member, Sierra Club ... (Sierra Club- A friend of Forever Wild.)

“We must make this an insecure and inhospitable place for capitalists and their projects.... We must reclaim the roads, and plowed land, halt dam construction, tear down existing dams, free shackled rivers, and return to wilderness, millions of tens of millions of acres of presently settled land.” -Dave Foreman, Earth First!- ... (A friend of Forever Wild.)

Real estate agent for the Federal government. - The Nature Conservancy – ... (Friend of Forever Wild.)

“Land...cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principle instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice; if unchecked, it may become a major obstacle in the planning and

implementation of development schemes. Social justice can only be achieved if land is used in the interest of society as a whole.” U.N. policy on land ... (Friends of Forever Wild)

“The theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property.” – Karl Marx ... (Father of all the above. Marx would most definitely be a friend of Forever Wild.)

To the Republican Leaders who have gone astray: ... Do you truly want to be aligned with the above ideologues? Or, are you foolish enough to believe that you can just sample this addictive agenda, take the good parts and then run away, before it destroys our property rights, our liberties and our economy. Beware, there is no middle ground. **You can be friends of the Green Dragon or friends of individual liberty. You can not be both. And you are about to make that choice.**

Ken Freeman, ACR