

**The Minnesota Free Market Institute Weekly Update  
Friday, August 21, 2009**

## Climate Change Symposium a Success!

Over 250 scholars, students, activists, elected officials and others braved the tornado warnings on Wednesday afternoon and came to the *The Minnesota Symposium on Climate Change: How Politicized Science Endangers our Economic Future*, at the Earl Brown Center in Brooklyn Center, MN, sponsored by the Minnesota Free Market Institute. Attendees got to hear and ask questions of Dr. S. Fred Singer, Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia, Meteorologist John Coleman, founder of the Weather Channel, Dr. Kenneth Green of the American Enterprise Institute and many other experts.

All the presentations at the Symposium will have materials (audio, video and powerpoint slides) available on the Minnesota Free Market Institute as they become available over the next few days. Check [here](#) to see what's been uploaded to-date.

Links about the event:

- [Science vs. Hysteria](#) Powerline blog
- [Cool and Stormy Weather Didn't Deter Climate Realists Symposium](#) GlobalClimateScam.com
- [Free Market Group to Discuss Global Warming](#) AP also published at [MPR-News Q](#) [WQQQ-Eau Claire](#), [KTTC-Rochester/Austin](#) and [The Fargo Forum](#)

## Rose Friedman, In Memorium



*This past week, Rose Director Friedman, economist, co-author and wife of Dr. Milton Friedman died at her home in California. She was believed to be 98 (no birth records exist for the village she was born in, in what is now the Ukraine). The Friedman Foundation has [this](#) to say about her passing. Minnesota Free Market Senior Policy Fellow King Banaian wrote the following remembrance:*

### Alongside

I was at a meeting this afternoon, a start of a new year for a volunteer board with new people, and as an ice-breaker we were to draw slips of paper with one of three questions. The one

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I drew was, who would you like to have dinner with most, but with the condition that that person is deceased. Given the events of the day, I could not think of anyone but Rose Friedman, who had died earlier in the day.

She was an accomplished economist of her own when she agreed to marry Milton, having worked on projects in Washington and New York relating to banking and bonds for new institutions like the FDIC and the National Bureau of Economic Research. She delayed their wedding until she had finished the Washington part of her FDIC work. And yet, in *Two Lucky People*, she wrote that following her husband was to be her lot, and one she gladly accepted.

[Read More](#)

## Who Does Government Really Work For?

Every now and again an elected (or unelected as the case may be) public official comes out with a comment that so innocently yet so distinctly illuminates the regulatory mindset that one can come to no other conclusion that "he just doesn't get it."

Case in point is a comment by Peter Bell, chairman of the Metropolitan Council quoted in the Pioneer Press. Bell is referring to the Federal Transportation Agency's issuing a "record of decision" that the Central Corridor light rail project has satisfied the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act and the U.S. Transportation Act.

As the PiPress notes, it is up to Bell to address the many legitimate concerns of residents and interests all along the proposed 11-mile route of the Central Corridor. The most recent complaints have been from residents of the old Rondo neighborhood along University Avenue in St. Paul, who are concerned about gentrification and other dramatic changes; and the University, which is worried about how trains along Washington Avenue will affect sensitive equipment used for university research - which gave birth to Bell's comment that --

"How I would interpret it, the FTA is satisfied with our efforts to address the concerns that some of the neighborhood groups have raised along University Avenue, and legitimate mitigation concerns that the U has raised," Bell said. "They also note, they expect and understand that we're going to continue to do a great deal of work throughout the corridor, and they are right."

In other words, the Rondo residents living alongside light rail might not be satisfied with the Met Council's efforts, the University might not be satisfied with the Met Council running light rail through the heart of its campus, but FTA officials in Washington, DC, 933 miles from the Central Corridor are satisfied; ergo - no problem!

Of course, the larger issue here is just who is the Met Council working for? Apparently it's not the people of the twice

bifurcated Rondo neighborhood or the University of Minnesota; if the FTA is onboard, that's what really counts - which raises the question, "When health care providers must answer to federal standards for access, quality and cost, who will they be working for?"

*Craig Westover is a Senior Policy Fellow, at the Minnesota Free Market Institute*

## Must Read

David Goldhill. *How American Health Care Killed My Father*. [The Atlantic](#).

This long article is well worth the time it takes to read it. The author (who happens to be a Democrat) makes a compelling case for why consumer driven health care is not just an option, it is the only option if we want to improve our health care system and not just spend lots more to get lower quality, rationed care.

## In Case You Missed It from the Minnesota Free Market Institute

King Banaian *SCSU Scholars*

- [Sweetness and light](#)
- [When does unemployment return to normal?](#)
- [From a mile away](#)
- [These jobs weren't created or saved](#)
- [The saved-created ratio](#)
- [Heavy burden](#)
- [Exit, voice and Alinsky](#)
- [How do we rate?](#)
- [Well, you asked him to do that!](#)
- [Don't get too excited](#)
- [A helpful reader on the insurance options in H.R. 3200](#)

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*The Minnesota Free Market Institute Weekly Update is edited by*  
[Margaret Martin](#)

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