

# *the* Solari Report



Using the U.S. States' Constitutional Powers to  
Preserve Sovereignty and Financial Freedom:

*How We Can Stop The Coup*

The Solari Report:  
**Using the U.S. States’  
Constitutional Powers to  
Preserve Sovereignty and  
Financial Freedom: How We  
Can Stop the Coup**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
James Butters, Photographer. Mar, 18, 1936.  
Port Gibson Bank, Port Gibson, Claiborne County, MS  
Photos from Survey HABS MS-25



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## **Executive Summary**

### **Using the U.S. States' Constitutional Powers to Preserve Sovereignty and Financial Freedom: How We Can Stop the Coup**

**F**OR some time, global elites have been stealthily, and now more openly, putting the pieces of an all-digital monetary system into place. This coup, brazenly articulated by central bankers on a number of occasions, aims at a system that would eliminate financial transaction freedom in favor of central control. Financial transaction freedom, as we define it, is the ability to use multiple options to enter into contracts and effect transactions; importantly, these need to be able to take place on a timely basis, at reasonable cost, and without interference.

Thanks to the U.S. Constitution and the Tenth Amendment, which reserve to the states all powers not explicitly delegated to the federal government, leaders in each of the 50 U.S. states have a historic opportunity to revolutionize their legal and financial infrastructure to ensure financial freedom and liquidity within their jurisdiction. To support such efforts, this report offers a comprehensive blueprint for actions that can be taken by legislators, governors, state treasurers, attorneys general, and citizens.

The report's core segment, "What the States Can Do," presents 13 different areas in which U.S. states can work—either legislatively, administratively, or judicially—to preserve financial freedom and individual and state sovereignty. Some states have already adopted legislation in some of these areas; in other instances, we summarize bills or actions that have been recommended, considered, or attempted.

Among the critical threats to financial transaction freedom amenable to positive state action are the war on cash, the push for digital IDs and an all-digital monetary system, including central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) or their private crypto equivalent, the wielding of payment systems and credit cards as covert "social credit" tools, debanking, various land grab tactics, state pension funds' support (whether knowingly or not) for private equity plunder, and lobbying to mandate state and federal purchases of Bitcoin.

Potential tools at states' disposal to create a more sovereign state infrastructure—tools as yet vastly underutilized—include creating a state-owned bank (or a privately owned state bank alternative serving the same purposes); establishing a state bullion depository; enabling direct investment in state notes and bonds; revoking the charters of corporations engaged in unlawful, improper, or fraudulent business practices; and taking various actions related to taxation. The report also urges states to shore up protections for critical components of the U.S. Constitution such as the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Tenth, and Fourteenth Amendments as well as the Constitutional Appropriations Clause.

We designed the companion segment of the report titled “Working Successfully with State Leaders Who Will Take Responsibility” to encourage constituents to support their legislative freedom fighters in taking these sorts of state-level actions. It explains, in practical terms, the benefits and “how-to’s” of building relationships with legislators and other state leaders, as well as how bills are sponsored and run.

*Using the U.S. States' Constitutional Powers to Preserve Sovereignty and Financial Freedom* builds on a larger body of work published by the Solari Report over the past several years, including, among others, our reports on *The Future of Financial Freedom* (tackling the complex topic of sovereign state banks) and *Taxation: With or Without Representation?* (addressing taxpayers' responsibility to ensure that tax dollars are spent lawfully and productively). Additionally, *Solari Papers #2* outlines practical considerations related to state bullion depositories, while *Solari Papers #1* and *#3* provide critical background on U.S. federal finances and the interrelated topic of Defense Department finances.

This report and the wealth of information it assembles are the culmination of a major yearlong investment of time, attention, and resources by Catherine Austin Fitts and the entire Solari Report team. The motivation for this significant effort stems from the recognition that without financial freedom, all other freedoms—such as food and health freedom—will perish. There is much that state leaders and constituents can do. As Fitts emphasizes in her Introduction to the report, “There is no doubt that we stand on the precipice of great change, which means that now is the time to take action.”

# Introduction

*By Catherine Austin Fitts*

PETER Medawar once wrote what has long been one of my favorite quotes: “What is relevant is what solves the problem. If we had thought through real relevancies, we would be on Sirius by now.”

I think of this quote often as I watch the control grid steadily encroach on people and their time, health, businesses, assets, and, most disturbingly, their children.



*“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”*

~ The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, ratified as part of the Bill of Rights, December 15, 1791

I and the Solari team and our colleagues have been tracking and objecting—loudly and often—to the push for digital IDs. In the European Union, this push is couched as vaccine passports. In the United States, it is promoted as the REAL ID through state-level Departments of Motor Vehicles. The U.S. has been trying to get the REAL ID adopted ever since the 2001 USA PATRIOT Act—so much so that when people apply for or renew their driver’s license, they are often lied to; they are told, falsely, that they are required by law to get a REAL ID. Other tactics have also been deployed to pressure people into adopting the REAL ID; this is called “nudging.”

In addition to the perils of digital IDs, the dangers of an all-digital monetary system are growing everywhere. We have published reports of people sanctioned through the financial transaction system and debanked, their businesses destroyed, or of people devastated by events such as the clearance in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee who are trying to recover without electricity or sufficient cash. The pitfalls of operating without a robust analog system—including cash and checks—are so great that even the Norwegian central bank has announced that it will start to encourage cash and is going to rethink moving to an all-digital system.

Throughout 2023, I and the Solari team were inspired by widespread pushback against health and food tyranny in Europe, the United States, and the English-speaking world. Still, we needed

action at the heart of the financial system—to highlight the financial control grid moving into place and to inspire every possible effort to stop it. After working, traveling, and speaking all over the Western world, I became convinced that the best opportunity for significant breakthroughs was in selected states in the U.S. These were states that had leaders with a demonstrated record of fighting for freedom—leaders with the knowledge, skills, and, most importantly, the courage to do so.

The U.S. states have two advantages that their capable European counterparts do not enjoy. First, there is the power of the U.S. Constitution; those powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states. Second, the current authority of the central bank (the Federal Reserve) is still limited relative to the authority enjoyed by the European Central Bank. In the United States, the Federal Reserve is responsible to Congress; it has disclosure obligations under the law and does not have the authority needed to establish a central bank digital currency (CBDC) without authorizing legislation.

In 2024, the Solari team committed to making a significant investment to determine what the states were doing and could do to protect financial transaction freedom within their jurisdiction. The blueprint you are reading is the product of that effort. It is an extraordinary contribution—one that I hope you will make every effort to get into the hands of your state representatives and officials, the activists and lobbyists you know who

are working with them, and the journalists and media covering such efforts. This document draws on the brainpower and hard work of hundreds of legislators, state and local officials, and their staff throughout the country.

There is an invisible army fighting for freedom. Let's make this excellent army visible and shift political and financial support to them. Please get this blueprint into the hands of people who want to be free and are either in a position to implement the needed actions or able to help and support those who can. Please feel free to download this report, forward it, or print out as many copies as you want or need locally. We also have hard copies for sale at the Solari Bookstore ([shop.solari.com/books/](http://shop.solari.com/books/)), including for bulk orders.

The Solari team has many people to thank who helped us work through the many issues involved. They include:

- **State legislators and officials throughout the United States:** Special thanks go to Senator Frank Niceley of Tennessee, whose courageous efforts on conservation easements and education inspired a tsunami of out-of-state money to remove him from the Tennessee Senate during the 2024 election. This remarkable group also includes Idaho legislators Heather Scott, Phil Hart, Elaine Price, Josh Tanner, and Ben Toews, who recorded a “backcasting” for the Solari Report in June 2024 titled “Idaho 2030: A Vision of Freedom.”
- **Solari Report subscribers:** Our subscribers have been tireless in organizing Solari Circles and Meet & Greets in their area as well as connecting us with their state representatives and officials.

- **Scholars:** Leading scholars such as Richard Werner and Mark Skidmore have provided ongoing ideas, materials, and inspiration.
- **Other professionals:** Wonderful attorneys, activists, journalists, doctors, nurses, and farmers have helped us make many critical connections between food and health freedom and financial freedom.
- **Last but not least:** We are grateful to the generous donors who helped finance the significant costs of this effort.

I often say, “No one is as smart as all of us.” The credit for gathering and synthesizing this blueprint for financial freedom goes to members of the Solari team, who have worked tirelessly over the last year to figure it out and produce it. Special thanks to our general counsel Carolyn Betts, to Tennessee lobbyist Elizabeth Murphy, to attorney and Second Amendment expert Tobi Maier, to our *News Trends & Stories* editor Brad Eddins, to Solari Investment Screens analyst Ricardo Oskam, and to other members of the Solari team for writing and editing support and website design and management. This comprehensive effort has engaged all the members of our team in both the United States and Europe.

Many of the state legislators, governors, state treasurers, and attorneys general leading the efforts to protect personal liberty and state sovereignty are Republicans. Given the Republican landslide in the 2024 election, many of them believe they will be in a position to achieve breakthroughs in 2025. There is no doubt that we stand on the precipice of great change, which means that now is the time to take action. Let your voice be heard to support the strengthening of the legal and financial infrastructure for financial freedom.



It is of the utmost importance that you are free. For one to be free, all must be free. With the control grid moving into place to control our financial transactions, financial transaction freedom is at the heart of all of our freedoms.

It's 2030, and you have plenty of assets and you're happy. May it be so.

*Catherine Austin Fitts*

Catherine Austin Fitts  
West Chester, Pennsylvania  
November 2024







# What the States Can Do

**T**HERE is only one way to stop central bankers' push for full financial control and to interrupt the asset grab that is underway as well as other planned takings—and that is by working to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and conditions of financial transaction freedom exist,<sup>1</sup> most importantly at the state and local levels. We define financial transaction freedom as the ability of people to use multiple options to enter into contracts and effect transactions on a timely basis at reasonable cost without interference.

Our goal in this document is to present an overview of steps that U.S. states have taken or that have been recommended or considered to preserve financial freedom and state sovereignty as of October 1, 2024. An independent state infrastructure with the characteristics listed below can weaken the ability of federal government and globalist corporate interests as well as international organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to interfere with personal and state sovereignty and financial transaction freedom, thereby reducing risks for state residents. Important characteristics include:

- Analog and digital payment systems with non-cloud, in-state, and out-of-state back-ups protected from unauthorized hacking and surveillance, perhaps housed on private satellite systems and onshore and offshore servers.
- Telecommunication, transportation, water, food distribution, and other key systems that continue to function in the event of cyberattacks, extreme weather events, electrical and Internet outages, natural (and unnatural) disasters, pandemics and other medical emergencies, and other potentially disastrous and unexpected events.
- The absence of total dependence upon out-of-state contractors (particularly federal military-industrial complex contractors) to implement and control computer operating systems, cloud storage, and security measures.

- Contracting procedures that prohibit entry into state contracts and investment of state pension, “rainy day,” and other state funds (and the hiring of advisors in this regard) with parties and corporate and nonprofit interests that have conflicts of interest, “bad boy” records in previous transactions, and demonstrated patterns of illegal and unethical behavior and policies toward governments, state businesses, and residents.
- State policies that prevent “revolving door” official and high-level employee appointments from and to private sector companies that stand to profit from state business or otherwise create incentives that damage state interests.
- Provisions and funding for the retention of expert advisors with requisite integrity, experience, training, and freedom from conflicts of interest and the mandate to protect the interests of the state and state residents in these matters.

Note: Because we cover numerous topic areas and ideas, we encourage readers to use the provided links to follow up and pursue the details applicable to a given idea. Solari subscribers who would like to connect locally with other individuals dedicated to the preservation of financial freedom and state sovereignty can use our Solari Connect platform to find or start a place-based group to discuss a particular idea or action in more depth.<sup>2</sup>



## I. Preserving Cash and Checks

In seeking to decentralize control of the populace by the federal government and globalist interests, preservation of at least some key analog systems that frustrate centralized data collection, transaction surveillance, and digitization in daily financial transactions is essential. To that end, states can encourage the use of cash and checks by accepting them for state business and transactions and by enacting legislation or otherwise mandating state actions that:

- Provide a waiver of sales tax on small purchases made with cash or check.
- Require that state and other governmental and quasi-governmental authorities (and their contractors) accept payments of taxes, fines, fees, and other amounts owed to such authorities by members of the public in the form of cash or check.
- Require that retail businesses, landlords of residential properties, utilities, sporting events, public utilities, parks and recreation areas, public carriers, and providers under public programs accept payments in the form of cash or check from members of the public for goods and services.
- Prohibit banks within the state, including banks doing business with the state, from:
  - Limiting withdrawals of cash (provided that advance notice may be required for withdrawals over a specified amount).
  - Requiring that customers disclose the purpose of cash withdrawals (consistent with federal anti-money-laundering requirements).
  - Selling or otherwise disclosing personal and private transaction information in the absence of a warrant or express authorization by the customer.

## Removing Sales Tax on Cash Purchases

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### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>3</sup> would have removed the sales tax on cash transactions under \$500.

## Requirements to Accept Cash

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Massachusetts,<sup>4</sup> Colorado,<sup>5</sup> and Connecticut<sup>6</sup> have all successfully addressed the requirement to accept cash.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A bill<sup>7</sup> from Tennessee would have required a person selling or offering for sale goods or services at retail to accept legal tender when offered by the buyer as payment.
- ▶ A New York bill<sup>8</sup> is a bit narrower in scope, focusing solely on prohibiting food-service and retail establishments from refusing to accept cash as payment for goods or services.
- ▶ In Arizona, a bill<sup>9</sup> was filed that would have required each state agency to accept cash or money orders.
- ▶ In recent years, California,<sup>10</sup> Delaware,<sup>11</sup> Idaho,<sup>12</sup> Illinois,<sup>13</sup> Maine,<sup>14</sup> Maryland,<sup>15</sup> Michigan,<sup>16</sup> Minnesota,<sup>17</sup> New York,<sup>18</sup> North Carolina,<sup>19</sup> North Dakota,<sup>20</sup> Ohio,<sup>21</sup> Oklahoma,<sup>22</sup> Oregon,<sup>23</sup> Pennsylvania,<sup>24</sup> Rhode Island,<sup>25</sup> South Carolina,<sup>26</sup> Vermont,<sup>27</sup> and Wisconsin<sup>28</sup> have all attempted to pass similar legislation around the mandated acceptance of cash.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Woman Sues National Park Service After Being Told She Can't Use Cash to Pay Entry Fee<sup>29</sup>
- Pushback of the Week: March 18, 2024: Ray L. Flores, Warrior for Cash<sup>30</sup>
- Using Cash<sup>31</sup>



## II. A State Bank

Our 2023 publication titled *The Future of Financial Freedom*<sup>32</sup> includes an important briefing by economist Richard A. Werner, the world's leading scholar on central banks and a visionary economist regarding pathways to protect financial freedom and build wealth. Professor Werner's analysis describes the ways in which a sovereign state bank (or a comparable mechanism to ensure independent in-state banking, such as the creation of an in-state bank owned by in-state banks to serve the same purposes as a state-owned bank) can help counter threats to state-level and individual sovereignty and economic prosperity and also halt the disturbing trend of banking system concentration and exertion of federal control through grants and other pay-offs with strings attached. We encourage state residents to use this resource to educate their legislators about how a sovereign state bank can support (but not compete with) the state's private community banks and credit unions that are so essential for small- and medium-sized enterprises—which, in turn, are the lifeblood of thriving local economies.

Currently, North Dakota is the only state to have a state-owned bank. For more on the creation and success of the North Dakota state bank, please visit [this link](#).<sup>33</sup>

At the legislative level, the following templates can serve as a starting point for enabling initiatives for a state to create and maintain a state-owned bank or a newly established, privately owned state bank alternative serving the same purposes as a state bank (an alternative that may be required in the event that the state constitution prohibits ownership by the state and constitutional changes are deemed infeasible).

Before enacting enabling legislation for the creation of a state bank or state bank alternative, the legislature may follow other state examples (e.g., Florida) in establishing a commission or other research mechanism to study and report the optimal structures, funding alternatives and requirements, legal and procedural requirements and impediments, and other important conditions of a plan for starting a state bank, including analysis of laws and constitutional provisions that support or prohibit the same.

## Establishment of a State Bank

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ A bill<sup>34</sup> from Hawaii establishes the bank of the State of Hawaii Working Group to propose legislation to establish a state-operated bank of the State of Hawaii.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This bill<sup>35</sup> would have allowed the state of Arizona to maintain a system of banking owned, controlled, and operated by the state of Arizona.
- ▶ Similarly, this bill<sup>36</sup> from New Hampshire would have established the state bank of New Hampshire.

### Administrative Actions

- ▶ Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis has proposed the creation of the "Sunshine Freedom Bank," an official state bank of Florida.<sup>37</sup> We expect to see legislation in regards to this when Florida begins its session in January 2025.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Special Solari Report: A Sovereign State Bank and Bullion Depository for Tennessee with Senator Frank Niceley<sup>38</sup>
- Why a Sovereign State Bank Is Good for Tennessee<sup>39</sup>





### III. Protection of Financial Integrity

States can help protect financial transaction freedom of both the state and local governments and the state's residents and businesses by cultivating a healthy balance of digital and analog transaction options,<sup>40</sup> including preserving residents' ability to transact using cash<sup>41</sup> or check. Digital and analog payment and communication systems should also ensure and protect the free flow of financial data, with exclusive control by the state and state contractors who are not beholden to the federal government (or private interests that compromise the interests of state residents and businesses) and not subject to conflicts of interest.

Those responsible for management of state departments, agencies, subdivisions, and other state-owned and controlled entities, including state pension funds, should be responsible for developing contingency plans for paying and receiving funds in the event of failure of digital systems and should be given tools to accomplish the goal of financial independence and freedom from cyberattack and other threats that interfere with payment systems. State procurement and other departments in charge of payments and expenditures by the state (whether for payments for the purchase of goods and services or to satisfy obligations to employees and pensioners) should ensure the following:

- All contracts are free of conflicts of interest and are subject to in-state conflict-of-laws provisions, so that in-state courts and not those of contract counterparties govern how the contracts will be interpreted and enforced.
- Systems and back-ups are protected from hacking, surveillance, and other interference by non-state actors and the federal government; guidance should be sought from experienced, high-integrity systems experts.
- In the event of digital system failure, basic life necessities and energy needs, as well as residents' access to their financial assets, food, water, and transportation, are assured.



## Protection of Financial Integrity

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ In the 2024 legislative session, Tennessee passed SB2148,<sup>42</sup> which prohibits debanking “based upon the use of a social credit score or other factors.” The bill’s sponsors, Senator Jack Johnson and Representative Jason Zachary, became Solari Heroes of the Week for their work on this bill.<sup>43</sup> However, the bill only applies to a state or national bank, a savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, industrial loan and thrift company, or mortgage lender that has more than one hundred billion dollars (\$100,000,000,000) in assets.<sup>44</sup>

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A bill<sup>45</sup> in Tennessee would have required the commissioner of each state department to develop a written plan stating how the department must conduct its financial transactions and related communications in the event that electronic transactions by existing means are compromised, restricted, or not possible.
- ▶ Another Tennessee bill<sup>46</sup> expressed the intent of the general assembly that the membership of joint economic and community development boards be representative of the populations of the cities and counties for which the boards are formed.
- ▶ A Tennessee bill<sup>47</sup> introduced by Representative Monty Fritts would have prohibited a financial institution from releasing or providing the account balance or transaction activity of an account to a person without first obtaining the account holder’s express permission or without a warrant issued by a judicial officer located in the state.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Hero of the Week: May 13, 2024: Tennessee Senator Jack Johnson and Representative Jason Zachary<sup>43</sup>
- The Threat of Financial Transaction Control<sup>48</sup>

## Outlawing CBDCs or Removing Them from Definition of Money

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Bills from Florida,<sup>49</sup> Indiana,<sup>50</sup> Nebraska,<sup>51</sup> and Tennessee<sup>52</sup> all removed central bank digital currency (CBDC) from the definition of money in the state commercial codes.
- ▶ The Indiana bill<sup>50</sup> states that the definition of money “does not include a central bank digital currency that is currently adopted, or that may be adopted, by the United States government, a foreign government, a foreign reserve, or a foreign sanctioned central bank.”
- ▶ A Utah bill<sup>53</sup> states that “a central bank digital currency is not specie legal tender and is not legal tender in the state.”
- ▶ South Dakota passed a bill<sup>54</sup> excluding CBDCs from the definition of money and another bill<sup>55</sup> banning state agencies from accepting it for payment for taxes, fees, tuition, admission, the settlement of any account or debt, or any other purpose.
- ▶ Alabama also passed a bill<sup>56</sup> prohibiting government agencies in Alabama from accepting a CBDC as payment and from participating in any testing of a CBDC by any Federal Reserve branch.
- ▶ The state of North Carolina passed a bill<sup>57</sup> banning the state from implementing a United States Federal Reserve-issued CBDC; Governor Cooper vetoed the bill in July 2024. On July 31, 2024, the North Carolina House of Representatives voted to overturn the governor’s veto and on September 9, 2024, the North Carolina Senate followed suit. On that same day the bill passed into law.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Hawaii,<sup>58</sup> Missouri,<sup>59</sup> New Hampshire,<sup>60</sup> Oklahoma,<sup>61</sup> South Carolina,<sup>62</sup> and Wisconsin<sup>63</sup> also introduced legislation on this topic.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Heroes of the Week: September 30, 2024: Tennessee State Senator Bill Powers and Representative Jeff Burkhart<sup>64</sup>
- Updated: Template Letter to Bank Re: Effect of CBDCs and Other Digital Control Mechanisms on My Financial Health<sup>65</sup>
- Solari Financial Transaction Freedom and CBDC Video Shorts<sup>66</sup>
- From the Maastricht Treaty to CBDCs with Arno Wellens<sup>67</sup>
- I Want to Stop CBDCs – What Can I Do?<sup>40</sup>



## IV. Stopping the Digital ID

Universal digital identification requirements are a key component of the move to centralize virtually all personal, including biometric, information for all Americans and are a condition precedent to achieving complete financial transaction control over all of us—clearly a goal both in the U.S. and internationally. Through the tracking capability inherent in the digital ID—and the fact that separate databases can be made to “speak” to each other and share discrete personal information included in any one linked database through existing software widely available to both governments and powerful corporations—such an ID in any form threatens all manner of freedoms: financial, medical, and food freedom; freedom of assembly; First Amendment rights; the right to privacy; and the right to bear arms.

A number of digital IDs are in the works, but as digital IDs advance in the U.S., most Americans remain unaware of the danger. Consider the expansion of the mobile driver’s license (mDL), the REAL ID driver’s license (issued by states under federally prescribed requirements), the proposed Covid-19 vaccine passport, the Unique Patient Identifier (UPI), ID.me (used for accessing federal government benefits), and, presumably, any identification used for access to CBDC, should a CBDC (or any CBDC alternative) be adopted. Idemia and its partners are also advancing augmented identification—biometric ID strategies—around the world.<sup>68</sup> Ultimately, once one digital ID by whatever name (or a combination of linkable universal digital IDs) is adopted widely as a means of controlling access to essential goods and services to sustain life, literal and figural slavery are sure to ensue.

The REAL ID is, in essence, a national ID card. Most states initially opposed the 2005 law,<sup>69</sup> which passed in the middle of the night. In 2016, the Obama Administration’s deceptive “You can’t fly without a REAL ID” campaign scared Americans and convinced most state legislators to conform to the federal law—despite the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stating in official documents that people can fly without a REAL ID using an alternative form of identification, including, for example, a standard passport, birth certificate, or existing federally issued ID. In 2017, state legislators in Missouri and Pennsylvania sent President Trump letters charging a usurpation of states’ rights. Today, it is estimated that half of all Americans have this national ID card, and many don’t know it, nor do they know most people can choose an alternative. Some state Departments of Motor Vehicles issue the REAL ID by default, meaning that it is up to the driver’s license applicant to know that an opt-out is possible.

To keep the REAL ID from becoming a mandate for more federal purposes than currently in effect, individual states can submit comments (for example, from the Office of Attorney General or legislature) in opposition to any federal regulatory action to require REAL ID or other digital identification. Domestically, a state can:

- Educate state residents when a REAL ID is not required.
- Enact state legislation banning the requirement of a REAL ID (or other digital ID) for state purposes.
- Mandate that state motor vehicle bureaus not issue REAL ID by default.
- Otherwise encourage the use of standard driver's licenses or other non-digital and state-issued IDs whenever possible.

The most likely official federal action we will see next may be a requirement for a digital ID to access medical care. However, because Medicaid is a joint federal/state program, states can attempt to set up Medicaid systems that accept other-than-digital forms of identification (e.g., passports, birth certificates, state driver's licenses, and other forms of state-issued identification). Additionally, states can prohibit health care providers in the state from requiring federal digital identification.

Additional state legislation to discourage a national ID could include the following:

- Repeal state conformance with the unconstitutional, expensive, and unfunded REAL ID mandate
- Require the standard driver's license to always be an option
- End biometric identifiers in state identification documents
- Forbid "mobile" driver's licenses
- Forbid health care facilities, hotels, and others from recording, copying, or inputting the driver's license or patient's ID into the electronic health record that is likely part of the eHealth Exchange,<sup>70</sup> the national medical records system
- Forbid the state's Department of Motor Vehicles from stripping state residents of other valid identification documents and from participating in American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) activities,<sup>71</sup> the State-to-State (S2S) Verification Service for driver's licenses,<sup>72</sup> or the State Pointer Exchange Services (SPEXS) WebUI Reporting Portal
- Forbid the dissemination (particularly at airports and state motor vehicle departments) of false information that indicates that use of a REAL ID is always required by the federal government in order to fly or enter a federal facility

The United Nations (UN) Summit of the Future meeting in September 2024 demonstrated that the national ID problem is one of international scope. At the meeting, the membership adopted the Pact for the Future by a questionable "consensus" procedure (notwithstanding objections from Belarus, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Russia, Sudan, and Syria, which proposed an amendment barring the UN from intervening "in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State"). According to Dr. Meryl Nass, founder of Door to

Freedom, the Pact for the Future strengthens and transforms global governance,<sup>73</sup> requiring compliance with international law. As described by David Bell, MD, PhD (a public health physician, biotech consultant, and senior scholar at the Brownstone Institute), “[its] overall thrust is to reduce the status of member states (i.e., sovereign countries) in favor of centralized control.”<sup>74</sup> Francis Boyle, JD, PhD<sup>75</sup> (a professor of international law at the University of Illinois) called the pact “an end run by globalists around the terms for amendment of the U.N. Charter.”<sup>74</sup>

The alleged adoption of the Pact for the Future follows by a mere four months another questionable approval, this time by the World Health Assembly, of World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulation (IHR) Amendments that provide:

- For declaration of international pandemic emergencies by the Secretary-General.
- That “WHO, in consultation with [members], shall develop and update, as necessary, technical guidance, including specifications or standards related to the issuance and ascertainment of authenticity of health documents, both in digital format and non-digital format.”
- That members may disclose personally identifiable data “where essential for the purposes of assessing and managing a public health risk.”
- For an expert committee to coordinate and support local-level efforts to address health risks as they relate to on-site investigations, surveillance, implementation of control measures, and “risk communication, including addressing misinformation and disinformation.”

#### **SOLARI RESOURCES**

- Visa & Mastercard: The Real Threat to the Digital ID Control System<sup>76</sup>
- The Digital ID Threat Is Real: Don’t Fall for Empty Promises and Trojan Horse Reforms<sup>77</sup>

#### **OTHER RELATED RESOURCES**

- Dr. Skidmore: G20 Announcement re Digital ID/CBDC aka Social Credit System Means They’re Ready to Launch!<sup>78</sup>
- Exposing Idemia: The Push for National Biometric IDs in America<sup>79</sup>
- How Does Government Healthcare Spending Differ from Private Insurance?<sup>80</sup>
- State to State DHR Overview March 2024<sup>81</sup>
- Identity Management Innovation: Looking Beyond REAL ID<sup>82</sup>



## V. Private Currencies and Credit Cards

Recent experience in the banking and payments sector has identified unhealthy trends that may interfere with financial transaction freedom. For example:

- Terms and conditions embedded in the structure and contracting arrangements of certain gateway providers (and other facilitators of the use of credit cards and ACH payments for online transactions) may allow third-party service providers like PayPal to stop or interfere with payments by customers or receipt of customer funds by merchants.
- Merchant category codes (MCCs) used by credit card companies to identify the types of goods offered by merchants can facilitate illegal disclosure of personal financial information. Originally developed for tax reporting purposes, MCCs have been used for nefarious purposes, as described, for example, in a House Judiciary Committee report titled *Financial Surveillance in the United States: How Federal Law Enforcement Commandeered Financial Institutions to Spy on Americans*.<sup>83</sup> Bank of America searched by MCCs for—and disclosed to the FBI, without a warrant, for purposes of the agency’s prosecution of “January 6 protesters”—the identities of cardholders who made purchases of hotel rooms in the Washington, DC area over a designated January 2021 period and who made purchases at stores (e.g., Cabella’s and Dick’s Sporting Goods) that sell firearms.

Of note is the fact that actions by major credit and debit card systems or issuers (using, for example, Mastercard and Visa systems) could facilitate a CBDC-like function that enables the cutting-off of payment by card users when cards are used for specified purposes or under designated circumstances (i.e., a programmability function for social credit purposes). States can enact limits on such systems for the purposes of in-state expenditures (understanding that any such limits could be attacked on federal preemption grounds based on federal regulation of banks). If a state were to establish a bullion depository and enter into private contracts for the issuance of debit cards for payments using depositors’ precious metals deposits, such a system could be devised so as to allow residents to avoid CBDC-like debit and credit cards.

States also should be aware that the FedNow/Fast Payment system<sup>84</sup> that went into effect during 2024 could be similarly used for CBDC-like purposes in programming into the direct-wire payment system personalized limits on depositors' expenditures. States would not be able to change federal law in this respect, but they could:

1. Submit comment letters in opposition to any such federal congressional or executive action, including through multi-state action.
2. Prohibit payments in in-state transactions using the FedNow/Fast Payment system in the event the system is changed to restrict the financial transaction freedom of state-resident banking clients.

There may be an opportunity for state action with respect to state-chartered banks using the FedNow/Fast Payment system, although, competitively, restrictions on the offering of this payment vehicle could damage such banks' competitiveness. Further study would be required to identify actions, if any, that would be consistent with furthering competitiveness of in-state banks while discouraging restrictions of financial transaction freedom of state residences and businesses. We are concerned that the combination of FedNow and CBDC or an all-digital financial system can be used to cause bank runs or further consolidation of the banking system, which would have a damaging effect on independent income and the tax base. Economist Richard Werner notes that the potential for central control rises in tandem with increased banking concentration; thus, it is essential for states and residents to continue to support a vibrant and flexible system of small local banks.<sup>85</sup>

Finally, states should be forewarned that lobbying is underway to persuade (or bribe) politicians to mandate federal and state government purchases of Bitcoin. This is essentially a scam that will ensure that large Bitcoin holders can exit their positions at a high price in an illiquid market. If citizens want to buy Bitcoin, they are free to do so. Mandating government to essentially force them to do so as taxpayers is the antithesis of financial freedom, not to mention a dreadful investment for all concerned save those who are exiting. For legislators who are interested in learning more, we recommend our ongoing coverage at the Solari Report at [solari.com](https://solari.com), starting with our book review of *Hijacking Bitcoin: The Hidden History of BTC* and "Plunder Capitalism: Is the Bitcoin Strategic Reserve Trial Balloon the Next Step in the Great American Land Grab?"



## Private Currencies and Credit Cards

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Tennessee's Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act<sup>86</sup> is a measure that prohibits financial institutions operating in the state from using a credit card MCC that would enable the tracking of firearm and ammunition purchases.
- ▶ A Kentucky bill<sup>87</sup> banned the use of an MCC that would enable the tracking of firearm and ammunition purchases.
- ▶ This Iowa bill<sup>88</sup> prohibits financial institutions operating in the state from requiring an MCC to track the purchases of firearms and ammunition.
- ▶ In Idaho's Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act,<sup>89</sup> financial institutions or their agents are prohibited from requiring the use of a firearms code in a manner that distinguishes a firearms retailer physically located in the state of Idaho from Idaho general merchandise retailers or sporting goods retailers.
- ▶ Alabama's Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act<sup>90</sup> prohibits financial institutions from requiring the use of a firearm code, from discriminating against a firearm retailer as a result of the assignment or non-assignment of a firearm code, and from disclosing the protected financial information. Additionally, the law prohibits keeping or causing to be kept any list, record, or registry of private firearm ownership.
- ▶ Florida,<sup>91</sup> Indiana,<sup>92</sup> Mississippi,<sup>93</sup> Montana,<sup>94</sup> North Dakota,<sup>95</sup> Texas,<sup>96</sup> Utah,<sup>97</sup> and Wyoming<sup>98</sup> have all passed similar legislation.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill<sup>99</sup> would have prohibited an online payment system from freezing the funds of a user without first providing the user with a 90-day written notice of the online payment system's intent to freeze the user's funds.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Visa & Mastercard: The Real Threat to the Digital ID Control System<sup>76</sup>



## VI. State Precious Metals, Precious Metals Reserves, and Bullion Depositories

A state treasurer can be permitted by law to invest a designated portion of state reserves in precious metals.

A state law can designate that under state law, precious metals constitute legal tender, meaning that in the absence of contractual provisions to the contrary, an obligation to make payment under a contract subject to the state's law can be satisfied by the payment in dollars or precious metals.

We refer readers to the “State Laws Can Help Restore Gold and Silver as Money” section<sup>100</sup> of the Sound Money Defense League website<sup>101</sup> for a list of state laws dealing with treatment of gold and silver for state law purposes including, without limitation, laws dealing with precious metals depositories, legal tender (and “money” versus personal property) status, holding of bullion reserves, investment of state pension fund in precious metals, and capital gains and income taxation of precious metals (and state tax credits for federal taxes paid thereon).

### State Purchases and Reserves

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#### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>102</sup> authorized the state treasurer to purchase gold and silver.
- ▶ This Utah bill<sup>103</sup> authorized the state treasurer to hold up to 10% of certain state reserve accounts in physical gold and silver to help secure state assets against the risks of inflation and financial turmoil and/or to achieve capital gains as measured in Federal Reserve notes.
- ▶ This Missouri bill<sup>104</sup> requires the state treasurer to keep in the custody of the state treasury an amount of gold and silver greater than or equal to 1% of all state funds.

#### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill<sup>105</sup> would have mandated that 3% of the total value of the funds in the reserve for revenue fluctuations account be held in the form of precious metal bullion or specie by the treasurer.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- 3rd Quarter 2024 Wrap Up Equity Overview: Investing in Gold and Silver 101 with Tim Caban<sup>106</sup>

## Legal Tender Status

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Some states have enacted or proposed legislation to change gold and silver from commodities to money or, taken a step further, to establish precious metals as legal tender. “Legal tender” is something (most commonly in the U.S., Federal Reserve bank notes or deposits) unconditionally offered to satisfy a debt or obligation, the refusal of which by the other party (creditor) may result in an elimination of the debt. Of course, a contract may provide by its terms for the satisfaction of the debt in another form. A precious metals legal tender law, thus, generally means that, unless provided otherwise by contract, the enumerated precious metal(s) may be tendered in satisfaction of a debt the same as bank notes.

When precious metals are legal tender, the question arises what the basis is for converting dollars to a given weight of the precious metal. The legal tender statute enacted in Missouri, as an example, states that the state must accept gold and silver as legal tender, “at spot price plus market premium,” for payment of any debt, tax, fee, or obligation owed. Costs incurred in the course of verification of the weight and purity of any gold or silver during any such transaction are to be borne by the receiving entity.

Relatedly, states may enact laws providing that transactions in precious metals do not result in capital gain for state tax purposes. Precious metals legal tender laws have the effect of treating the metals as money, as opposed to as commodities, the latter of which give rise to capital gains or losses for federal income tax purposes. Thus, it is conceivable that in a state that treats precious metals as money and/or legal tender, a given transaction in precious metals would give rise to capital gain taxation at the federal level but not at the state level.

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ The states of Arkansas,<sup>107</sup> Missouri,<sup>108</sup> Oklahoma,<sup>109</sup> and Wyoming<sup>110</sup> have passed legislation making gold and silver legal tender.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Bills in Florida,<sup>111</sup> Louisiana,<sup>112</sup> Tennessee,<sup>113</sup> and Texas<sup>114</sup> would have made gold and silver legal tender in each of those states.

## SOLARI RESOURCES

- The Silver and Gold Payment Calculator with Franklin Sanders<sup>115</sup>
- 2nd Quarter 2022 Wrap Up: Gold & Silver: Defending Family Wealth and Sovereignty for 5,000 Years<sup>116</sup>

## State Bullion Depository

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A state bullion depository can provide a state and its residents with a secure, in-state location to store gold and silver.<sup>117</sup> As long as it is designed and operated with integrity and with attention to risks of control by central bank and other compromised centralized sources, such a depository can enhance state sovereignty and financial resiliency, making it easier for both the state and state residents and businesses to accumulate gold and silver “rainy day” reserves. Gold and silver reserves can serve as a hedge against economic instability and inflation resulting from debasement of the U.S. dollar, as well as offering another transaction alternative. If your state levies a sales or use tax or capital gains tax on transactions in gold and silver, encourage your legislators to pass legislation that eliminates those taxes and classifies precious metals as legal tender. Some states have provided for or are proposing to provide for payment of taxes and other state obligations with precious metals and provide state-level tax relief to those who have incurred federal capital gains tax liability for precious metals transactions.

Note that if a state is to create a bullion depository and arrange for the issuance of debit cards using bullion depository deposits, using a control-grid financial institution as issuer of the card (e.g., Mastercard or Visa, or even a systemically important bank or other financial institution) defeats the purpose of establishing a system of precious metals as money or legal tender. Among other things, a state must use a debit card system that is under the jurisdiction of state law and is free of conflicts of interest relative to the international institutions that are centralizing financial control.

Many “sound money” adherents have supported converting the U.S. currency system to one partially or fully collateralized by gold as a means of preventing Congress and the Federal Reserve from increasing the federal debt and further destabilizing the U.S. economy. Such a conversion from the current fiat currency would be disastrous on several accounts. First, there is not enough gold in the world, or at least under the control of the U.S. government, to fully back U.S. dollars such that the holder of a dollar could convert the Federal Reserve note (or bank deposit) to gold, and partial collateralization of dollars with gold would achieve no beneficial end. Second, as has been shown repeatedly over the centuries, fiat currencies are the most stable currencies; the problem with the U.S. currency is that it is a *debt-based* currency, not that it is a fiat currency. Most important, however, is the fact that gold-based currency conversion favors those who currently hold gold—not the majority of ordinary middle- and lower-class members of the public. Were we as a country to suddenly convert to a gold-based currency system (or a cryptocurrency-based system, for that matter), those who do not, pre-conversion, hold significant amounts of the asset (i.e., most members of the public) would have to then acquire gold (or cryptocurrency) in the market, thereby benefiting the wealthy pre-conversion holders and resulting in an increase in the market price.

## State Bullion Depository

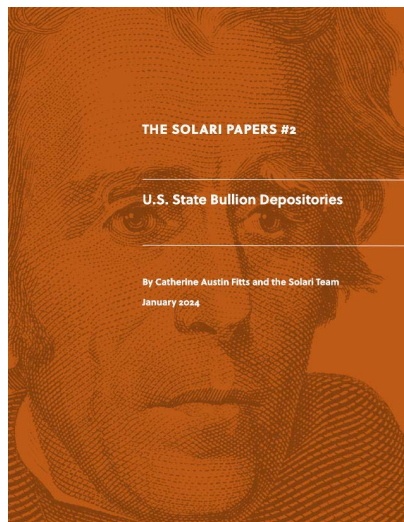
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### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Bills in Florida<sup>118</sup> and Tennessee<sup>119</sup> would create or would have created state bullion depositories. The Florida bill also would provide that bullion is not personal property for [state] tax and regulatory purposes.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- A Sovereign State Bank and Bullion Depository for Tennessee with Senator Frank Niceley<sup>120</sup>
- The Solari Papers #2: U.S. State Bullion Depositories<sup>117</sup>
- Book Review: A History of Money in Ancient Countries from the Earliest Times to the Present by Alexander del Mar<sup>121</sup>






## VII. Direct and Local Investment

Investors who are worried that brokerage firms might facilitate future securities “takings” should encourage their state legislators to create options for direct investment in state notes and bonds, creating an equivalent to TreasuryDirect<sup>122</sup> (used for direct Internet purchases of U.S. Treasury securities) at the state level. Legislators also can adopt measures that encourage local investing<sup>123</sup> or permit in-state securities trading opportunities for in-state businesses and in-state investors that avoid federal securities law requirements (i.e., involving intrastate businesses that don’t cross state lines funded solely by in-state investors).

Imagine, for example, a state-level stock exchange for investment in local small businesses and infrastructure improvements, or “mini” municipal bond offerings with low minimum investment thresholds, or even a digital voucher or debit card transaction system that allows residents to pay bills and make purchases using credits for precious metals stored in the state bullion depository. We can imagine a state version of TreasuryDirect for state-issued notes and bonds.



The background of the page features a photograph of the Utah State Capitol building. The building is a large, classical-style structure with a prominent central dome and a portico supported by many columns. American flags are visible on poles in front of the building. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text of the section header is overlaid on a white rectangular area in the lower-left portion of the image.

## VIII. Doing Business with the State: Banking, Reserves, Pension Funds, Contracting, and Digital Payment and Telecommunications Systems

The office of the state secretary of state can be used to enforce state laws and policies protecting state residents from unlawful, improper, and fraudulent actions by unscrupulous corporate interests. Under the Model Business Corporation Act, upon which the corporation statutes of some half of state codes reportedly are based, the state attorney general (AG) is authorized to file a judicial action to revoke a corporate charter if the court finds that “the corporation has continued to exceed or abuse the authority conferred upon it by law.”

In each state, an entity that “transacts business” (as defined by statute or regulation) within the state, with some exceptions (e.g., federally chartered banks and other federally controlled entities), must either be formed under the laws of the state (i.e., be a “domestic” corporation or other legal entity) or register as a foreign corporation (or other legal entity). These requirements subject the entity, which might be a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership, to the jurisdiction of state courts and to service of process (for purposes of a lawsuit complaint) through the secretary of state or other agent within the state. It is thus within the power of the secretary of state to both deny a charter or license to an entity that desires to transact business within the state or cancel an existing charter or license.

Generally, it is reported that corporate dissolution actions by state secretaries of state are rare, although the New York attorney general attempted to rescind the corporate charter of the National Rifle Association on charges of corruption and mismanagement, which the court determined to have fallen short of the public harm required to impose the “corporate death penalty” on the nonprofit group.<sup>124</sup> We are not aware of any successful action by an attorney general to rescind a corporation’s charter or authority to transact business in the state, but there are many instances in which action by the state attorney general has been undertaken for violation of state consumer protection statutes (see, for example, the Texas AG’s investigation into six major banks for collusion-in-lending practices<sup>125</sup> and the Ohio AG’s lawsuit against Dollar General for questionable pricing practices<sup>126</sup>). The specter of the cancellation of an offending company’s license to transact business in the state presumably could affect a settlement of this type.



The Model Corporate Charter Revocation Act<sup>127</sup> would amend the provisions of a state corporate code modeled on the Model Business Corporation Act (and could be adapted for other forms of state corporate codes) to provide, among other things:

- A private right of action by a state citizen to rescind a certificate of authority to do business of a foreign corporation (i.e., a corporation formed in another state) that has continued to exceed or abuse the authority conferred upon it by law.
- A private right of action by a state citizen under the code's existing authority for the dissolution of a domestic corporation by the attorney general.
- For the removal in a court action brought by the attorney general, a private citizen of the state, or corporate shareholder of a director who has violated the provision that no person may serve as a director of a domestic corporation who has, within the previous 10 years, been a director or officer of a corporation that was found to have exceeded or abused the authority conferred upon it by law in a charter revocation proceeding.

The state can prohibit investment of funds it controls in such enterprises and encourage enforcement by the state attorney general of anti-competition, anti-monopoly, and other laws against such practices employed by such enterprises in plundering businesses within the state.

The state can outlaw political donations in the state by asset managers and their lobbyists and law firms and require detailed, publicly available disclosure of conflicts of interest by state politicians. Further, it can increase disclosure of conflicts of interest by state officials and high-level employees.

Although generally beyond the scope of this article for detailed examination, in general and because these matters affect financial freedom, we can recommend that in the pharmaceutical and health care area, the state restrict its state universities and hospitals from engaging in gain-of-function and other scientific research that contributes to adverse health outcomes to state residents and ban state educational, public health, and other state-supported institutions and agencies from participating in, cooperating with, and using state funding for federally mandated "pandemic preparedness," vaccine or national digital ID, and other medical and digital control grid initiatives. The state also might consider imposing conflict-of-interest restrictions on the acceptance of grant money for medical research by state-funded institutions and universities.

Attention should be given to the "choice of law" clauses in state contracts and legislation in order to protect state residents and the state from the application of foreign state legal provisions that conflict with or are inconsistent with the laws and policies of the state. Generally, particularly in the case of adhesion (i.e., formal or non-negotiable) contracts and terms and conditions applicable to online and other services, large corporations select as the governing jurisdiction the laws of states that are favorable to them. Great care should be taken in identifying choice of law

provisions that may be adverse to state interests and—by policy, law, or regulation—refusing to agree to such jurisdictional provisions wherever possible. Because many IT-related corporations are located in California, many (if not most) Wall Street and other major financial institution interests are located in New York, and many major corporations are formed under the laws of Delaware (a remarkably corporate-friendly state), knowledgeable legal experts should focus on the effects of such state laws in the interpretation and enforcement of state contracts and transactions where such laws may apply.

In light of recent fraudulent and insured-unfriendly practices by auto, property, and other insurers and increasing weather-related and other disasters, attention should be given to measures the state insurance department can take and to state insurance regulation as it relates to the accessibility of ethical insurance at reasonable premiums to state residents and businesses and to the enforcement of state-mandated provisions that protect the insured.

State officials and representatives need to be educated about the importance of custodianship of state and state-controlled assets. Whenever possible, state assets (including any precious metals, cryptocurrency, and securities) should be held within the state, by in-state actors, subject to in-state laws, by reputable custodians with impeccable records of honesty and fair dealing. Care should be taken in particular to focus on custodial risks for investments (e.g., precious metals and crypto ETFs<sup>128</sup>) with a view to strictly limiting any custodial relationship controlled by major systemically significant financial institutions (e.g., JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo) with histories of illegal transactions, bankruptcies, and federal bailouts.

Finally, state legislators can take a much more active role in making sure state and local agencies within the state are not entering into national or international grants and funding contracts that are not in compliance with state law without authorizing legislation to do so.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Risky Business—Investigating U.S. Life and Annuity Insurance Companies with Lucy Komisar<sup>129</sup>
- Your Car Insurance with Matt R. Hale<sup>130</sup>
- JPMorgan Chase: Selected Legal, Regulatory, and Enforcement Settlements, 2002 to 2019<sup>131</sup>

#### OTHER RELATED RESOURCES

- Vanguard Splits from BlackRock Over Major Climate Alliance as the Backlash to ESG Builds<sup>132</sup>
- Vanguard CEO Abandons ESG Investing Alliance: “Not in the Game of Politics”<sup>133</sup>
- West Virginia Treasury Drops BlackRock Over Stance on Climate Risk<sup>134</sup>

### Rejecting Federal Money

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States are often saddled with strings that accompany grants and other “free” federal money that prove to be a later burden in terms of the costs of maintenance by the state and its jurisdictions of infrastructure financed by the federal government. Too, unwary state and local officials may approve federally funded projects or programs without giving deep thought or attention to the accompanying conditions to the acceptance of the federal funding. State legislatures may want to address such situations by enacting legislation to require public input, disclosure, and special approval by the state legislature of the terms of any federal funding that may affect future state and local budgets or otherwise tie the hands of future officials in making decisions that favor state and local businesses and farms and the public at large. States can prohibit the entry by any municipality or other jurisdiction into grant agreements not in accordance with state laws without authorizing legislation.

State officials (e.g., the state treasurer or attorney general) may also decide to provide comments to proposed federal regulations that are uneconomic for the state or its residents.

In any instance of a state becoming dependent upon federal funding, state officials need to be aware of the leverage the federal government acquires over state decisions. A prime example is federal funding for education, which has the result of federalizing educational curricula. The enormous amount of CARES Act funding to schools and public health services during the Covid-19 “pandemic” resulted in schools and health care facilities instituting all manner of mandates, some of which resulted in deaths and disabilities and supported censorship of the truth about the dangers of the Covid-19 injections.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Strong Towns with Chuck Marohn<sup>135</sup>

## Using State Investment Policies and Contracts to Influence Social Causes

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States can take a stand against unwanted social and other developments by moving, or threatening to move, the money they control. The following articles describe examples of states taking such actions:

- “Utah’s State Treasurer Pulls Millions from Investment Firm Over Its Climate and Social Agenda”<sup>136</sup>
- “Florida Pulls \$2 Bln from BlackRock in Largest Anti-ESG Divestment”<sup>137</sup>
- “West Virginia Notifies Six Banks They May Be Breaking State’s Fossil Fuel Anti-Boycott Law”<sup>138</sup>
- “Wall Street Firms Face W.Va. Boycott Over Alleged Fossil Fuel Bias”<sup>139</sup>
- “BlackRock Subpoenaed by Texas Senate Panel Over ESG Issues”<sup>140</sup>
- “Tennessee Sues BlackRock citing ‘Misleading’ ESG strategy”<sup>141</sup>



## IX. Recommendations to Reverse Private Equity Damage

Brendan Ballou, author of *Plunder: Private Equity's Plan to Pillage America*,<sup>142</sup> serves as a federal prosecutor at the Department of Justice, with years of experience in prosecuting crimes involving private equity. His seminal book describes the techniques employed by elite billionaires—financial players who are often intelligence-connected—to plunder established American businesses through, for example:

- Over-leveraging
- Plunder of corporate assets (through sale and leaseback and similar transactions)
- Levying of excessive management fees
- Layoffs of employees
- Lowering of product and service quality for short-term profits
- Use of bankruptcy to destroy employee pension plans
- Other arguably illegal and clearly immoral and destructive actions

Ballou outlines an agenda for reform that involves, among others, actions that can be taken to prevent further deaths, injuries, and financial devastation from private equity domination of businesses on a national scale. (Note that he states that the value of private equity-controlled businesses in the U.S. exceeds the value of public companies.) State legislatures are well advised to review the chapter in this book on recommended legislative and other actions at the state and federal levels (his recommended federal actions being useful for developing analogous state provisions) to prevent and address these abuses.

We would add that states also may want to enact laws requiring the representation of employees and/or consumers in takeover transactions and levying severe sanctions for intentional destruction of the local tax base.

Deserving of close attention is the potential for unwitting support of plunder capitalism within the state by investments of state pension funds. To address this problem, states may adopt guidelines for the investment of “state rainy day” funds and state pension funds and otherwise include in financial advisory agreements for such funds requirements that investment decisionmakers review potential and existing investments for any potential for harm to state residents, employees, and businesses (including farms). State officials involved in addressing harms from plunder capitalism and land grabs are well advised to coordinate with the state attorney general’s office to ensure that there is appropriate focus on enforcement of applicable consumer

protection laws, criminal statutes, and other measures to stem unethical conduct that harms the state and its residents and businesses.

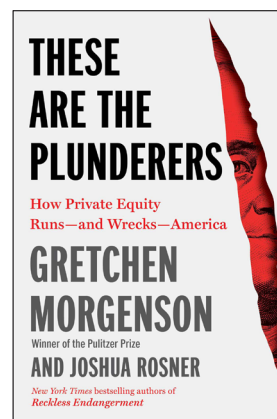
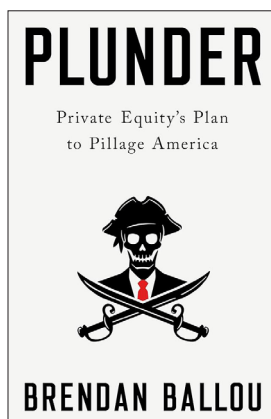
The continued investments by state pension funds in private equity are all the more puzzling as recent studies show that returns do not outperform broad market indices, in part because the fees are so high. Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner note (pp. 238–239) in their recent book on private equity,<sup>143</sup> *These Are the Plunderers*:

*“The Pennsylvania [Public School Employees Retirement System] pension’s decision to keep investing with Apollo mirrored similar actions taken by public funds across the country. They throw their beneficiaries’ money into high-cost investments rewarding the very same plunderers who fire lower and middle-class workers and diminish government revenues through tax loopholes. As such, these pensions are among the chief contributors to the widening wealth gap in the US, a gulf that harms the very people the pensions are supposed to benefit.*

*This anomaly is even more puzzling when viewed against the findings in a 2020 pension study by academics at Harvard University and Stanford University. Analyzing \$500 billion of investments in private equity funds by two hundred public pensions between 1990 and 2018, the researchers found that excessive fees levied by the predators depleted some pensions’ returns by \$45 billion, or almost 10 percent of the pie.”*

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Book Review: Plunder: Private Equity’s Plan to Pillage America by Brendan Ballou<sup>142</sup>
- Book Review: These Are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs—and Wrecks—America by Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner<sup>143</sup>
- An Editorial Comment on Private Equity<sup>144</sup>
- Case Studies in Plunder Capitalism<sup>145</sup>







## X. Taxation

States can use state tax laws to incentivize actions by corporate actors that benefit the state and its residents. The experience in Tennessee is that lowering state tax has contributed to a strong economy and increasing state revenues. In 2012, Tennessee began phasing out the inheritance tax and repealed the gift tax.<sup>146</sup> Subsequently, having successfully maintained a policy of no personal income tax on wages, Tennessee eliminated its Hall income tax, which was a tax imposed only on individuals and other entities receiving interest from bonds, notes, and dividends from stock.<sup>147</sup> This was followed by eliminating the professional tax except for lawyers and lobbyists.

These tax reductions have had a stimulative effect and resulted in increased state tax revenues. Constitutional changes can be made to eliminate state income tax.

The state may wish to provide relief to lower- and middle-class individuals and encourage use of cash by eliminating taxes on tips and eliminate sales taxes on retail cash purchases under a designated level (e.g., \$500).

### Sales Tax

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#### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill<sup>148</sup> would have exempted from the state sales and use tax the retail sale of food and food ingredients that are voucher-eligible under the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>149</sup> would have removed sales tax on cash purchases under \$500.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- From The Moneychanger: Senator Frank Niceley – Restoring Freedom in Tennessee<sup>150</sup>

### Common Law Right of Offset

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As a means of effecting change at the federal level, activist state AGs can create escrows into which state residents may opt to deposit their federal taxes so that the state attorney general can assert common law right of offset on behalf of the opting residents for U.S. depository bank or federal government debts.

## Taxation of Precious Metals

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A state can enact laws that remove taxes on precious metals for state tax purposes.

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Bills from Mississippi,<sup>151</sup> Tennessee,<sup>152</sup> Virginia,<sup>153</sup> Wisconsin,<sup>154</sup> and other states have successfully removed sales tax on precious metals.
- ▶ As of September 2024, the only states that still charge sales tax on precious metals are Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, New Mexico, and Vermont.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Hero of the Week: May 9, 2022: Franklin Sanders<sup>155</sup>

## Capital Gains Taxes on Precious Metals

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A state can eliminate state capital gains taxes on precious metals. Note that any such provision does not affect the obligation under federal law to pay *federal* capital gains taxes on gains on the sale of precious metals.

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ In this Arkansas bill,<sup>156</sup> specie or legal tender shall not be characterized as personal property for taxation or regulatory purposes and “the exchange of one type or form of legal tender for another type or form of legal tender shall not give rise to any tax liability,” and “the purchase, sale, or exchange of any type or form of specie shall not give rise to any tax liability.”
- ▶ This bill<sup>157</sup> from Arizona eliminates state capital gains taxes on income “derived from the exchange of one kind of legal tender for another kind of legal tender.”

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ An Iowa bill<sup>158</sup> would have excluded from the computation of net income for purposes of the individual income tax the capital gain from the sale of bullion, coins, or currency and includes capital loss from such a sale.
- ▶ A Kansas bill<sup>159</sup> would have removed the tax liability from the exchange of one type or form of legal tender for another type or form of legal tender.
- ▶ This Florida bill<sup>160</sup> provides that bullion is not personal property for taxation and regulatory purposes and that exchange of one type or form of legal tender (i.e., dollars) for another type or form of legal (i.e., bullion) tender does not give rise to tax liability.

A state also can provide for a deduction of federal capital gains tax paid by state residents for state tax purposes.

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This bill<sup>161</sup> from Nebraska states that “gains” or “losses” on precious metal sales reported on federal income tax returns are backed out, thereby removing them from the calculation of a Nebraska taxpayer’s adjusted gross income.
- ▶ A 2011 Utah law<sup>162</sup> (explained here<sup>163</sup>), among other things provides that capital gains recognized on the sale or exchange of gold and silver coins issued by the U.S. government and reported on a federal individual income tax return are eligible for an apportionable nonrefundable credit against Utah tax.

### RELATED RESOURCES

- Tennessee’s repeal of the property measure of the franchise tax<sup>164</sup>
- Tennessee’s removal of the inheritance tax<sup>165</sup>
- Tennessee’s repeal of the Hall Income Tax (a former state tax on interest and dividend income from investments)<sup>166</sup>





## XI. Protecting Against a Land Grab

### Natural Asset Companies and Conservation Easements

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#### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Model legislation<sup>167</sup> drafted for Tennessee would have prevented Natural Asset Companies (NACs) from operating in Tennessee and would have eliminated NAC investments from the state pension fund's list of qualified investments.

#### Administrative Actions

Marlo Oaks, the Treasurer of Utah, led an action by means of a letter<sup>168</sup> signed by 26 state treasurers opposing a proposed “Natural Asset Company” initiative by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a NYSE rule change. The new rule would have created a type of exchange-listed entity under NYSE rules (which would have had to have been approved by the SEC) called a “natural asset company.” The initiative was led by a private company, Intrinsic Exchange Group, which is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. Treasurer Oaks warned,

*“The proposed creation of Natural Asset Companies is one of the greatest threats to rural communities in the history of our country. Under the proposal, private interests, including foreign-controlled sovereign wealth funds, could use their capital to purchase or manage farmland, national and state parks, and other mineral-rich areas and stop essential economic activities like farming, grazing, and energy extraction.”<sup>169</sup>*

The state treasurers’ letter opposing NACs was followed by a similar public comment letter to the proposed NYSE rule change signed by 25 state attorneys general similarly opposing the NAC initiative,<sup>170</sup> stating that the natural asset company would be a funding mechanism to implement a Bureau of Land Management rule that at its heart would provide for conservation leases that would lock up land governed by conservation easements and prevent productive economic uses of the properties such as grazing, logging, or mining unless they are “consistent” with the lease’s “environmental” purposes—plainly a limitation not authorized under existing law.

These state-originated letters resulted in a withdrawal of the proposed SEC rule change creating natural asset companies, but similar initiatives at the federal level—including the SUSTAINS Act<sup>171</sup> enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023—impose natural capital accounting at the federal level, which, among other things, puts “ecological services” from easement land on the federal balance

sheet as assets of the federal government.<sup>172</sup> In addition to opposing NACs, Treasurer Oaks submitted a comment letter to the Department of Agriculture in opposition to proposed regulations under the SUSTAINS Act. While states have no direct ability to oppose federal legislation, as demonstrated by Marlo Oaks in these and other position letters on behalf of the state,<sup>173</sup> they can educate the public and potentially have some influence over federal congressional action and agency implementing regulations, particularly if state actors can act in concert with other like-minded state authorities.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Hero of the Week: January 8, 2024: State Treasurer Marlo Oaks<sup>174</sup>
- Hero of the Week: July 22, 2024: Margaret and Dan Byfield<sup>175</sup>
- Pushback of the Week: January 22, 2024: Margaret and Dan Byfield, American Stewards of Liberty<sup>176</sup>
- Food Series: The 30x30 Land Grab with Margaret Byfield<sup>177</sup>
- The Land Grab: Weaponizing Nature with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)<sup>178</sup>
- The Many Faces of the Land Grab with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)<sup>179</sup>
- Dangers of Conservation Easements with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)<sup>180</sup>
- Land Grabs: 30x30 and Natural Asset Companies with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)<sup>181</sup>

## Actions to Protect Against Bank Runs and Consolidations

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One of the reasons we are concerned about bank runs and bank consolidations is that one of the goals may be to achieve a land grab, especially if uninsured bank depositors lose their deposits but their debts remain in effect.

## Paying Property Taxes Forward

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- This bill<sup>182</sup> from Tennessee allows for property taxes to be paid before they are due.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- North Dakota Considers Eliminating Property Tax<sup>183</sup>

## Limits on Foreign Land Purchases and Ownership

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State laws pertaining to foreign ownership of U.S. land vary widely. The National Agricultural Law Center has compiled information about statutes regulating ownership of agricultural land by state.<sup>184</sup>

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This bill<sup>185</sup> from Tennessee prohibits foreign ownership of real property in this state by nonresident aliens and non-U.S. entities if certain conditions are met.
- ▶ Florida's law<sup>186</sup> creates two sets of land ownership restrictions. The first set applies to foreign principals connected with foreign countries of concern. Individuals and entities in these groups cannot acquire or own agricultural land in Florida or real property within 10 miles of a military installation or critical infrastructure facility in the state.
- ▶ This Alabama bill<sup>187</sup> restricted ownership by foreign governments of concern.
- ▶ Arkansas,<sup>188</sup> Georgia,<sup>189</sup> Idaho,<sup>190</sup> Indiana,<sup>191</sup> Iowa,<sup>192</sup> Louisiana,<sup>193</sup> Mississippi,<sup>194</sup> Montana,<sup>195</sup> Nebraska,<sup>196</sup> New Hampshire,<sup>197</sup> North Carolina,<sup>198</sup> North Dakota,<sup>199</sup> Ohio,<sup>200</sup> Oklahoma,<sup>201</sup> South Dakota,<sup>202</sup> Utah,<sup>203</sup> Virginia,<sup>204</sup> West Virginia,<sup>205</sup> and Wyoming<sup>206</sup> have all passed similar legislation.

## Limits on Institutional Investment in Residential Homes and Apartments

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As a means of limiting the damage to the U.S. residential rental and sale market due to investment by abusive hedge funds and private equity funding mechanisms that have the effect of increasing the costs of homeownership and rentals of residential apartments and homes, some have proposed that statutory action should be taken to rein in the increasing share of ownership of U.S. residential properties by corporate interests. Little has been done so far in this regard, but a bill sponsored by Senator Merkley in December 2023, the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act,<sup>207</sup> would have imposed a federal excise tax on certain hedge funds on “excess single-family residences” (i.e., a designated share of the market on the last day of the year as established in the statute).

### RELATED RESOURCES

- Report: Institutional Investors Will Own Over 40% of Single-Family Rental Homes by 2030<sup>208</sup>



## State Jurisdiction Superior to International Organizations: Pushback Against WHO, UN, and WEF

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A host of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations—for example, the WHO, the UN, and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)—enjoy sovereign immunity from prosecution and claims for damages, yet these organizations have mandated actions by their members and otherwise taken actions that result in massive damages to the populations and businesses of their member nation-states and tax bases of the states. State legislatures can enact legislation to prevent states from enforcing the mandates of such organizations and withhold funding for any initiative in furtherance thereof.

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>209</sup> prohibits this state and its political subdivisions from adopting or implementing policy recommendations that deliberately or inadvertently infringe or restrict private property rights without due process, as may be required by policy recommendations originating in, or traceable to, “Agenda 21” (adopted by the UN in 1992 at its Conference on Environment and Development), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the UN’s proposal to reach net zero emissions by 2050.
- ▶ This bill<sup>210</sup> from Louisiana states, “The World Health Organization, United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction or power within the state of Louisiana. No rule, regulation, fee, tax, policy, or mandate of any kind of the World Health Organization, United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall be enforced or implemented by the state of Louisiana or any agency, department, board, commission, political subdivision, governmental entity of the state, parish, municipality, or any other political entity.”

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- The Iron Bank: Is BIS Sovereign Immunity the Secret Sauce Behind the Global Coup? Parts I and II with Patrick Wood<sup>211</sup>
- Laundering with Immunity: The Control Framework – Part 1<sup>212</sup>
- Laundering with Immunity: The Control Framework Part 2 – A Powerhouse of Ruin<sup>213</sup>
- Laundering with Immunity: The Control Framework Part 3 – World Economic Forum Protected<sup>214</sup>
- U.S. States: The Opportunity to Stop the WHO with Rep. Kathy Edmonston and Connie Sampognaro (*Financial Rebellion*)<sup>215</sup>

## Smart Meters

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Vermont bill<sup>216</sup> “allows a customer to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, at no additional monthly or other charge; and allows a customer to require removal of a previously installed wireless smart meter for any reason and at an agreed-upon time, without incurring any charge for such removal.”
- ▶ In Ohio, the law<sup>217</sup> reads, “An electric utility shall provide customers with the option to remove an installed advanced meter and replace it with a traditional meter, or in the event that an advanced meter has not been installed, the option to decline installation of an advanced meter and retain a traditional meter, including a cost-based, tariffed opt-out service.”
- ▶ This New Hampshire bill<sup>218</sup> also allows for an opt-out.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill<sup>219</sup> would have required a utility company to obtain written consent from the owner of residential or commercial property for which the utility company provides services before the utility installs a smart meter for the property.
- ▶ Massachusetts also attempted similar legislation.<sup>220</sup>



Where in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while

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## XII. Constitutional Protections

State legislators have often expressed frustration that the enormity of federal funding (e.g., in areas like education) prevents the state from taking actions (e.g., in the area of education, for which much federal funding is distributed to the benefit of states) in conflict with federal conditions for the receipt of federal funds, actions that would, therefore, adversely affect its budget (“But we give \$1.00 to the federal government, and it gives the state back \$1.19”).

States are well advised to take action to protect the Constitutional Appropriations Clause, First Amendment (free speech), Second Amendment (right to bear arms), Third Amendment (prohibiting quartering of soldiers in private homes), Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments (search and seizure without warrant, “penumbra” right to privacy, due process right), and Tenth Amendment (state has all authority not otherwise ceded to the federal government under the Constitution) from unwarranted violation (which may involve federal action and, therefore, set up a federal/state jurisdictional stand-off or “chicken” dare by the state, giving rise to litigation establishing the superiority of states’ rights).

### Second Amendment

The right of private citizens to own, possess, and carry effective weapons (including, but not limited to, firearms) is crucial for the protection of any individual freedom. Although many people have been led to believe that banning certain weapons (or limiting them to law enforcement) might make society safer, the opposite has proven to be true, as such measures make life easier for criminals, while disempowering law-abiding citizens and depriving them of their only effective way to protect themselves against criminals, dangerous animals, and tyrannical governments. The last point is key: time and time again, government atrocities, persecution, and genocide have been preceded by a disarming of the civilian population. Once the people are defenseless, their ability to fight back against ultimate atrocities is gone and mass-arrests, deportations, and other cruelties that often cost millions their lives ensue.

“Gun-control” measures usually begin while society is still relatively free and large parts of the population cannot imagine that it would ever become tyrannical. Weimar Germany, for example, was a democratically run republic when the Nazis took over and began to disarm the population. Once a government adopts tyranny, many people will still support the new dictatorship, as they believe it is in the public interest.

The Founding Fathers, therefore, recognized the right of the people to keep and bear arms in the Second Amendment (2A) to the United States Constitution as

“being necessary to the security of a free State.” In most other countries, the legal protection of this God-given right is much weaker. Even in the U.S., however, it is under constant attack; draconian measures, which digital ID, digital currency, etc. will enable, could ultimately face a roadblock if the population is physically able to fight back when they realize that they have been lured into complete tyranny.

For that reason, protecting the right to keep and bear arms is critical! Even if a turnkey digital concentration camp is being erected around us as we write this, it is likely that Mr. Global will first want the population to be disarmed as much as possible, before ultimately locking the door. Just remember how harsh the coronavirus lockdowns were in jurisdictions like Australia, which had been disarmed in advance, compared to highly armed states in America.

Efforts to disarm the population usually seek to limit:

- The location where one can bear arms (so-called “gun-free zones”).
- The type of weapons available to regular people (e.g., the machine-gun ban in the U.S. in 1986, “assault-weapons” bans and magazine-restrictions in the U.S. in various states, knife-bans in the UK and various EU countries).
- The people who are allowed to possess them (e.g., via rule-out criteria, weaponizing mental health, relationship disputes, run-ins with the law).

In jurisdictions that don’t have the constitutional protection Americans enjoy, ideology alone can be enough to deprive someone of eligibility (e.g., membership in a certain political party).

Effective state legislative protection of the right to bear arms should include the following:

- Protection against federal overreach (restriction, registration, bans, confiscation, etc.)
- Protection against private entities rendering Second Amendment rights meaningless (landlords, doctors, employers, venues, other businesses)
- Provision of immunity to law-enforcement officers who refuse to violate individuals’ constitutional rights
- Protection against so-called “red flag” or extreme risk protection order laws
- Prohibition of any override by means of a declared emergency
- Creation of civil recourse for citizens whose constitutional rights have been violated
- Inclusion of penalties for violations by government agencies and their employees or agents, including fines, disciplinary measures, civil and criminal liability, etc.
- Prohibition of the acceptance of funds for gun-control measures by state agencies and political subdivisions of the state

## Legislative Actions **PASSED**

### ***Pushback Against So-called “Red Flag” or “Risk Protection Order” Legislation:***

Several states enacted “Red Flag” or “ERPO” (“Extreme Risk Protection Order”) laws, which allow authorities to confiscate a person’s firearms simply based on an accusation that someone might pose a danger to themselves or others. Such laws could be used to conduct large scale gun-confiscations without people noticing a pattern.

- ▶ To counter such efforts, Tennessee passed HB2035,<sup>221</sup> preventing cities from implementing their own red flag ordinances or accepting federal funding for such measures.

### ***Doctors and Teachers Acting as Snitches for Potential Gun-Grabbers:***

- ▶ Missouri passed legislation<sup>222</sup> to prohibit teachers from asking minor students whether their parents own guns and healthcare providers from asking their patients about firearm ownership if this issue is unrelated to the patient’s visit.

### ***Your Home:***

Without the right to have firearms in your own home, your Second Amendment rights are obviously meaningless. Solari subscribers will quickly notice the connection between the concentration of real estate and rental property in the hands of a few corporations complicit in land-grabs and those very same corporations aiding the government in disarming tenants while fewer and fewer individuals can afford to own real estate of their own.

- ▶ Minnesota law<sup>223</sup> codified its residents’ right to have firearms in their homes by clarifying that “A landlord may not restrict the lawful carry or possession of firearms by tenants or their guests.”

### ***Colleges and Universities:***

Many states have passed legislation to clarify that their students are not second-class citizens without constitutional rights and do, in fact, have the right to keep and bear arms as well, including on campus.

- ▶ Utah has the strongest law<sup>224</sup> in that regard.

## Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

### ***Second Amendment Sanctuaries:***

Some jurisdictions have declared themselves “2nd Amendment sanctuaries,” refusing to enforce unconstitutional infringements.

- ▶ An example of a 2nd Amendment sanctuary state bill is this one from Pennsylvania.<sup>225</sup>

### ***“Gun-free Zones”:***

Geographical restrictions also often have the effect of rendering the right to bear arms ineffective. So-called “gun-free zones” are an increasing problem in this regard. Over 90% of mass shootings happen in “gun-free zones” (i.e., places where only criminals have guns), and related crimes, such as car break-ins, occur more frequently around locations designated as “gun-free zones,” as the odds of finding a firearm, stored there by a law-abiding citizen, are higher near such locations, thus increasing the return-on-risk for thieves.

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>226</sup> would have clarified that a person or entity who decides to restrict an individual's right to bear arms on property assumes absolute custodial responsibility for the safety and defense of that individual while the individual is on that property or on property the individual needs to traverse in order to get there or get back to the location where the individual's firearm is stored.

### ***Civil Recourse for Infringements:***

- ▶ A great example for a bill to create both civil and criminal liability for government employees, officials, or agents who infringe upon a citizen's Second Amendment rights, and at the same time create a civil recourse for the victim of such infringements, is Tennessee's HB2689/SB2516.<sup>227</sup>

### **Administrative Actions**

- ▶ Barring a law to the contrary, a state's executive branch can, for example, remove “gun-free zones” on government property.
- ▶ Likewise, a state's executive branch can declare reciprocity for carry-permits from other states (in light of Art. IV §1 of the U.S. Constitution, this should be a given anyway).
- ▶ States, as well as law enforcement (know your sheriff!) can also declare themselves “2nd Amendment sanctuaries” and refuse to enforce anti-gun laws, even without explicit legislation to that effect.

### **Judicial Action**

Filing lawsuits to repeal unconstitutional laws or challenging convictions based on unconstitutional laws requires a recognition of the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. If no such constitutional protection exists in your country, you will at least need a landmark case to base your claim on or have both a creative lawyer and a friendly court to interpret another clause in your country's constitution (or at least a superior law) to imply such a right. However, your chances of success in such a scenario are much slimmer.

In the United States, on the other hand, challenging gun-control laws through the courts has proven to be a very successful strategy. The landmark case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*<sup>228</sup> provided a very helpful basis for overturning



unconstitutional gun-control laws in the U.S. In *Bruen*, the U.S. Supreme Court clarified that the standard for whether any firearms-restriction is constitutional is whether such a restriction existed when the Second Amendment went into effect. As a result of the *Bruen* decision, the chances of successfully having a gun-control law judicially overturned have substantially increased, thus making a judicial challenge worth considering.

In Tennessee, for example, a couple of adults under 21 successfully challenged the state's prohibition against 18–20-year-old citizens carrying firearms or obtaining carry permits. Once the U.S. Supreme Court issued the *Bruen* decision, the legal ground to uphold Tennessee's prohibition was gone, and the case settled by judicially invalidating Tennessee's unconstitutional statute.

In states with a liberty-minded AG, requesting an attorney general's opinion is another powerful tool. While the exact legal force of an AG's opinion is subject to debate, it does carry great weight with courts in the same state, and it is generally safe for the public to rely upon until rendered obsolete (e.g., by legislative changes to the underlying law or binding legal precedent to the contrary).

## **Constitutional Militias**

The U.S. Constitution addresses the authority of states to organize militias in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 15 and 16. These clauses give Congress certain powers over militias but also affirm state authority. Clause 15 states that Congress has the power “to provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions.” Clause 16 states that Congress has the power “to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.”

These provisions mean that while Congress has authority over the national aspects of militias, states maintain control over the appointment of officers and training when militias are not being used by the federal government.

The Second Amendment also references militias, stating, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” This reinforces the idea that states have a role in maintaining militias, which was understood at the time of the Constitution as a body of citizens trained to defend their state and the country.

## **SOLARI RESOURCES**

- Enforce the Constitution: The Militias with Dr. Edwin Vieira<sup>229</sup>

## Local Enforcement: Constitutional Powers of the Sheriff

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The concept of the “Constitutional sheriff” as the ultimate interpreter and enforcer of the U.S. Constitution as regards the state (or more specifically, the county in which the sheriff holds office) is the subject of great debate, with states’ rights supporters like the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA) taking the position that county sheriffs have the right to ignore or otherwise fail to enforce federal laws that they believe impinge on sovereign states’ rights, whereas others (e.g., the Southern Poverty Law Center<sup>230</sup>) pooh-pooh any such notion. Most recently, issues of superiority as between states’ and the federal government’s laws have come up in the context of legalization of marijuana, treatment of undocumented aliens at the southern border, and the right to bear arms.



## Outlawing Municipal Enforcement of International Organizations' Goals—Reserved Powers and State Sovereignty: Nullification

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Nullification is a critical component of state sovereignty. Nullification is the legal theory according to which the state has the right to abrogate a federal law on the basis of state sovereignty. Under the “compact theory,” based upon the view that it is the states that originated federal law through compact, the states and not the federal courts are the ultimate interpreters of the extent of the federal government’s power. Supporters of nullification take the position that states have the inherent right to declare federal laws unconstitutional, thereby protecting their sovereignty and the reserved powers outlined in the Tenth Amendment. Nevertheless, the U.S. Supreme Court generally is considered by the judicial system as the ultimate arbiter of constitutionality in the face of state challenge: the Supreme Court does not recognize nullification as a controlling principle. What remains is a stand-off on the issue of controlling law, with the result that a state may ignore federal law it claims to nullify, and the federal courts and enforcement mechanisms may or may not take action in response to state nullification, depending on the circumstances.

### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Utah’s Sovereignty Act states, “The Legislature may, by concurrent resolution, prohibit a government officer from enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of a federal directive within the state if the Legislature determines the federal directive violates the principles of state sovereignty.”<sup>231</sup>

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ The Tennessee “Restoring State Sovereignty Through Nullification Act”<sup>232</sup> would have established a process by which the Tennessee general assembly could nullify an unconstitutional federal statute, regulation, agency order, or executive order.

## Data Privacy

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According to a representative of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), there is no relevant model legislation drafted or endorsed by EFF on the subject of data privacy, but a “Privacy First” white paper<sup>233</sup> outlines EFF’s thinking on advantages of supporting strong comprehensive data privacy law as a basis for addressing online harms.

Fifteen states have enacted comprehensive data privacy laws, many during 2023 and 2024. In an example of a state data privacy law, in 2023, Florida passed the Florida Digital Bill of Rights<sup>234</sup> covering one who conducts business in the state or produces products or services used by state residents but providing for an exclusion for personal data collected or processed in a commercial or employment context (e.g., business-to-business activities), California being the exception with no exclusion for employment data. Like many other “comprehensive” state privacy laws and reportedly existing in 14 other states (CA, CO, CT, DE, IN, IA, MT, NJ, NH, OR, TN, TX, UT, and VA), there also are exclusions for state subdivisions or entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and any information or data regulated by certain other privacy laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. Florida’s law and those of certain other states are modeled on the regulatory framework of the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation, which distinguishes roles and responsibilities between controllers and processors of data. Due to size constraints upon data “controllers” (\$1B in annual gross revenues), the Florida law can be expected to cover mainly Big Tech firms and their service providers.

The Tenth Amendment Center provides an overview of Utah’s “step by step” (incremental) approach to enacting some of the stiffest state data privacy laws.<sup>235</sup> Since 2013, in eight separate pieces of legislation, Utah has:

- Put modest limits on the government use of license plate readers, as well as sharing of captured plate data.<sup>236</sup>
- Made any electronic data obtained by law enforcement without a warrant inadmissible in a criminal proceeding, to include information collected by Utah law enforcement, along with data gathered by the National Security Agency (NSA) and shared through the super-secret Special Operations Division (SOD) or fusion centers, and prohibited Utah law enforcement from obtaining phone location data without a warrant.<sup>237</sup>
- Restricted drone surveillance without a warrant or in accordance with judicially recognized exceptions to warrant requirements and required state government agencies to report drone use to the public.<sup>238</sup>
- Banned warrantless access to data stored in the “cloud.”<sup>239</sup>
- Required police to get a warrant before accessing communication service provider networks.<sup>240</sup>

- Expanded restrictions on drone surveillance to also include “radar, sonar, infrared, or other remote sensing or detection technology.”<sup>241</sup>
- Limited warrantless geofence location tracking and required detailed reporting on geofence warrants; required police to get a warrant before obtaining reverse-location information for electronic devices within a geofence or by using cell cite records in most situations.<sup>242</sup>
- Placed some limits on warrantless biometric surveillance—prohibiting government entities, including law enforcement agencies, from obtaining biometric surveillance information without a warrant and a publicly available written policy outlining the agency’s use of such biometric surveillance.<sup>243</sup>

## Stop Constitutional Convention

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Some freedom advocates, particularly in the “sound money” space, advocate changing the U.S. Constitution through a constitutional convention. If there is a constitutional convention, there is little doubt that it will be hijacked by covert operations to destroy the U.S. Constitution. There is no chance that the Constitution will be improved and every chance that it will be shredded or loaded up with provisions that destroy our basic rights.

We believe that additional financial protections from unsound monetary and fiscal policies are adequately covered under existing laws, which are not enforced. Catherine often says “financial tools will not solve a governance problem” and “the problem with our currency is not that it is a fiat currency, but rather that it is a debt-based currency.” In short, the problem with the Constitution is that it is not enforced. We should focus on enforcing the Constitution, not changing it.

In any case, a debt-based currency problem can be solved through Treasury’s direct issuance of currency, which is permitted under existing Constitutional provisions (although the accompanying inflation is a separate problem). It is the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights—in particular the First, Second, Fourth, Tenth, and Fourteenth Amendments—that protects Americans from many of the totalitarian provisions being perpetrated upon other countries, including other English-speaking countries and countries in Europe. Holding a constitutional convention would open up the U.S. to changes that could remove those protections.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- American Suicide: Proposals for Constitutional Amendments & Convention with Edwin Vieira, Jr.<sup>244</sup>



## XIII. Food and Health Freedom

Being healthy is one of the greatest forms of rebellion and is a key component to leading a free and inspired life. Protecting our ability to have access to food that is nutrient-dense and raised in a healthy manner is imperative. There is a campaign, driven by fear-based propaganda, that such food is somehow dangerous and linked to “climate change.” Most concerning is the fact that some states have language in code that allows for mandatory vaccination of livestock. We suggest looking into state livestock vaccine laws and working with state legislators to change any authority state officials may have in this regard.

### Food Freedom

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#### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ For all homemade foods (except products with meat as an ingredient) sold directly by a producer to an informed consumer, Wyoming’s “Food Freedom Act”<sup>245</sup> exempts the foods from all state and local licensure, permitting, certification, and inspection.
- ▶ The “Tennessee Food Freedom Act”<sup>246</sup> exempts the production and sale of homemade food items not subject to time and temperature control from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws of the state, except when an investigation of a reported foodborne illness is occurring.
- ▶ This Arizona bill<sup>247</sup> allows for unregulated home kitchen processing of inspected meat.

#### SOLARI RESOURCES

- New Controlled Food System Is Now in Place and They Will Stop at Nothing to Accelerate Their Control<sup>248</sup>

## State Constitutional Amendments

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ The Maine Food Sovereignty Act<sup>249</sup> explicitly recognizes food as a right and permits individuals to “grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing.”

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee constitutional resolution<sup>250</sup> (which would require ballot approval if passed by general assembly) would have protected an individual’s right to grow and acquire food of their choice.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Maine Right to Food: The Road Ahead with Heather Retberg<sup>251</sup>

## Zoning

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ The Michigan Right to Farm Act<sup>252</sup> allows farming regardless of zoning if the farm is a commercial operation and in compliance with generally accepted agricultural management practices (GAAMPs).

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>253</sup> would have barred any prohibition on the growing of produce and the raising of chicken or meat rabbits on a residential lot.

## Livestock Vaccination

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### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>254</sup> would have exempted farmers from any vaccine mandate for their livestock or poultry, if the farms’ practice was not to vaccinate their livestock or poultry. Currently in Tennessee state code, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian have the authority to mandate a vaccine on all livestock.



## Lab-Grown Meat

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Florida bill<sup>255</sup> makes it illegal to sell, manufacture, or distribute cultivated meat in Florida. It is currently being challenged in federal court.<sup>256</sup>
- ▶ This Louisiana law<sup>257</sup> prohibits labeling a cell-cultured food product as a meat product.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill<sup>258</sup> would have prohibited cell-cultured meat from being defined as "meat."
- ▶ A similar bill<sup>259</sup> has also been proposed in Michigan.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Lab-Grown Meat to Hit U.S. in 2022, Backed by FDA & USDA, Along with "Smarter Food Safety Blueprint" and Traceability All Underway<sup>260</sup>
- Pharma Food with Elze van Hamelen<sup>261</sup>

## Vaccines in Food Products

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ After finding out that the University of California-Riverside was studying the viability of using vegetables as a vehicle for vaccine distribution,<sup>262</sup> Tennessee legislators took action, filing this bill<sup>263</sup> that defines food that contains a vaccine or vaccine material as a drug for purposes of the Tennessee Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

## On-Farm Slaughtered Meat by the Cut

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Wyoming bill,<sup>264</sup> which passed but was vetoed by the Governor, had a trigger clause allowing the sale of on-farm slaughtered meat by the cut if there is a favorable court decision or act of Congress.



## Meat Share

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Wyoming bill<sup>265</sup> allows someone with any ownership interest in an animal or herd of animals to obtain meat from the animal(s) without having to be disclosed as an owner to the custom slaughterhouse prior to slaughter.

## Mandatory Electronic Cattle ID

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In early 2024, the USDA issued a rule that mandated an electronic ID (EID) for cattle and bison 18 months of age or older in interstate commerce. The rule, which was published in the Federal Register on May 9, is scheduled to go into effect on November 5, 2024. Congressman Thomas Massie had this to say<sup>266</sup> about EID:

*“This will do to cattle what central bank digital currency does to our dollar. The sale of animals can be monitored and blocked if farmers are not compliant. Compliance with 100 regulations won’t be possible outside of a corporation. Farmers will become serfs to the corporations.”*

### Legislative Actions

Currently, there are no states that have addressed this legislatively. However, food law attorney Pete Kennedy suggested this idea for model legislation:

*“States could pass a law that says the state will spend no money on enforcement of the mandatory electronic ID rule nor accept any money from the federal government to enforce the rule nor enter into any cooperative agreement, MOU, etc., with a federal agency that would involve state enforcement of the rule.”*

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- Tell Your U.S. Representative to Cosponsor HJR 167: Stop Mandatory Electronic ID for Cattle and Bison<sup>267</sup>

## Raw Milk

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Solari has long supported the Weston A. Price Foundation's (WAPF's) efforts to legalize access to raw milk through either selling it for human consumption, raw pet milk sales, or distribution through herdshare agreements. When WAPF began "A Campaign for Real Milk" in 1999, there were only 27 states whose residents had legal access to raw milk. There is now (as of September 2023) some type of legal access to raw milk in every state except for Hawaii, Nevada, and Rhode Island.

- In Hawaii, raw milk sales for human consumption are illegal; although there are no laws on herdshares, the state claims they, too, are illegal. Currently, no farmers are selling raw pet milk, and national manufacturers are no longer selling raw pet milk in retail stores. The statute on raw pet milk is unclear; however, the health department raided stores, seized products, and banned raw pet milk sales in 2021.
- In Nevada, raw milk sales are de facto illegal; sales are legal by statute but only if the county milk commission approves the producer. Only one county (Nye) has a milk commission, and that county has not approved anyone. Raw pet milk sales are legal, but state law requires a toxic dye to denature the milk.
- Raw milk sales are illegal in Rhode Island, but there is an exception for consumers purchasing raw goat milk with a physician's prescription. Currently, no farmers are selling raw pet milk, but national manufacturers are selling raw pet dairy in retail stores.

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- A Campaign for Real Milk with Sally Fallon Morell<sup>268</sup>
- Raw Milk Nation<sup>269</sup>
- Big Year for Raw Milk in State Houses<sup>270</sup>

### OTHER RELATED RESOURCES

- Real Milk Laws by State<sup>271</sup>



## Geoengineering

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### Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This bill<sup>272</sup> in Tennessee states that the “intentional injection, release, or dispersion, by any means, of chemicals, chemical compounds, substances, or apparatus within the borders of this state into the atmosphere with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of the sunlight is prohibited.” This article<sup>273</sup> explains what the bill accomplishes and the work still to be done.

### Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Kentucky bill<sup>274</sup> would have prohibited “geoengineering and required the Department for Environmental Protection to issue a notice to any federal agency that has approved geoengineering activities that those activities [could not] be lawfully carried out” and required the department to “prohibit foreign states or international bodies that engage in geoengineering from engaging in any atmospheric activities.”
- ▶ Rhode Island’s “Clean Air Preservation Act”<sup>275</sup> would create regulations to prohibit stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), solar radiation modification (SRM) experimentation, and other hazardous weather engineering activities.
- ▶ Pennsylvania’s “Clean Air Preservation Act”<sup>276</sup> would prohibit solar radiation modification, cloud seeding, and polluting atmospheric activity (i.e., experimenting in Earth’s climactic activity).
- ▶ Ohio’s “Atmosphere Protection Act”<sup>277</sup> would prohibit engaging in solar radiation modification using pollutants (which are broadly defined to include, among other things, vibrations, smart dust, genetically modified agents, electromagnetic waves and pulses, metals, sound and light waves, and ionizing and non-ionizing radiation).

### SOLARI RESOURCES

- The Skidmore Weather Management Bibliography<sup>278</sup>
- A Primer on Weather and Climate Intervention for Economists<sup>279</sup>
- Geoengineering, Weather Warfare & Character Assassination with Danielle Goodrich (*Financial Rebellion*)<sup>280</sup>

## XIV. Conclusion

Numerous U.S. state legislators and government officials are moving quickly to protect both individual and governmental sovereignty. Consequently, we anticipate rapid development of these areas and more over the coming months.

We want to thank our subscribers and our many allies in the New Media for providing intelligence about important developments to protect our financial freedom. Please keep it coming.

We hope this offering of actions we can take to protect our rights will help make sure that you, your children, your grandchildren, and generations yet unborn will enjoy the blessings of freedom!

### How Can I Participate?

There are numerous ways to participate in our ongoing efforts.

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# Working Successfully with State Leaders Who Will Take Responsibility

*By Catherine Austin Fitts , Elizabeth Murphy,  
Pete Kennedy, and the Solari Team*

*“ No one really knows how the game is played  
The art of the trade  
How the sausage gets made  
We just assume that it happens  
But no one else is in  
The room where it happens.”*

*~ Hamilton, “The Room Where It Happens”*



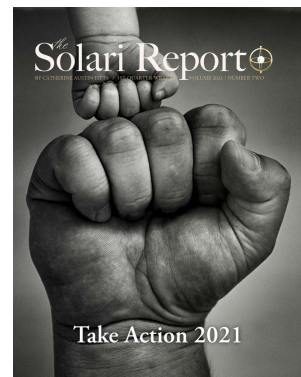
## INTRODUCTION

### Why Get Involved?

Over the years, the Solari Report has produced many resources to help our subscribers take action locally. Our *Take Action 2021* report, for example, contains a wealth of ideas on how to “go local” in your town, municipality, or county and how to join forces with like-minded individuals, including other Solari subscribers in your area.<sup>1</sup> In this report, we focus on how to (for lack of a better term) “go state.”

It goes without saying that one of the first things you can do is vote in state races. In the U.S., state and local races tend to attract significantly lower voter turnout than national elections. (Elsewhere, such as in Europe, turnout patterns are more complex.<sup>2</sup>) It is estimated that only about 15% to 27% of eligible U.S. voters turn out for local races,<sup>3</sup> compared to 46% to 66% for the last three national elections (midterm and presidential).<sup>4</sup> Voting in state legislative races can, therefore, make a difference.

Beyond voting, many other actions are possible, but first, decide how much time and/or money you want to invest. You want to get the best result for freedom that you can with the time and money that you have available. Ask yourself what you want to accomplish. Where do you want to jump in? Who else is out there who can leverage your efforts? You may decide that it is a more effective use of your time or money to help a group or person who is already getting things done, rather than start a new effort from scratch.



If you are ready to do something more than just vote, investing time in building relationships with your state legislators offers many benefits. If you do not already know who they are, you can find out which legislators represent you by doing a search on your state's legislative websites. For someone who has never reached out to a legislator before, the process initially may seem daunting. However, many find that once they dive in, the undertaking is quite rewarding.

If you are lucky enough to have effective, high-integrity legislators in your own district, that is the obvious place to start. However, while it is always helpful to establish a relationship with your representatives, if they are not freedom fighters and you would rather spend time supporting the freedom fighters—even if they are in other districts—you can do so. There is no reason that you cannot cultivate relationships with excellent legislators who are outside of your district, as well as with other state-level leaders.

As the National Conference of State Legislatures observes, trustworthiness is an important determinant of a state legislator's effectiveness:



*“Trust plays a major, but unwritten, role in the legislative process.... Trust must be earned, however. In a legislative body, it is earned the old-fashioned way—by being a person who never fails to keep a promise.... Legislators who cannot be depended on to keep their word will not count for much in the legislative process.”<sup>5</sup>*

## I. Who's Who and What's Up in Your District

Before reaching out to your legislators, it is helpful to map out the economic and political basics concerning your district and, to the extent possible, your state. Every place is different, but in general, you will want to develop a picture of how the money works in the district, and of how your district fits in within the context of your state. This might include investigating the following:

- What are the key industries or businesses in the district and state?
- Who are the district's major employers?
- Which players in your district are particularly influential at the state level?
- To what extent is the district dependent on federal dollars?
- In the state legislature, who are the most prominent freedom fighters?
- What groups are lobbying for the freedom-related issues that you are interested in?

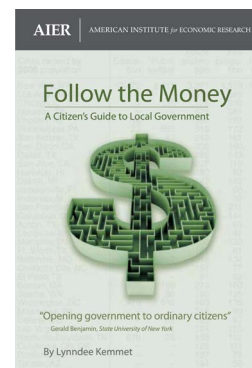
On any given issue, there are people who are already trying to get something done (whether “for” or “against” your position). It is important to understand this history, so that you know who has been there before you and whether you may be able to work with them.

If you don't know where to start in your investigations, the 2017 Solari Report titled “Unpacking Your Financial Ecosystem” provides many suggestions.<sup>6</sup> There, we emphasize that understanding your local financial ecosystem is a journey, and there are many different ways to go about it. The important thing is not to let the process overwhelm you; focus on the aspects that you find interesting. Whether you devote two hours a week or two hours a month to the effort, find ways to make it enjoyable.

Another excellent resource that we recommend every year in our list of Best Books is the 2010 publication by the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) titled *Follow the Money: A Citizen's Guide to Local Government*.<sup>7</sup> This freely downloadable resource, although focused on municipalities rather than states, can help you understand the budgeting process and may give you ideas about ways to get involved at both the local and state levels.

Articles on the Solari site that can serve as additional resources are those written by Gary L. Heckman, one of the authors of our *Take Action 2021* report. (See, for example, “Want to Have a Real Impact? Shift Your Time to State and Local Politics”<sup>8</sup> and “Going Local.”<sup>9</sup>)

A tool helpful for researching your area's financial ecosystem is the Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) website of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB).<sup>10</sup> EMMA is a free source of data and information on municipal bonds—the equivalent of a municipal prospectus. The official statements published for all state and local municipal bonds often contain a wealth of information on agency budgets and financial statements, as well as helpful statistics and other indicators relevant to the jurisdiction's economy.



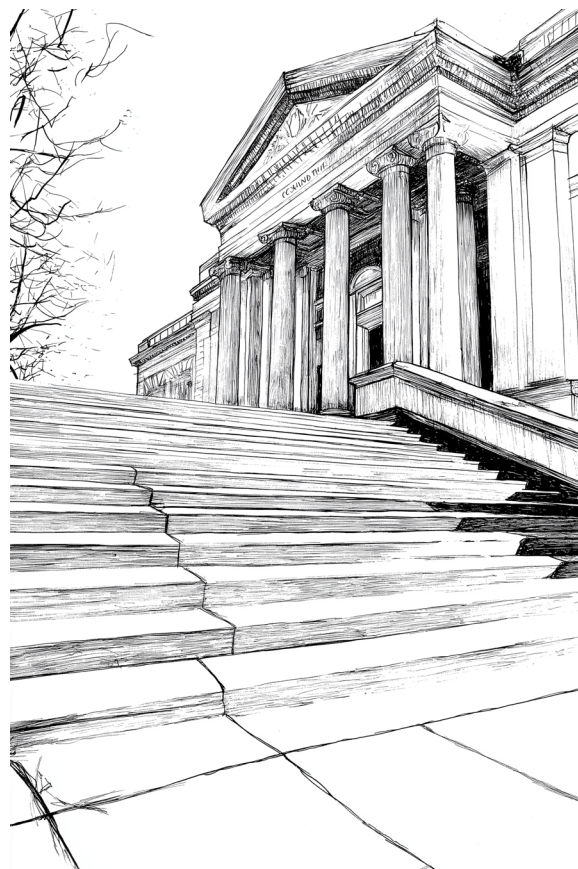


## II. Your State Legislature

The next step is to understand the basics of how your state legislature operates. Across the 50 U.S. states, there are a total of 6,766 legislative districts and 7,386 legislative seats.<sup>11</sup> In all states, the upper house is called the Senate (or State Senate), whereas the lower house may go by various names. In 41 states, the lower house is called the House of Representatives, but in three states (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia) it is the House of Delegates, in another three (California, New York, Wisconsin) the State Assembly, and in one each, the General Assembly (New Jersey) or Assembly (Nevada).<sup>12</sup> Nebraska is unique in having a unicameral (single-house) rather than bicameral legislature.

In the majority of states (41), the legislature is part-time. Sometimes called “citizen legislatures,” part-time legislatures meet for just a portion of the year, usually starting in January or February; in a handful of states, the legislature meets only in odd-numbered years. The duration of the legislative session varies by state.

In nine states (Alaska, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin), the legislature operates year-round.<sup>13</sup> Year-round legislatures have more resources to draw on than part-time legislatures, but ironically, they may be less open to citizen input and participation.<sup>14</sup> According to a 2017 study carried out by the National Conference of State Legislatures, states with full-time legislatures have an average of 1,250 staff members, versus an average of 160 to 469 staff in states where legislators work half-time or at most three-quarters time.<sup>15</sup>





### III. Understanding a Legislator's Ecosystem

It is important to recognize that there is an economic and political ecosystem around every legislator. Before you start developing a relationship with your representative and/or senator, it is helpful to become familiar with their background, election history, and voting record. Sources that you can use to gather this information include:

- Legislator bios and voting history (available at the state's House and Senate websites)
- The legislator's personal or business website(s)
- Campaign websites
- News sources on the Internet (e.g., interviews, videos, news stories)
- State filings on campaign contributions
- Financial disclosures
- Your state's equivalent of the Federal Election Commission (FEC)
- The OpenSecrets website ("the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics"),<sup>16</sup> which provides state data at FollowTheMoney.org
- Ballotpedia.org

Using these sources, here are some questions you may wish to consider for a given legislator:

- What is their professional background?
- What are their areas of interest? What issues do they flag as particularly important?
- How long have they been in office?
- Did they win office by a lot or a little in the most recent election?
- Where do their campaign donations come from? Who are their major donors?
- What committees do they serve on?

- What is their voting record?
- What bills have they sponsored?
- Which of the sponsored bills have passed?

If you are in one of the 41 states where the legislature operates part-time, you will want to know what your legislators do outside of their legislative responsibilities. What is their primary source of income? What expertise have they acquired through their non-legislative work? In the Solari Report's June 2024 "backcasting" with five Idaho legislators,<sup>17</sup> for example, the five legislators all had significant experience as small business owners



and entrepreneurs, grounding them in a deeply felt understanding of many constituents' needs and challenges. As one website puts it, because citizen legislators are active in their various professions, it keeps them "closely connected to the concerns of their communities."<sup>14</sup>

It also helps to understand who the other important players are at the state level. Wherever a position is an elected office (rather than appointed), there may be opportunities for citizens to get involved in the campaigns and get to know the candidates.

*“There’s a world full of great people doing great things. Find the good ones, and you can help them get amazing things done.”*

~ Catherine Austin Fitts

Key offices include:

- **Governor:** In some states, it may be possible to get to know the governor’s office staff or campaign staff. As of 2024, a majority of governors are Republican; visit the website of the Republican Governors Association (RGA) for more information.<sup>18</sup>
- **Speaker of the House:** The state speaker of the House “serves as the chief spokesman for the lower chamber, presides over legislative sessions, directs the legislative process, and performs additional ... duties.”<sup>19</sup>
- **Senate President:** Senate presidents “preside over legislative sessions and ensure that members of the chamber abide by procedural rules.”<sup>20</sup> In many states, the Senate president is the lieutenant governor.
- **State Treasurer:** The state treasurer “is the official charged with overseeing revenue and finances and generally acting as the state’s chief banker.”<sup>21</sup> Of the 48 states in which there is a state treasurer, 36 elect their treasurer; in the remaining 12 states, either the governor (8) or the legislature (4) appoints the treasurer. In New York and Texas, the state controller performs the treasurer’s duties.
- **State Attorney General (AG):** The AG “serves as the chief legal advisor and chief law enforcement officer for the state government.”<sup>22</sup> The AG is elected in 43 states; in the remaining seven states, the governor (5), legislature (1), or state Supreme Court (1) appoints the AG.
- **Agriculture Commissioner:** Most states (38) appoint their agriculture commissioner (also called the Secretary of Agriculture or the Director of Agriculture).<sup>23</sup> Just 12 states elect their agriculture commissioner.

Of note, treasurers and AGs in some states are becoming more active in the fight for freedom than they have been traditionally. It may be possible to meet with an AG’s or treasurer’s legislative aide or liaison to educate them about specific issues. In recent years, groups such as the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF), focused on “fiscally sound public policy” and “responsible financial management in a free market economy,”<sup>24</sup> have supported conservative state treasurers who are pushing back against ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies.<sup>25</sup> For example, SFOF member Marlo Oaks, Utah’s state treasurer, has led opposition to the weaponization of ESG standards.<sup>26</sup> As discussed on pages 40–41, Oaks was also one of 23 state treasurers or auditors to sign a December 2023 letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman pushing back against a rule change favoring the creation of Natural Asset Companies (NACs).<sup>27</sup> Oaks characterizes NACs as “one of the greatest threats to rural communities in the history of our nation.”<sup>28</sup>

As for state AGs, in May 2024, a group of 22 AGs submitted a letter to the Biden administration regarding the WHO pandemic treaty, stating that they would “resist any attempt to enable the WHO to directly or indirectly set public policy for [their] citizens.”<sup>29</sup> In fall 2021, Arizona attorney general Mark Brnovich was the first to file a lawsuit against the Biden administration’s unconstitutional Covid-19 vaccine mandates.<sup>30</sup> The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) supports attorneys general who “promote and protect the Constitution, freedom, and opportunity for future generations.”<sup>31</sup>

## IV. Building a Relationship

When you have acquired a sense of the two legislators who represent you and their areas of interest, start building a relationship of mutual understanding and respect with one (or both) of them. In states with part-time legislatures, the optimal time to do this will be during the legislative off-season. Be sure to get on your legislators' email lists and then watch for and attend public events where you can listen to and hopefully meet them. These might include town hall meetings, debates, speaking events, fundraisers, or other campaign events open to the public. Another option is to consider whether you know someone who knows your legislator(s); could they facilitate an introduction?

Making an appointment to meet your legislator at their district or capitol office can help keep the ball rolling. The goal is to steadily connect with and support them in a variety of ways. This can also include calling the legislator's office with questions or comments, continuing to attend events, making donations (even small donations will be noticed and appreciated), connecting your legislator with others in the community, and generally showing interest. Assume that they are trying to do a good job, and find opportunities to align with them in ways that give them—and you—energy. In general, the more you are seen, the more influence you will have.

State legislators are very busy people. Being respectful of their time—or better yet, finding ways to save them time—will earn recognition. Remember that in the majority of states where

the legislature operates part-time, legislators do not have a lot of staff (in smaller states, it might be a staff of one). The good news is that the best freedom-fighting legislators in those states do not have control files<sup>32</sup> and tend to be relatively free of mind control. They are not there to make money or “get ahead”; generally, they are hard-working and want to be useful, but they also have a lot of knowledge about what may be standing in the way of achieving the specific freedom-related goals that you are interested in having them pursue.

Once you have established an ongoing relationship, you can begin to communicate with your legislator about the key freedom issues for which you are fighting, recognizing that you may need to raise their awareness about those issues. For example, you may want to educate them about the risks of an all-digital financial transaction control system or the benefits of decentralized local food networks.

Tennessee State Senator Frank Niceley advises,

*“You need to start ahead of the time when election time rolls around; they will usually have a fundraiser or a rally or a breakfast or something.... Go to their fundraiser (or other events)—you don't have to give them any money; they just generally need a crowd.... Get to know them before you need them and explain the issues to them little by little.... You can't teach it to them all in one sentence.... It's an ongoing process.”*

## v. How Bills Are Sponsored and Run

Many bills move through a state legislature during a legislative session. LegiScan.com is an excellent resource for tracking bills in state legislatures (select “Bill Tracking” in the menu at the top of the home page).

The legislative process is not the same in every state. For example, Tennessee and West Virginia require sponsorship of bills in both houses, but Louisiana does not. As the National Conference of State Legislatures explains, “Every state is unique in its method of legislative operations and in its lawmaking procedures,” and “Individual states take pride in doing things their own way.”<sup>5</sup> Thus, it pays to take the time to learn how bills are sponsored and run in your state.<sup>33</sup>

In a state requiring sponsorship in both houses, the process might look something like what is described below, and will be similar in most aspects in the majority of U.S. states. (Other countries with a republican form of government have a process that is at least somewhat similar, although there are often crucial differences in the details.)

1. Once an idea gains general acceptance, the would-be sponsor sends the idea to Legislative Services to draft the bill. (Legislative Services lawyers take ideas and translate them into the state’s code.)
  2. When Legislative Services sends back the drafted bill, it is important for the sponsor and supporters to read through it carefully and make sure everything is drafted to convey the intent of bill. (Sometimes “poison pills” get slipped in!)
  3. An identical bill has to be introduced in both the House and the Senate (i.e., every House bill has a Senate companion bill and vice versa).
- If a bill has no companion bill in the other house (or fails in either house), it can’t become a law.
4. Next, the bill is referred to committees in both the House and Senate. Most of the time, a bill will go to one subcommittee and at least one, usually more, full committees in the House and one committee in the Senate. Which committees a bill goes to is determined by which sections of code (e.g., criminal code, health code) the bill opens up, and whether, for example, a bill has a fiscal impact.
  5. Next, committee members vote on the bill in committee. Any one of the committees through which the bill has to pass can kill the bill.
  6. If the bill passes in all committees, it proceeds to a vote on the floor of both houses. Here again, the bill must be passed on both the House and Senate floor, otherwise it “dies.”
  7. If, due to different amendments to the bill, which any committee/floor can propose and adopt throughout this process, two different versions of a bill pass out of committee(s) and off the House and Senate floor (where all the members of the House/Senate vote on the bill), the sponsor of the bill in the second house whose floor votes on the bill can either decide to “substitute and conform” (i.e., agree) to the other version, or object and have the other house vote on it again. If House and Senate don’t agree to the same version, then members of both houses will be selected to form a conference committee to work out a joint version of the bill to again propose to the floor of each house.



8. Once a bill makes it to the floor, it is rare for it to be killed there. (It happens, since most members first get to vote and publicly comment on the bill once it gets to the floor, but it is the exception as many members trust the judgment and subject matter expertise of their colleagues in the committees.)
9. After a bill passes both houses, it goes to the governor to be signed into law or vetoed.
10. If the governor vetoes the bill, the legislature may sustain the veto or override it. In many states, if the governor signs it or does nothing for a certain amount of time (this may depend on whether it is the middle or the end of the session), the bill becomes law.

Although floor amendments do happen, they are frowned upon for several reasons:

- The point of the committee system is to filter and refine bills and only send to the floor what is ready to pass.
- At the time of a floor amendment, there is no more option to correct things thereafter.
- The committee voted on the bill in the form that it had when it was before the committee; thus, amending it later could, if the amendment is substantial, deprive the committee of its ability to assess the bill in the form that is actually going to pass.

The National Conference of State Legislators cautions that in practice, bills “rarely follow a smooth path to enactment.” As Senator Niceley explains, patience is required:

*“A lot of times, you introduce a bill knowing it’s not going to pass, but you know you’re going to educate some people. When you get in committee, it’s televised, people back home can look at it. A lot of times we’ll say things in committee just for the people back home, just to educate them. And it might take ... seven or eight years. It’s not going to happen overnight, but you’ve just got to keep plugging, and more people will get involved, and eventually it will happen.”*



## VI. Involving Your Legislator

When the time feels right, a next step might be to ask your legislator to introduce a freedom-related bill. Recognizing that state legislators and their staff typically have many things going on at one time, you can increase the chances of moving forward by providing your legislator with examples of model legislation or successful bills from other states (see “Becoming a Citizen Lobbyist”). Passing a freedom-favorable bill in one state can make it much easier for another state to follow suit.

Another potentially effective strategy is to first develop a draft of the proposed legislation and circulate it among allies so that when you then share it with your legislator, they know that it has been “pre-vetted.”

Because proposed bills generally have an impact on spending (lowering or increasing revenues, raising expenses, or generating savings), legislatures typically require an accompanying “fiscal note.” Fiscal notes—descriptions of the effect of a bill on the state’s finances—“are intended to accurately and objectively describe the fiscal impact of bills ... so the Legislature can make informed decisions with respect to state and local government finances.”<sup>34</sup> Be aware that a fiscal note can sometimes stop a bill in its tracks; thus, when you or others propose a bill or model legislation, it helps to be sensitive to its fiscal implications and solicit sponsors who understand how to navigate the fiscal note process.

### Becoming a Citizen Lobbyist

If you want to go the extra mile and become a citizen lobbyist, you can present a bill idea to your representative.

1. Become familiar with the bills that your representative and senator are carrying, and pick one or two you like or are curious about.
2. Send your legislators an introductory email: “Dear [Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_], I am [name], a constituent in your district. I would love to meet with you in person to discuss [the bill you are sponsoring / ideas I have about possible legislation / etc.]”
3. Once a meeting is scheduled, come to the meeting with ideas and materials in hand. Show interest in one or more bills that your legislator is sponsoring—you want to make friends and have them see you as an ally. If you float an idea for model legislation, bring the materials with you.

4. If your legislator is not interested in the model legislation, ask whether there is anyone else in the House or Senate who would be interested, and ask your legislator to arrange an introduction. If you are planning to meet with a legislator who is not your direct representative (i.e., you are not their constituent), it can be helpful to find and connect with someone in that legislator’s district and arrange a meeting together.
5. It will increase your chances of finding someone willing to sponsor the bill if you identify a sponsor who is well liked.
6. If a legislator decides to sponsor a bill that you’ve brought to them, congratulations—you are now a *de facto* citizen lobbyist!



*“The things that we are talking about are things that we cannot ‘come close to doing’—we have to **do** them.”*

~ Tennessee Representative Bud Hulsey

You can also ask your legislator to sign on as a cosponsor of someone else’s legislation. In such situations, it helps to make your request concise. If you are not meeting with your legislator in person, calls and hard-copy letters (one page or less) written in your own words have more impact than emails or form letters in convincing legislators to support a measure (see “Sample Letter Requesting that a Legislator Cosponsor a Bill”). Citing succinct data can make your message more effective. If a law similar to the proposed legislation is already in effect in other states, it’s important to include that in the message—the first thing a legislator often asks in considering a request to sponsor or cosponsor a bill is, “Has this been done anywhere else?”

Another way to seek your legislators’ support on a bill is indirectly through an influencer in their district. Kentucky Congressman Thomas Massie says that getting the mayor of a town or city in your district to lobby your legislator can be effective in getting them to sign onto a bill; a popular mayor can be a factor in their reelection hopes. If you know a successful entrepreneur or some other private citizen in your district who has your legislator’s ear, that individual can also help win the legislator’s support.

If you are a freedom fighter working in a particular “lane”—such as food, health, or finance—you will tend to discover that you and other freedom fighters share common goals and may all be approaching the same small handful of

high-integrity legislators with your requests. It’s important not to waste legislators’ time with fragmented efforts or “fear porn.” To the extent that you can build bridges with other freedom fighters—with everyone overtly working toward the same end goal—your legislator is likely to be a lot more effective.

Importantly, always thank your legislators and show appreciation when they do something supportive of freedom. It matters. As Tennessee Representative Bud Hulsey poignantly states:

*“There’s a frustrating thing sometimes when you’re down there in the battle.... You’ll get ... hundreds of emails telling you ... how wrong you are and how you need to go back home.... I’d just like to get one from somebody ... that says, ‘You’re on the right track doing the right thing.’ But for some reason, those folks stay quiet and they don’t speak up.... You’ve got to talk, and you’ve got to lift up your voice, and you’ve got to say what you think.... I want to do the work I’m supposed to do, but it sure helps when you’re in the middle of a fight and somebody from back home sends you an email and says, ‘I’m watching what you’re doing and I want you to know I thank God for you and I pray for you.’”*

## Sample Letter Requesting that a Legislator Cosponsor a Bill

By Pete Kennedy

An illustration of a message to a legislator would be the following letter in support of Senate Bill 199 (SB 199), the Montana Local Food Choice Act, a bill that became law in 2021. The Local Food Choice Act allows the unregulated sale of most homemade foods direct from producer to consumer, including raw dairy products from producers with five or fewer cows. The letter provides an excellent example of how to communicate in writing with your legislator.

Dear Senator <last name>,

I am urging you to cosponsor Senate Bill 199 (SB 199), the Local Food Choice Act, legislation that would allow the unregulated sale of most homemade foods direct from producer to consumer. Montana consumers want to buy more of their food directly from local producers. SB 199 will strengthen freedom of choice for consumers by increasing local food sources and by expanding the types of foods they will be able to obtain.

The bill will enable farmers and local artisan producers to make a better living by expanding the types of foods they can sell and by eliminating costs that were due to regulation. An Institute for Justice survey of 775 cottage food (homemade food) producers in 22 states found that the median start-up cost was only \$500.

Producers in other states under laws similar to SB 199 have a great track record for food safety. Wyoming, North Dakota, Utah and Maine all have food freedom laws allowing for the unregulated sale of most foods; Wyoming and Maine laws allow for the unregulated sale of raw dairy products without limiting the size of the herd. There has not been a single foodborne illness outbreak attributed to a producer operating under the food freedom laws in any of those states. Unregulated producers have plenty of incentive to produce safe food; one illness blamed on their food can put them out of business.

Passage of SB 199 will keep more of the food dollar in the community, enhancing the local and state economy. It will also increase food security by increasing the number of local food producers and improving self-sufficiency in food production. In 1940, approximately 70% of the food consumed in Montana was produced in the state; the most recent survey indicates that number is down to about 10%.

For all these reasons, I urge you to cosponsor SB 199, the Montana Local Food Choice Act.

Sincerely,

<Constituent>

## VII. Success Stories

A powerful recipe for success is when effective federal and state legislators team up—and, better yet, pool their efforts with state AGs or treasurers. For example, Congressman Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Tennessee Senator Frank Niceley have functioned as an influential duo in moving forward state and federal legislation to protect local farms and local food systems. As another example, Congresswoman Harriet Hageman (R-WY) joined forces with Utah treasurer Marlo Oaks in the successful effort to push back against NACs.<sup>35</sup>

The Solari Report frequently celebrates leaders and citizens who have achieved important and inspiring successes at the state level. The following is by no means an exhaustive list!

### Idaho

Idaho 2030: A Vision of Freedom – Five Idaho legislators share their vision, via a backcasting exercise, of how Idaho defeated central control.<sup>17</sup>

### Louisiana

Pushback of the Week: April 8, 2024: Louisiana State Senate – The Senate unanimously approved a bill prohibiting the enforcement of regulations and mandates from the WHO, the WEF, and the UN within the state.<sup>36</sup>

### Montana

Special Solari Report: Food Series: Food Freedom in Big Sky Country with Montana State Senator Greg Hertz – The senator sponsored and helped pass the Montana Local Food Choice Act.<sup>37</sup>

### North Carolina

Hero of the Week: March 25, 2024: North Carolina Senator Jim Burgin – Senator Burgin hosted a gathering to discuss what can be done to protect financial transaction freedom in his state.<sup>38</sup>



## South Dakota

Hero of the Week: April 8, 2024: South Dakota Representative Julie Auch – Auch’s efforts are helping oppose the advances of financial transaction control.<sup>39</sup>

## Tennessee

2023 Heroes of the Year: Tennessee Senator Frank Niceley and Tennessee Representative Bud Hulsey – Solari celebrates two of Tennessee’s most effective freedom fighters.<sup>40</sup>

Weston Price Chapter Leader Running for State Representative in Tennessee – Michele Reneau, who ran a food buyers club, runs for office on a platform of limiting government overreach.<sup>41</sup>

Hero of the Week: May 13, 2024: Tennessee Senator Jack Johnson and Representative Jason Zachary – A bill introduced by the two legislators, signed by the governor, prohibits debanking “based upon the use of a social credit score or other factors.”<sup>42</sup>

Pushback of the Week: April 15, 2024: Tennessee Pushes Back on Pharma Food – Legislators passed a bill requiring that “edible vaccines” be classified as drugs, not food.<sup>43</sup>

Hero of the Week: January 15, 2024: Tennessee Representative Jay Reedy – The representative introduced a bill requiring that the governor stop unconstitutional foreign combat deployments of the state’s National Guard troops.<sup>44</sup>

Hero of the Week: May 1, 2023: Tennessee Legislators Opposing Red Flag Gun Laws – Legislators stand up for the 2nd Amendment.<sup>45</sup>

Hero of the Week: November 14, 2022: Dr. Denise Sibley, MD – Dr. Sibley was instrumental in helping to pass legislation making ivermectin available over-the-counter.<sup>46</sup>

## Utah

Hero of the Week: January 8, 2024: State Treasurer Marlo Oaks – The treasurer has actively opposed the weaponization of ESG and led an effort to extend the comment period for new rules related to natural asset companies.<sup>47</sup>

## VIII. Additional Solari Resources

Note: **S** indicates resources available exclusively to Solari subscribers.

### Financial Transaction Freedom:

- Financial Transaction Freedom: What is it, what threatens it, and how do I take action to secure it?<sup>48</sup>
- The Future of Financial Freedom<sup>49</sup> **S**
- 1st Quarter 2023 Wrap Up: The Future of Financial Freedom with Richard A. Werner<sup>50</sup> **S**
- The Case for Building Wealth with Richard Werner<sup>51</sup>
- Building Wealth curriculum<sup>52</sup> **S**
- Solution Series: Building Wealth with Catherine Austin Fitts and Ricardo Oskam<sup>53</sup> **S**
- Action of the Week: July 1, 2024: Growing Intelligence about Alternative Transaction Options<sup>54</sup>
- Building a Successful Relationship with a Great Bank: The Four-Part Series<sup>55</sup>

### Financial Transaction Control:

- The Plunder of Private Equity Billionaires<sup>56</sup>
- An Editorial Comment on Private Equity<sup>57</sup>
- The Profits of Economic Shock: Case Studies with Professor Richard A. Werner<sup>58</sup> **S**
- The Greater Taking and How to Stop It<sup>59</sup>
- I Want to Stop CBDCs—What Can I Do?<sup>60</sup>
- Food Series: The 30x30 Land Grab with Margaret Byfield<sup>61</sup> **S**
- Land Grabs: 30x30 and Natural Asset Companies (NACs)<sup>62</sup>
- The Many Faces of the Land Grab with Margaret Byfield<sup>63</sup>

*“Who’s your banker, who’s your farmer, who’s your sheriff,  
where’s your money?”*

~ Catherine Austin Fitts

### **Legislators:**

- Food Series: Tales from the Congressional Front with Representative Thomas Massie<sup>64</sup>
- State and Local Officials: You Are Stronger Than You Think You Are with Pete Kennedy<sup>65</sup>
- Special Solari Report: Free in Tennessee: Kicking Tyranny to the Curb<sup>66</sup>
- Tell Your State Legislators to Take Action on Pharma Food!<sup>67</sup>
- Alert Your Legislators! Stop the Control Grid Now with Corey Lynn and The Sharp Edge<sup>68</sup> **S**
- Subscriber Letter to State Legislator: Enforce the Constitution, Don’t Call for Convention!<sup>69</sup>

### **Grassroots Activism:**

- Food Series: Grassroots Activism with Judith McGeary<sup>70</sup> **S**
- Weston Price Chapter Leader Running for State Representative in Tennessee<sup>71</sup>
- Special Report: Roy Ramey Running for Commissioner of Agriculture for West Virginia<sup>72</sup>
- Food Freedom Is Freedom: Roy Ramey Campaigns to Be West Virginia’s Agriculture Commissioner<sup>73</sup>
- How to Challenge a School Board in 3–5 Minutes<sup>74</sup>

### **Food Freedom:**

- Food Series: Raw Milk Nation<sup>75</sup>
- Food Series: Maine Right to Food: The Road Ahead with Heather Retberg<sup>76</sup> **S**
- Food Series: Food Sovereignty One Town at a Time with Heather Retberg<sup>77</sup> **S**
- Food Series: Food Emancipation with Joel Salatin<sup>78</sup>
- Food Series: Community Food Webs: Building Out the Parallel System with Ken Meter<sup>79</sup> **S**
- Special Food Series Report: Surveillance and Centralization on the Menu<sup>80</sup>



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# Local Leaders Making a Difference

## Vince Feldman

Activism has deep roots in Vince Feldman's family. His father was president of Veterans for Peace in Philadelphia during the Vietnam war and was also one of the first citizen investigators of the JFK assassination. Vince has been involved with the Pennsylvania Chapter of Children's Health Defense (CHD) since its organization in the summer of 2021 and has been its president since June 2022. Efforts while with CHD include helping promote

A main focus of Vince's work with the Pennsylvania CHD chapter is being a watchdog for the activities of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Philadelphia School District. His paralegal work dug up videos produced by a high school "vaccine ambassador" program called Philly Teen Vaxx, which Philadelphia created to bully kids into getting the Covid shots.

Vince was also a part of ending the mask mandate for the Philadelphia City Council Chambers after filing a right-to-know request that established that there was no actual mandate in effect. In addition, he has collaborated with Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology in advocating for meter choice in PA and has published stories about people forced out of their homes as a result of radiation poisoning from smart meters.

### More Information:

- Oswald and the FBI by Harold Feldman [ratical.org/ratville/JFK/OswaldAndFBI.html](http://ratical.org/ratville/JFK/OswaldAndFBI.html)
- *CHD v. The City of Philadelphia* [pa.childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/CHD-v.-City-of-Philadelphia-et.-al.-complaint.pdf](http://pa.childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/CHD-v.-City-of-Philadelphia-et.-al.-complaint.pdf)
- Urgent support and housing needed for 70-year-old with chronic kidney disease forced into a tent by a state mandated smart meter [pa.childrenshealthdefense.org/uncategorized/urgent-support-and-housing-needed-for-70-year-old-with-chronic-kidney-disease-forced-into-a-tent-by-a-state-mandated-smart-meter/](http://pa.childrenshealthdefense.org/uncategorized/urgent-support-and-housing-needed-for-70-year-old-with-chronic-kidney-disease-forced-into-a-tent-by-a-state-mandated-smart-meter/)



a rally at the Lancaster Courthouse in support of Amish farmer Amos Miller and his defense against being prosecuted for selling raw milk; promoting a rally for Andy Wakefield's film *Protocol 7*; and organizing lobbying days at the Pennsylvania state capitol. He also worked closely with CHD outside counsel Ray Flores in preparing CHD's civil complaint, *CHD v. The City of Philadelphia*, challenging Philadelphia's public health rule that allows children age 11 and up to make their own vaccine decisions.

## Danielle Goodrich

Danielle Goodrich is a self-described Christian “momma bear” and a homeopath who came on the political scene in 2019 after Congressman Adam Schiff asked Big Tech for aid in censorship of two topics: autism and vaccines. She knew this was an attack on the First Amendment and got active educating her legislators.

When Covid hit, Danielle was one of the first in her community to speak up. She started Johnson City Freedom (now East Tennessee Freedom), which has as its mission to uphold God-given rights through education and advocacy. Their motto is John 8:32—“and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” She advocates for legislation that upholds the Constitution and stands against Constitution-infringing legislation. As proponents of states’ rights and limited government, Danielle and her group encouraged the state of Tennessee to assert governance over geoengineering taking place in the state.



### More Information:

- East TN Freedom  
[easttnfreedom.com](http://easttnfreedom.com)



## Sara and Symbria Patterson

Symbria Patterson and her daughter Sara never intended to work on legislation to expand food freedom in Utah, but when Sara received a cease-and-desist letter from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food for selling raw milk at her farm stand, she decided the only thing to do was to change the law. In 2015, at the age of 19, Sara drafted a piece of legislation with the help of a friend. Having no formal training in lobbying, Sara and her mother sought help from a state libertarian group, Libertas, and Pete Kennedy, who was then working at the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund.

Sara and Symbria are a case study of how citizens can influence legislative policy if only they are willing to put in the effort. In Utah, herdshares were illegal at the time, and the Pattersons'

bill to legalize them met with opposition from many corners, including the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Farm Bureau, the Dairy Producers of Utah, and the Utah Retail Merchants Association. Sara and Symbria, knowing no one, began to reach out and garner public support. That effort, combined with citizen lobbyists, saw the bill pass on the last hour of the last day of the session.

Since then, the mother-daughter duo have worked on numerous pieces of legislation, passing over 19 bills related to food freedom, five of which specifically make access to raw milk easier for the farmer and the consumer. Sara continues to sell raw milk to her CSA customers through a herdshare program.



### More Information:

- Red Acre Farm  
[redacrefarmcsa.org](http://redacrefarmcsa.org)
- Solari Food Series: Leading a Food Revolution with Symbria and Sara Patterson  
[home.solari.com/solari-food-series-leading-a-food-revolution-with-symbria-and-sara-patterson/](http://home.solari.com/solari-food-series-leading-a-food-revolution-with-symbria-and-sara-patterson/)



## Saga Stevin

Saga Stevin had no plans to run for office, but after seeing her hometown mayor embrace DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) policies, and after much prayer, she decided it was her time to stand up. What amazed her after filing her paperwork to run for mayor of Lakeland, Florida in 2021 was how much support she got—both from people in office and regular citizens. Though she didn't become Lakeland's mayor, she did connect with folks in local and state offices who recognized that she understood the deeper issues and had ideas on how to creatively protect our freedoms.

Saga is bold in her beliefs and actions—so much so that she helped get rid of BLM in Polk County. A long-time Solari subscriber, Saga started the non-profit Floridian Future in 2023 with the intent of “buttoning up Florida financially” with a sovereign state bank and a few other creative ideas. She wants to encourage people to live in faith over fear, to be bold, and to realize that as a citizen, you can move the needle toward the changes you wish to see where you live.



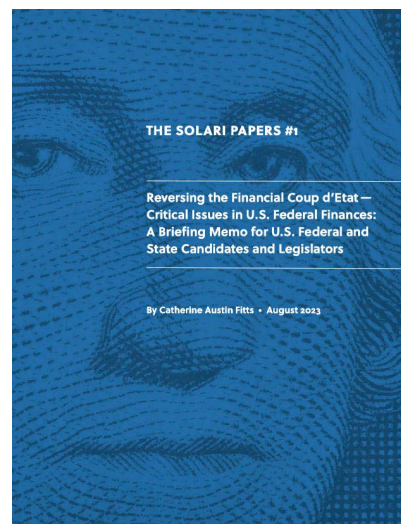
### More Information:

- Floridian Future  
[floridianfuture.com](https://floridianfuture.com)

# The Solari Papers

The Solari Papers are a series of single-topic reports on issues of great policy import. The solution-focused monographs address consequential issues such as the U.S. federal credit and military that have implications not just for Americans but for the global financial and trade systems. The aim of the Solari Papers is to make these complex issues accessible so that anyone—from busy mothers to taxi drivers to farmers to political candidates and legislators—can understand and use them to make a difference.

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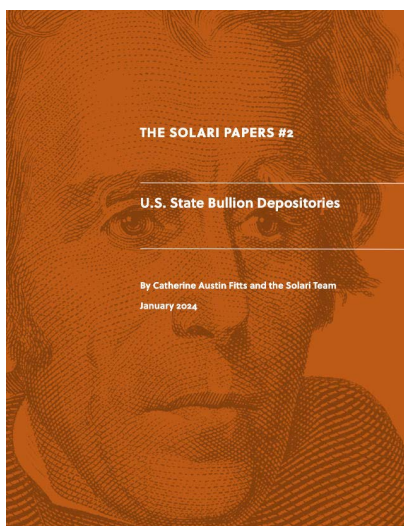
## **Reversing the Financial Coup d'Etat — Critical Issues in U.S. Federal Finances: A Briefing Memo for U.S. Federal and State Candidates and Legislators**

By Catherine Austin Fitts

The Solari Papers #1 provides an overview of critical issues related to the U.S. federal finances, the systemic lawlessness of current federal financial management, and the need for significant reform. The goal is to help state legislators, other officials, political candidates, and their staff and economic advisors understand the urgency of taking legislative and operational action to protect their governmental sovereignty and the financial transaction freedom of their state, political subdivisions, financial institutions, and citizens.

32 pages

[solari.com/reversing-the-financial-coup/](https://solari.com/reversing-the-financial-coup/)



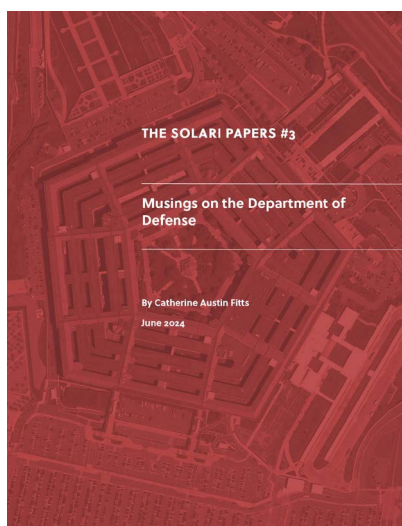
## U.S. State Bullion Depositories

By Catherine Austin Fitts and the Solari Team

A state bullion depository can provide a state and its residents with a secure, in-state location to store gold and silver. The purpose of this monograph is to address issues related to integrity of operations, including, importantly, those involving private contractors. The goal of achieving such integrity is to ensure that the depository enhances, rather than compromises, state sovereignty and financial resiliency.

16 pages

[solari.com/the-solari-papers-2-u-s-state-bullion-depositories/](https://solari.com/the-solari-papers-2-u-s-state-bullion-depositories/)



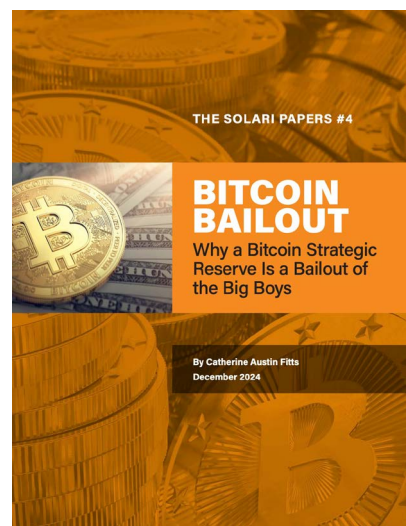
## Musings on the Department of Defense

By Catherine Austin Fitts

If the federal government is operating outside the law, then we need to stop financing its criminal behavior and find ways to finance the movement of institutions back into lawful governance and management. Catherine's "musings" about how the money works at DOD provide an illustrative case study of the governance problem.

24 pages

[solari.com/the-solari-papers-3-musings-on-the-department-of-defense/](https://solari.com/the-solari-papers-3-musings-on-the-department-of-defense/)



## Bitcoin Bailout: Why a Bitcoin Strategic Reserve Is a Bailout of the Big Boys

By Catherine Austin Fitts

Starting with a definition of Bitcoin and an examination of salient facts about the cryptocurrency, Catherine explains why proposals for federal and state-level Bitcoin "strategic reserves" are in reality a reverse Robin Hood scheme to take from working people and bail out large Bitcoin holders. This monograph explains why using taxpayers' and state pension funds' money to fund Bitcoin reserves serves no public purpose. If government can afford to buy private crypto assets, it can afford to cut taxes instead and invest in the basic infrastructure and services that support a productive economy.

16 pages

[solari.com/bitcoin-bailout-why-a-bitcoin-strategic-reserve-is-a-bailout-of-the-big-boys/](https://solari.com/bitcoin-bailout-why-a-bitcoin-strategic-reserve-is-a-bailout-of-the-big-boys/)

# Online Resources Supplementing This Annual Report

The following supplementary materials were published on the Solari website as part of the *1st Quarter 2024 Wrap Up* publishing cycle.

## AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

### Idaho 2030: A Vision of Freedom

Early in the year, five top legislators from Idaho—one of the most liberty-minded states in the U.S.—joined Catherine to present a “backcasting” that celebrated, from the vantage point of 2030, actions that successfully “turned the tide in the powerful pivot to freedom.” Although focused on Idaho, the vision presented is likely to inspire legislators and their constituents everywhere. Solari’s vision for 2030 is simple: The push for central control has failed, and freedom reigns supreme.

Audio	Video	1 hour 35 minutes
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[solari.com/idaho-2030-a-vision-of-freedom/](https://solari.com/idaho-2030-a-vision-of-freedom/)

### News Trends & Stories, Part I with Dr. Joseph P. Farrell

In Part I, Joseph and Catherine discuss state actions and review the first 10 top stories for the quarter. Their analysis aims to summarize and synthesize the key trends and events that may impact your time, resources, risk management, and actions toward protecting freedom and building family wealth.

Audio	Video	2 hours 57 minutes
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[solari.com/1st-quarter-2024-wrap-up-news-trends-stories-part-i-with-dr-joseph-p-farrell/](https://solari.com/1st-quarter-2024-wrap-up-news-trends-stories-part-i-with-dr-joseph-p-farrell/)

### News Trends & Stories, Part II with Dr. Joseph P. Farrell

In Part II, Joseph and Catherine discuss the remaining 10 stories from the top 20 stories for the quarter, as well as covering Unanswered Questions and Inspiration. Their discussion of unanswered questions can help us map out the areas to which we should be paying the most attention.

Audio	Video	3 hours 3 minutes
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[solari.com/1st-quarter-2024-wrap-up-news-trends-stories-part-ii-with-dr-joseph-p-farrell/](https://solari.com/1st-quarter-2024-wrap-up-news-trends-stories-part-ii-with-dr-joseph-p-farrell/)

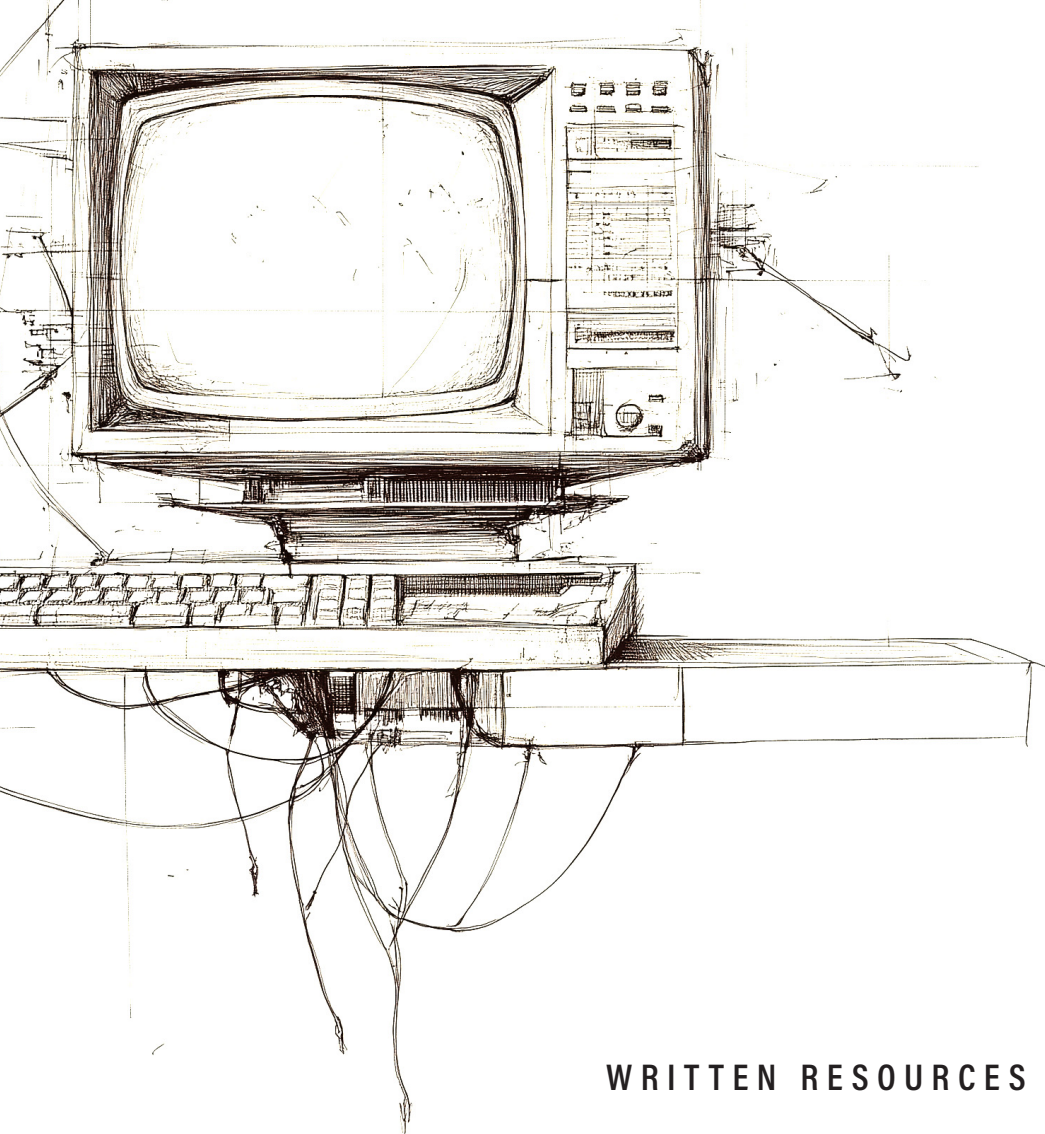
### Equity Overview & Rambus Chartology with Tim Caban

Financial planner Tim Caban joins Catherine to review the equity markets, fixed income, and commodities—discussing risks and opportunities in the current “plunder economy” or “scapegoat capitalism” environment. Catherine’s financial transaction freedom tour provides evidence that many good things are happening at the state and local levels.

Audio	Video	1 hour 10 minutes
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[solari.com/1st-quarter-2024-wrap-up-equity-overview-rambus-chartology-with-tim-caban/](https://solari.com/1st-quarter-2024-wrap-up-equity-overview-rambus-chartology-with-tim-caban/)





## WRITTEN RESOURCES

### **How to Protect the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and Why It Is Essential to Protecting Individual Liberty by Tobi Maier, Esq.**

The right of private citizens to own, possess, and carry effective weapons (including, but not limited to, firearms) is crucial for the protection of any individual freedom. The Founding Fathers recognized the right of the people to keep and bear arms in the Second Amendment (2A) to the United States Constitution as "being necessary to the security of a free State." In this article, attorney Tobi Maier reviews legislative, administrative, and judicial actions which could or already do protect this right.

Text

Estimated reading time 15 minutes

[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-2nd-amendment/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-2nd-amendment/)

### **Financial Markets Charts and Rambus Blockbuster Chartology**

[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-fixed-income/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-fixed-income/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-commodities/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-commodities/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-equities/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-equities/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-rambus-blockbuster-chartology/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-rambus-blockbuster-chartology/)

### **News Trends & Stories Resources**

The Solari *News Trends & Stories* team carefully curates stories and videos that can help keep you on top of both reality and "official reality."

[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-part-i-top-stories-videos/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-part-i-top-stories-videos/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-part-ii-top-stories-videos-continued/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-part-ii-top-stories-videos-continued/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-news-trends-stories-table/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-news-trends-stories-table/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-part-ii-unanswered-questions/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-part-ii-unanswered-questions/)  
[wrapups.solari.com/us-states-inspiration/](https://wrapups.solari.com/us-states-inspiration/)

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Catherine Austin Fitts was a Wall Street and Washington insider in the 1980s and 1990s when globalization and corruption took over at the expense of local economies and people.

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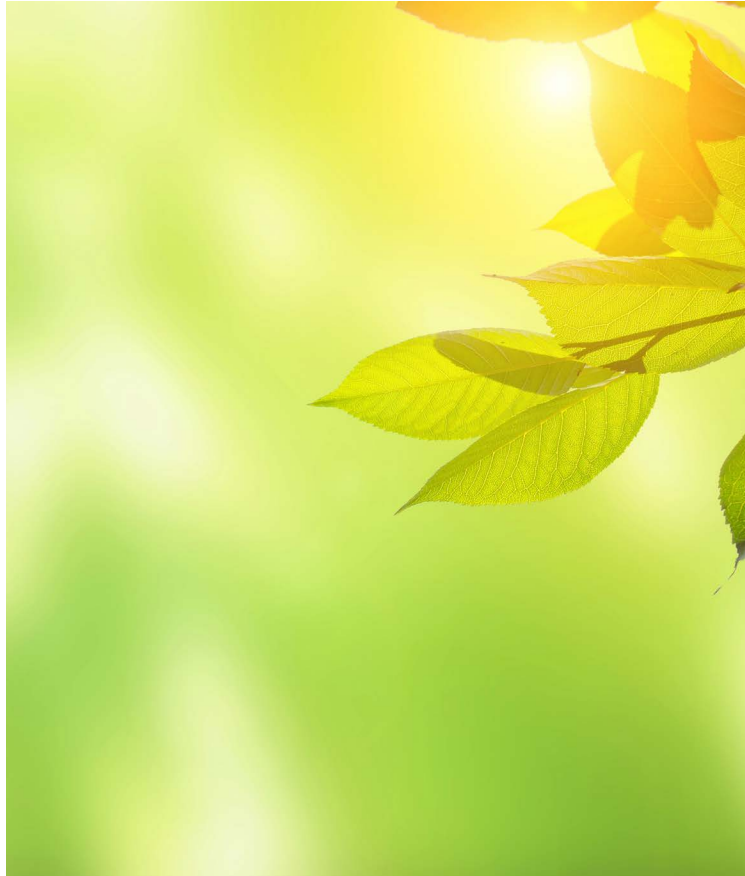
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~ Alexander Hamilton