

**The Minnesota Free Market Institute Weekly Update
Friday, October 23, 2009**

Monckton Appearance Becomes National Sensation!

Last week, the Minnesota Free Market Institute sponsored an event featuring famed climate expert **Lord Christopher Monckton**. More than 700 concerned citizens came out to see Lord Monckton speak. Monckton spoke for over ninety minutes followed by a thirty-five minute Q&A. A vast majority of the 700 in attendance stayed until the very end. The turnout was tremendous.



Little did we know it was only the beginning.

Lord Monckton's presentation, especially the comments regarding the upcoming Copenhagen treaty, struck a chord with thousands of citizens. In just four days, the 4:12 clip of the conclusion of Lord Monckton's presentation tallied **more than 120,000 views** on YouTube, making the Minnesota Free Market Institute channel the **second most viewed non-profit channel on YouTube** this week! Since then, Lord Monckton has been making the rounds in the media spreading the message, including interviews with **Glenn Beck** and **Rush Limbaugh**. Monckton has proven himself once again to be a powerful advocate against climate change legislation.

If you haven't seen Lord Monckton's talk yet you can still do so [here](#). There are multiple video clips as well as a complete version of the presentation. We will be sending out DVD copies of the talk to anyone who requests it as soon as production is finished.

We've received **many** requests for copies of the DVD of the Monckton event from all over the world. If you'd like to help us defray the cost of production and shipping in order to disseminate this powerful message you can donate using [paypal](#) or call Emily at 651-294-3593.

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From The "Having Your Cake and Eating it Too" Department

It never ceases to amaze me how our elected representatives can rationalize away even the most blinding glimpses of idiotic economic logic. Case in point occurs in a story reported in the St. Paul Pioneer Press this week titled ["A rare condition in Minnesota - a bipartisan agreement."](#)

What caused this miracle of cooperation? -- the move by the Senate Democrats to approve a \$40 billion fee on medical device makers over the next ten years.

According to the pioneer press, fourteen Democratic senators sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and other top Democrats recently, including our own Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, urging them to moderate the levy [on medical devices], which they said will "threaten the existence of some manufacturers" and cause "significant job reductions" for those that remain."

"The issue here is that these are very good jobs in our state and in our country," Klobuchar said in an interview with the Pioneer Press, acknowledging that she is among a group of "strange bedfellows" rallying around the industry. "You want to be very careful when you start assessing taxes on an industry like this."

Really? Does the economic principle that excessive taxes "threaten the existence of some manufacturers" and cause "significant job reductions" for those that remain only apply to medical device manufacturers? Is that principle somehow suspended when we tax other industries and their employees?

Democrat or Republican, legislators can't have it both ways. Either excessive taxation is bad for business or it is not. Either it puts businesses at risk or it doesn't. It threatens people's livelihood or it doesn't. The principles of economics, specifically the impact of excessive taxation, can't be suspended on a whim any more than one can repeal the law of gravity to combat obesity.

And while conservative Republicans will shake their heads at obvious irony of the irony-deaf Klobuchar, let us not forget the ["interest-group liberalism"](#) inherent in the "Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act," which included Eric Paulsen's amendment ensuring benefits for veterans were attached to a bill that also included specific government largess for women, Native Americans and a new grant program for Small Business Development Centers. Seems that "stimulus" is okay when it

stimulates the right people.

When elected officials get to have their cake and eat it too, only the government gets fat.

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

Must Reads

[Climate Sensitivity Estimates: Heading Down, Way Down?](#) Chip Knappenberger *Master Resource Blog*.

The evidence continues to pile up that climate is not as sensitive to man made changes as "Climate Change" activists have argued. The latest nail in the coffin to radical proposals to restrict energy use and lower "the carbon footprint" are detailed in Richard Lindzen and Yong-Sang Choi's soon to be published paper in the journal of the American Geophysical Union. This Master Resource Blog article summarizes the findings in the paper which include the statistic that "the degree the earth's temperature responds to various forces of change-at a value that is about six times less than the "best estimate" put forth by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)."

Recent stories featured at the Minnesota Free Market Institute Website.

- [Cascade Institute Releases Climate Chains Video](#)

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

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