

THE SOLARI REPORT

What the States Can Do: Building the Legal and Financial Infrastructure for Financial Freedom

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Solari Team

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Introduction

There 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,¹ 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.²

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

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill³ would have removed the sales tax on cash transactions under \$500.

Requirements to Accept Cash

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Massachusetts,⁴ Colorado,⁵ and Connecticut⁶ have all successfully addressed the requirement to accept cash.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A bill⁷ 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 bill⁸ 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 bill⁹ was filed that would have required each state agency to accept cash or money orders.
- ▶ In recent years, California,¹⁰ Delaware,¹¹ Idaho,¹² Illinois,¹³ Maine,¹⁴ Maryland,¹⁵ Michigan,¹⁶ Minnesota,¹⁷ New York,¹⁸ North Carolina,¹⁹ North Dakota,²⁰ Ohio,²¹ Oklahoma,²² Oregon,²³ Pennsylvania,²⁴ Rhode Island,²⁵ South Carolina,²⁶ Vermont,²⁷ and Wisconsin²⁸ 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 Fee²⁹
- Pushback of the Week: March 18, 2024: Ray L. Flores, Warrior for Cash³⁰
- Using Cash³¹

II. A State Bank

Our 2023 publication titled *The Future of Financial Freedom*³² 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.³³

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.

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ A bill³⁴ 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 bill³⁵ would have allowed the state of Arizona to maintain a system of banking owned, controlled, and operated by the state of Arizona.
- ▶ Similarly, this bill³⁶ 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.³⁷ 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 Niceley³⁸
- Why a Sovereign State Bank Is Good for Tennessee³⁹

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,⁴⁰ including preserving residents' ability to transact using cash⁴¹ 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.

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ In the 2024 legislative session, Tennessee passed SB2148,⁴² 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.⁴³ 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.⁴⁴

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A bill⁴⁵ 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 bill⁴⁶ 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 bill⁴⁷ 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 Zachary⁴³
- The Threat of Financial Transaction Control⁴⁸

Outlawing CBDCs or Removing Them from Definition of Money

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Bills from Florida,⁴⁹ Indiana,⁵⁰ Nebraska,⁵¹ and Tennessee⁵² all removed central bank digital currency (CBDC) from the definition of money in the state commercial codes.
- ▶ The Indiana bill⁵⁰ 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 bill⁵³ states that “a central bank digital currency is not specie legal tender and is not legal tender in the state.”
- ▶ South Dakota passed a bill⁵⁴ excluding CBDCs from the definition of money and another bill⁵⁵ 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 bill⁵⁶ 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 bill⁵⁷ 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,⁵⁸ Missouri,⁵⁹ New Hampshire,⁶⁰ Oklahoma,⁶¹ South Carolina,⁶² and Wisconsin⁶³ also introduced legislation on this topic.

SOLARI RESOURCES

- Heroes of the Week: September 30, 2024: Tennessee State Senator Bill Powers and Representative Jeff Burkhart⁶⁴
- Updated: Template Letter to Bank Re: Effect of CBDCs and Other Digital Control Mechanisms on My Financial Health⁶⁵
- Solari Financial Transaction Freedom and CBDC Video Shorts⁶⁶
- From the Maastricht Treaty to CBDCs with Arno Wellens⁶⁷
- I Want to Stop CBDCs – What Can I Do?⁴⁰

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.⁶⁸ 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,⁶⁹ 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,⁷⁰ 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,⁷¹ the State-to-State (S2S) Verification Service for driver's licenses,⁷² 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,⁷³ 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.”⁷⁴ Francis Boyle, JD, PhD⁷⁵ (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.”⁷⁴

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 System⁷⁶
- The Digital ID Threat Is Real: Don’t Fall for Empty Promises and Trojan Horse Reforms⁷⁷

OTHER RELATED RESOURCES

- Dr. Skidmore: G20 Announcement re Digital ID/CBDC aka Social Credit System Means They’re Ready to Launch!⁷⁸
- Exposing Idemia: The Push for National Biometric IDs in America⁷⁹
- How Does Government Healthcare Spending Differ from Private Insurance?⁸⁰
- State to State DHR Overview March 2024⁸¹
- Identity Management Innovation: Looking Beyond REAL ID⁸²

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*.⁸³ 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 system⁸⁴ 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.⁸⁵

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, 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?"

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Tennessee’s Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act⁸⁶ 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 bill⁸⁷ banned the use of an MCC that would enable the tracking of firearm and ammunition purchases.
- ▶ This Iowa bill⁸⁸ 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,⁸⁹ 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 Act⁹⁰ 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,⁹¹ Indiana,⁹² Mississippi,⁹³ Montana,⁹⁴ North Dakota,⁹⁵ Texas,⁹⁶ Utah,⁹⁷ and Wyoming⁹⁸ have all passed similar legislation.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill⁹⁹ 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.

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SOLARI RESOURCES

- Visa & Mastercard: The Real Threat to the Digital ID Control System⁷⁶

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” section¹⁰⁰ of the Sound Money Defense League website¹⁰¹ 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

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill¹⁰² authorized the state treasurer to purchase gold and silver.
- ▶ This Utah bill¹⁰³ 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 bill¹⁰⁴ 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 bill¹⁰⁵ 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 Caban¹⁰⁶

Legal Tender Status

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,¹⁰⁷ Missouri,¹⁰⁸ Oklahoma,¹⁰⁹ and Wyoming¹¹⁰ have passed legislation making gold and silver legal tender.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Bills in Florida,¹¹¹ Louisiana,¹¹² Tennessee,¹¹³ and Texas¹¹⁴ would have made gold and silver legal tender in each of those states.

SOLARI RESOURCES

- The Silver and Gold Payment Calculator with Franklin Sanders¹¹⁵
- 2nd Quarter 2022 Wrap Up: Gold & Silver: Defending Family Wealth and Sovereignty for 5,000 Years¹¹⁶

State Bullion Depository

A state bullion depository can provide a state and its residents with a secure, in-state location to store gold and silver.¹¹⁷ 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.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Bills in Florida¹¹⁸ and Tennessee¹¹⁹ 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 Niceley¹²⁰
- The Solari Papers #2: U.S. State Bullion Depositories¹¹⁷
- Book Review: A History of Money in Ancient Countries from the Earliest Times to the Present by Alexander del Mar¹²¹

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 TreasuryDirect¹²² (used for direct Internet purchases of U.S. Treasury securities) at the state level. Legislators also can adopt measures that encourage local investing¹²³ 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.

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.¹²⁴ 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 practices¹²⁵ and the Ohio AG’s lawsuit against Dollar General for questionable pricing practices¹²⁶). 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 Act¹²⁷ 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 ETFs¹²⁸) 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 Komisar¹²⁹
- Your Car Insurance with Matt R. Hale¹³⁰
- JPMorgan Chase: Selected Legal, Regulatory, and Enforcement Settlements, 2002 to 2019¹³¹

OTHER RELATED RESOURCES

- Vanguard Splits from BlackRock Over Major Climate Alliance as the Backlash to ESG Builds¹³²
- Vanguard CEO Abandons ESG Investing Alliance: “Not in the Game of Politics”¹³³
- West Virginia Treasury Drops BlackRock Over Stance on Climate Risk¹³⁴

Rejecting Federal Money

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 Marohn¹³⁵

Using State Investment Policies and Contracts to Influence Social Causes

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

IX. Recommendations to Reverse Private Equity Damage

Brendan Ballou, author of *Plunder: Private Equity's Plan to Pillage America*,¹⁴² 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,¹⁴³ *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 Ballou¹⁴²
- Book Review: These Are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs—and Wrecks—America by Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner¹⁴³
- An Editorial Comment on Private Equity¹⁴⁴
- Case Studies in Plunder Capitalism¹⁴⁵

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.¹⁴⁶ 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.¹⁴⁷ 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).

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill¹⁴⁸ 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 bill¹⁴⁹ would have removed sales tax on cash purchases under \$500.

SOLARI RESOURCES

- From *The Moneychanger: Senator Frank Niceley – Restoring Freedom in Tennessee*¹⁵⁰

Common Law Right of Offset

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

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

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ Bills from Mississippi,¹⁵¹ Tennessee,¹⁵² Virginia,¹⁵³ Wisconsin,¹⁵⁴ 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 Sanders¹⁵⁵

Capital Gains Taxes on Precious Metals

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,¹⁵⁶ 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 bill¹⁵⁷ 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 bill¹⁵⁸ 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 bill¹⁵⁹ 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 bill¹⁶⁰ 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 bill¹⁶¹ 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 law¹⁶² (explained here¹⁶³), 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 tax¹⁶⁴
- Tennessee’s removal of the inheritance tax¹⁶⁵
- Tennessee’s repeal of the Hall Income Tax (a former state tax on interest and dividend income from investments)¹⁶⁶

XI. Protecting Against a Land Grab

Natural Asset Companies and Conservation Easements

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ Model legislation¹⁶⁷ 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 letter¹⁶⁸ 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.”¹⁶⁹

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,¹⁷⁰ 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 Act¹⁷¹ 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.¹⁷² 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,¹⁷³ 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 Oaks¹⁷⁴
- Hero of the Week: July 22, 2024: Margaret and Dan Byfield¹⁷⁵
- Pushback of the Week: January 22, 2024: Margaret and Dan Byfield, American Stewards of Liberty¹⁷⁶
- Food Series: The 30x30 Land Grab with Margaret Byfield¹⁷⁷
- The Land Grab: Weaponizing Nature with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)¹⁷⁸
- The Many Faces of the Land Grab with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)¹⁷⁹
- Dangers of Conservation Easements with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)¹⁸⁰
- Land Grabs: 30x30 and Natural Asset Companies with Margaret Byfield (*Financial Rebellion*)¹⁸¹

Actions to Protect Against Bank Runs and Consolidations

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

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This bill¹⁸² from Tennessee allows for property taxes to be paid before they are due.

SOLARI RESOURCES

- North Dakota Considers Eliminating Property Tax¹⁸³

Limits on Foreign Land Purchases and Ownership

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.¹⁸⁴

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This bill¹⁸⁵ 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 law¹⁸⁶ 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 bill¹⁸⁷ restricted ownership by foreign governments of concern.
- ▶ Arkansas,¹⁸⁸ Georgia,¹⁸⁹ Idaho,¹⁹⁰ Indiana,¹⁹¹ Iowa,¹⁹² Louisiana,¹⁹³ Mississippi,¹⁹⁴ Montana,¹⁹⁵ Nebraska,¹⁹⁶ New Hampshire,¹⁹⁷ North Carolina,¹⁹⁸ North Dakota,¹⁹⁹ Ohio,²⁰⁰ Oklahoma,²⁰¹ South Dakota,²⁰² Utah,²⁰³ Virginia,²⁰⁴ West Virginia,²⁰⁵ and Wyoming²⁰⁶ have all passed similar legislation.

Limits on Institutional Investment in Residential Homes and Apartments

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,²⁰⁷ 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 2030²⁰⁸

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

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 bill²⁰⁹ 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 bill²¹⁰ 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 Wood²¹¹
- Laundering with Immunity: The Control Framework – Part 1²¹²
- Laundering with Immunity: The Control Framework Part 2 – A Powerhouse of Ruin²¹³
- Laundering with Immunity: The Control Framework Part 3 – World Economic Forum Protected²¹⁴
- U.S. States: The Opportunity to Stop the WHO with Rep. Kathy Edmonston and Connie Sampognaro (*Financial Rebellion*)²¹⁵

Smart Meters

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Vermont bill²¹⁶ “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 law²¹⁷ 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 bill²¹⁸ also allows for an opt-out.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ A Tennessee bill²¹⁹ 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.²²⁰

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 HB2035,²²¹ 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 legislation²²² 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 law²²³ 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 law²²⁴ 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.²²⁵

“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 bill²²⁶ 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/SB2516.²²⁷

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*²²⁸ 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 Vieira²²⁹

Local Enforcement: Constitutional Powers of the Sheriff

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 Center²³⁰) 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

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.”²³¹

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ The Tennessee “Restoring State Sovereignty Through Nullification Act”²³² 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

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 paper²³³ 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 Rights²³⁴ 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.²³⁵ 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.²³⁶
- 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.²³⁷
- 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.²³⁸
- Banned warrantless access to data stored in the “cloud.”²³⁹
- Required police to get a warrant before accessing communication service provider networks.²⁴⁰
- Expanded restrictions on drone surveillance to also include “radar, sonar, infrared, or other remote sensing or detection technology.”²⁴¹
- 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.²⁴²

- 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.²⁴³

Stop Constitutional Convention

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.²⁴⁴

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

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”²⁴⁵ exempts the foods from all state and local licensure, permitting, certification, and inspection.
- ▶ The “Tennessee Food Freedom Act”²⁴⁶ 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 bill²⁴⁷ 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 Control²⁴⁸

State Constitutional Amendments

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ The Maine Food Sovereignty Act²⁴⁹ 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 resolution²⁵⁰ (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 Retberg²⁵¹

Zoning

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ The Michigan Right to Farm Act²⁵² 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 bill²⁵³ would have barred any prohibition on the growing of produce and the raising of chicken or meat rabbits on a residential lot.

Livestock Vaccination

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill²⁵⁴ 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

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Florida bill²⁵⁵ makes it illegal to sell, manufacture, or distribute cultivated meat in Florida. It is currently being challenged in federal court.²⁵⁶
- ▶ This Louisiana law²⁵⁷ prohibits labeling a cell-cultured food product as a meat product.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Tennessee bill²⁵⁸ would have prohibited cell-cultured meat from being defined as “meat.”
- ▶ A similar bill²⁵⁹ 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 Underway²⁶⁰
- Pharma Food with Elze van Hamelen²⁶¹

Vaccines in Food Products

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,²⁶² Tennessee legislators took action, filing this bill²⁶³ 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

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Wyoming bill,²⁶⁴ 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

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This Wyoming bill²⁶⁵ 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

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 say²⁶⁶ 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 Bison²⁶⁷

Raw Milk

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 Morell²⁶⁸
- Raw Milk Nation²⁶⁹
- Big Year for Raw Milk in State Houses²⁷⁰

OTHER RELATED RESOURCES

- Real Milk Laws by State²⁷¹

Geoengineering

Legislative Actions **PASSED**

- ▶ This bill²⁷² 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 article²⁷³ explains what the bill accomplishes and the work still to be done.

Legislative Actions **PROPOSED**

- ▶ This Kentucky bill²⁷⁴ 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”²⁷⁵ 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”²⁷⁶ would prohibit solar radiation modification, cloud seeding, and polluting atmospheric activity (i.e., experimenting in Earth’s climactic activity).
- ▶ Ohio’s “Atmosphere Protection Act”²⁷⁷ 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 Bibliography²⁷⁸
- A Primer on Weather and Climate Intervention for Economists²⁷⁹
- Geoengineering, Weather Warfare & Character Assassination with Danielle Goodrich (*Financial Rebellion*)²⁸⁰

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.

Solari Subscribers

Post at Subscriber Input (topic: State Legislators and Financial Freedom):

subscriber-input.solari.com/forums

Locate or create a place-based Solari Connect group in your area to find other subscribers working on state-level actions in support of financial freedom, or post at the non-placed-based group, “Financial Freedom (How to Work with Your State Legislature),” to share intelligence about what you can do to support state legislators and local officials:

home.solari.com/solari-circles

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*“It does not take a majority to prevail...
but rather an irate, tireless minority,
keen on setting brushfires of freedom
in the minds of men.”*

~ Samuel Adams