

# THE DEWEESE REPORT

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## Putting bicycles ahead of people

Pressure groups and government officials are seizing property – with no accountability

By Tom DeWeese

This is a story of raw power, collusion and government corruption. A story that is taking place in countless towns all over America. A story of “reinvented” government, where self-proclaimed private “stakeholders” and pressure groups set the rules, local elected officials rubber stamp them, and non-elected regional governments enforce them, sometimes with an iron fist – all with no input from citizens, and apparently no rights for private citizens and property owners to stop them or even have a say.

It’s the story of the destruction of private property rights in America. Of injustice and tyranny. Of unaccountable government run amok. We need to take action! (See below, in blue, for what you can do.)

Jennie Granato is a tax-paying citizen of Montgomery County, Ohio. She and her family own a 165-year-old historic house and farm just outside of Dayton. They’ve lived there forty years. On July 31, Jennie’s front yard was demolished – thanks to local, county and planning commission bureaucrats!

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) has begun seizing people’s private property for its latest “essential” project – *a \$5-million bike path extension!* It has seized almost all of Jennie’s front lawn. The bike path will come within just a few feet of her front door!

Jennie and her family tried for over a year to negotiate and reason with this unelected planning commission. Unfortunately, the family was advised by lawyers not to say anything publicly about the pending land grab, so the media viewed it as a non-story. The county and its appraisers kept stalling, saying they wanted a meeting with Jennie, even as they ignored her pleas and offered a pittance for taking her front yard, and likely driving the value of her home down by tens of thousands of dollars.

The meeting never came – and officials didn’t even

allow Jennie’s uncle to speak at a hearing. *But the bulldozers certainly came!* Last week, with no warning, they just started demolishing trees. Jennie and her family still own the property – BUT the county has barged in, torn out their trees and destroyed their front yard! They will never be able to walk out their front door again, without worrying that they will be run over by bicyclists roaring by at 10 or 20 miles per hour, just inches from their bottom step.

The government trucks and bulldozers also precipitated an even worse tragedy. *Jennie’s 85 year old mother became so upset over seeing the government’s heavy machinery destroying her yard and favorite trees that she suffered a heart attack and died.*

Of course the government refuses to accept any responsibility for this tragedy. It was just promoting the “public welfare” of the private “stakeholders” and pressure groups it works with.

That too has become far too common. The government and these groups want more and more control over our lives, more power to tell us what we can and cannot do with our property and lives. But they accept no transparency and no accountability, responsibility or liability when their actions hurt ... or even kill ... someone – or when they destroy the property values, peace and integrity of a home.

The MVRPC is an unelected regional government force driven by federal Sustainable Development grant money. It never faces voters over its actions or positions of seemingly unbridled power. It simply deals with other government agencies – local, state and federal – and with private groups like the American Planning Association, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, and a hoard of other organizations that represent faux “conservation and environmental” interests whose real motivation is money, and the power to control our lives.

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They are “stakeholders” only in the sense that they *want* something – and are holding the stakes that their government friends are driving through the heart of our constitutional rights.

With the assistance of Federal and State grant programs and willing politicians, who see another way to build their own power and get elected over and over, they rule over us like unaccountable dictators. It’s the same story in nearly every community in our nation.

Neither Jennie nor any of her neighbors voted to institute the agency or its policies.

\* There was no vote for this bike path.

\* There was no referendum on the ballot to approve this project or the spending of their tax dollars.

Yet the MVRPC imposed itself on privately owned property, giving the owner no say in the matter and giving her a pittance in exchange for the land it is taking away. Soon, strangers on bikes will be crossing her land, passing within seven feet of her front door. And she fears there is nothing she can do about it.

How does she secure her home? How can she ever hope to sell it? Who will compensate her for the loss of value, now that her once lovely and private front lawn is gone? Certainly not the MVRPC.

My American Policy Center has warned Americans over and over about the dangers of this fraud called “Sustainable Development” – and the enforcement of top-down control through non-elected boards and regional governments. Here is that reality, in all of its outrageous raw power.

Jennie’s neighbors, property rights activists and Tea Party leaders are joining forces to support her fight to stop this outrage. They have gathered at the property, to protest and take the issue to the news media – and will do so again. To its credit, the media are finally starting to notice what is happening. But if that is the extent of it, you know full well that these government

officials will simply laugh, ignore the protests and news stories, wait for the attention to go away, and then grab someone else’s property.

That’s why concerned citizens across the nation need to join this fight and put power behind this effort to stop these bureaucrats from taking Jennie’s property. Freedom fighters need to build a huge protest fire and turn this into a national property rights issue.

Corrupt government officials use taxpayers as doormats, pawns, bank accounts and land holders for their agendas and power plays. If we continue doing nothing to stem the rising tide of government tyranny and corruption, we will watch our rights and property disappear, one by one.

### Here’s what you can do to help

As the local Dayton area residents do all they can with sign waving, demonstrations and protests to call attention to this blatant property theft, outraged Americans from across the country can bring an avalanche of phone calls and emails on the perpetrators – the scoundrels who think they can prey on any citizen without consequences. **Make them feel heat for their actions!!**

**Find the full list of officials, their names, phone numbers and emails of the Montgomery County, Ohio Commissioners, the Washington Township Board, and the members of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission on page 6. Then call them and let them know what you think!**

Americans concerned for their own liberties need to bury these officials in calls and emails of protest. We need to make these dictators and thieves aware that what they are doing is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We need to inform them that We the People have rights, and will fight for them.

Let them know they have overstepped their bounds. Destroying a family’s home, property, civil rights, peace of mind, and a woman’s life – for something as unnecessary as a bike path – is an outrage

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But, as you make these calls – BE RESPECTFUL. There is still a hope that some official or judge will listen and take the proper action to stop this theft and destruction of Jennie’s land.

If we can win this fight for Jennie in Ohio, we will have the strength and momentum to help the next victims of government overreach. And make no mistake, there will be one. So don’t wait. Call them now.

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1) The “construction limits” stake in this photo is less than 5 ft from the front wall of the Granato home. The “essential” bike path is just a foot from the sign, where the front yard used to be.



2) Heavy equipment tearing out the trees in front of the Granato home.



3) The plastic shows where the bike path will go – right up to the bottom step of the Granato home.



4) The magnolia and other trees largely gone. This is where the crew stopped briefly after Jennie Granato’s mother died of a heart attack.

## From the Internet:

# Subject: Immigration Letter to the Editor

### *New Immigrants*

*For some reason, people have difficulty structuring their thoughts when arguing against supporting the currently proposed immigration revisions. This lady made the argument pretty simple. NOT printed in the Orange County Paper.....*

*Newspapers simply won't publish letters to the editor which they either deem politically incorrect (read below) or which does not agree with the philosophy they're pushing on the public. This woman wrote a great letter in response to a series of letters published by the Orange County Register. But this one wasn't published.*

### **Dear Editor:**

So many letter writers have based their arguments on how this land is made up of immigrants. Ernie Lujan for one, suggests we should tear down the Statue of Liberty because the people now in question aren't being treated the same as those who passed through Ellis Island and other ports of entry.

Maybe we should turn to our history books and point out to people like Mr. Lujan why today's American is not willing to accept this new kind of immigrant any longer. Back in 1900 when there was a rush from all areas of Europe to come to the United States, people had to get off a ship and stand in a long line in New York and be documented. Some would even get down on their hands and knees and kiss the ground. They made a pledge to uphold the laws and support their new country in good and bad times. They made learning English a primary rule in their new American households and some even changed their names to blend in with their new home.

They had waved good bye to their birth place to give their children a new life and did everything in their power to help their children assimilate into one culture. Nothing was handed to them. No free lunches, no welfare, no labor laws to protect them. All they had were the skills and craftsmanship they had brought with them to trade for a future of prosperity.

Most of their children came of age when World War II broke out. My father fought alongside men whose parents had come straight over from Germany, Italy, France and Japan . None of these 1st generation Americans ever gave any thought about what country their parents had come from. They were Americans fighting Hitler, Mussolini and the Emperor of Japan. They were defending the United States of America as one people.

When we liberated France, no one in those villages were looking for the French-American or the German American or the Irish American. The people of France saw only Americans. And we carried one flag that represented one country. Not one of those immigrant sons would have thought about picking up another country's flag and waving it to represent who they were. It would have been a disgrace to their parents who had sacrificed so much to be here. These immigrants truly knew what it meant to be an American. They stirred the melting pot into one red, white and blue bowl.

And here we are with a new kind of immigrant who wants the same rights and privileges. Only they want to achieve it by playing with a different set of rules, one that includes the entitlement card and a guarantee of being faithful to their mother country. I'm sorry, that's not what being an American is all about. I believe that the immigrants who landed on Ellis Island in the early 1900's deserve better than that for all the toil, hard work and sacrifice in raising future generations to create a land that has become a beacon for those legally searching for a better life. I think they would be appalled that they are being used as an example by those waving foreign country flags.

And for that suggestion about taking down the Statue of Liberty, it happens to mean a lot to the citizens who are voting on the immigration bill. I wouldn't start talking about dismantling the United States just yet.

*(signed)*

*Rosemary LaBonte* ●

# Top 10 jumbo foundation grants fund Big Green

Although the public image of environmentalist finance has shifted from the 1960s Birkenstock-clad hippie, the results of my new survey of Big Green grant amounts may pop a few eyes.

In the past decade or so, there were 345,052 foundation grants for the environment, totaling \$20,826,664,000 (twenty billion and change), according to an authoritative database.

In the mid-1990s, I began using \$10 million as the baseline for a Big Green big grant, which is what I surveyed this week. That was generous for a single gift at the time, but things changed. Generosity had less and less to do with foundation donations as "prescriptive grants" appeared and took command.

"Prescriptive" is foundationese for "here's some money to do what you're told, and we want an accounting of the results." Environmental groups complained, but pioneer "prescriptivist," Donald Ross, then executive director of the Rockefeller Family Fund, told an audience of fellow foundation executives in 1992, "Too bad. They're players, we're players."

Donor foundations formed cartels such as the 200-plus member Environmental Grantmakers Association and the smaller, farther-left National Network of Grantmakers.

Donors began posting notices saying, "We do not accept unsolicited applications," and "Applications by invitation only." Foundations had quietly taken substantial control of the environmental movement by 2000.

However, I tracked foundation grants to see who was really the power and direction behind the campaigns and protests and lawyers and lobbyists. Today, foundations are the backbone of Big Green.

My survey found the Pew Charitable Trusts at Number 10, the bottom of the big-grant heap with \$40 million to Oceana, a Washington-based ocean-only group formed in 2001 by — who else? — the Pew Charitable Trusts, Oak Foundation, Marisla Foundation, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund — foundations creating Big Green activists to satisfy foundation agendas.

Number 9: Colorado's Denver Foundation, a "community foundation" with numerous endowments, as distinct from individual or family endowed "private foundations," such as Pew and Rockefeller (both types are classed 501c3).

Denver Foundation gave \$50 million to Wildlife Experience, a museum where you go inside to learn about the outside, in five \$10 million grants at the same time, a "cluster grant."

Number 8: The Foundation for Deep Ecology was created in

1998 by Douglas Tompkins by cashing out his share in clothing firm Esprit in a divorce settlement.

FDE ranks Number 8 for its \$70.1 million gift to Tompkins' Conservation Land Trust, through which he rules over large swaths of Chile and Argentina that he purchased, generating conflicts with the government over access to resources.

Number 7: The Walton Family Foundation (WalMart money) gave \$118 million to Arlington, Va.-based Conservation International, a group notorious for meddling in Third World countries with orders from offices that field employees and locals do not agree with.

Number 6: The Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust (fortune of the legendary short seller) gave \$155 million in similar grants to the Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Skipping Number 5, Number 4 is the Sierra Club Foundation (501c3), which gave the Sierra Club (501c4) and its chapters \$186 million.

The Top Three are computer-related endowments:

Number 3 is the David and Lucile Packard Foundation that gave \$280 million to ClimateWorks Foundation and two others.

Number 2 is the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation that gave \$332 million to Conservation International Foundation and others.

Number 1 is the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, with its \$341 million award to ClimateWorks Foundation and others.

Now about Number 5, which was actually the biggest single grant, \$178 million from the American Land Conservancy to the California Rangeland Trust — Hearst Ranch, for a "conservation plan" with a "conservation easement" preventing future development.

The point of this green-eyeshade bean counting is simple: If you believe the noisy bolster-President-Obama anti-oil-sands Keystone XL pipeline campaign wasn't launched by a foundation (the Rockefeller Brothers Fund did it), welcome to reality.

The Internal Revenue Service ought to look into this.

*Washington Examiner* columnist Ron Arnold is executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise. Ron Arnold Land: 425-454-9470 Cell: 425-503-0328  
Amazon's Ron Arnold Page ●

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## Putting Bicycles Ahead of People, cont.

### **Here's what you can do to help Jennie and her family save their home:**

1. Below I have listed the phone numbers and emails of the three Montgomery County Commissioners who should be supporting Jennie, their constituent and her property rights – yet they do nothing. We need to bury them in calls and emails of protest. We must make them aware that what they are doing is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We the people have rights and we will fight for them.

AS YOU MAKE THESE CALLS – BE RESPECTFUL.  
There is still a hope that some will listen and take the proper action to stop this taking of Jenny's land.

ALSO – DO NOT BRING UP AGENDA 21. STAY FOCUSED ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE. To argue Agenda 21 will only confuse the issue.

#### **Montgomery County Commissioners:**

**Commissioner Dan Foley (Has been recognized for his efforts in promoting bike trails:**

Phone: [\(937\) 225-4912](tel:937-225-4912)

Email: [romerc@mcOhio.org](mailto:romerc@mcOhio.org)

**Commissioner Deborah Lieberman:**

Phone: [\(937\) 225-4015](tel:937-225-4015)

Email: [oberert@mcOhio.org](mailto:oberert@mcOhio.org)

**Commissioner Judy Dodge: (and MVRPC Member)**

Phone: [\(937\) 225-6470](tel:937-225-6470)

Email: [startzmanc@mcOhio.org](mailto:startzmanc@mcOhio.org)

2. **Washington Township (Where the Grantos live, and which has been responsible for moving the trees and sending the bulldozers)**

**Joyce Young, Trustee President  
(elderly wheelchair bound)**

[jyoung@washingtontwp.org](mailto:jyoung@washingtontwp.org)

[937-433-0152](tel:937-433-0152)

**Scott Paulson, Trustee  
(attended a LG meeting, seemed somewhat conservative)**

[spaulson@washingtontwp.org](mailto:spaulson@washingtontwp.org)

[937-433-0152](tel:937-433-0152)

**Dale Berry, Trustee (Realtor - let's see him try to sell this house!)**

[dberry@washingtontwp.org](mailto:dberry@washingtontwp.org)

[937-433-0152](tel:937-433-0152)

3. Call the real perpetrators – the unelected members of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. They think they are immune and protected from your protest. Well, not if they can't use their email or phones because we have jammed them with protests MAKE THEM FEEL YOUR EMOTIONS OVER THE INJUSTICE OF THEIR ACTIONS!! BUT BE RESPECTFUL.

#### **MVRPC Officers:**

1. Michael Beamish, Chair Troy Mayor

[937- 339-1221](tel:937-339-1221) [mayor.beamish@troyohio.gov](mailto:mayor.beamish@troyohio.gov)

2. Jan Vargo, First Vice-Chair Huber Heights Council Member

[937-469-1193](tel:937-469-1193)

3. Carol Graff, Second Vice-Chair Beaver Creek Twp. Trustee

[937- 429-4472](tel:937-429-4472) [cgraff@beavercreektownship.org](mailto:cgraff@beavercreektownship.org)

#### **Executive Committee Members:**

1. Janet Bly Miami Conservancy District General Manager

[937-223-1278](tel:937-223-1278) x3220 [jbly@miamiconservancy.org](mailto:jbly@miamiconservancy.org)

2. John Agenbroad, Springboro Mayor (City of Springboro is right down the road from where Grantos live)

[937-748-0842](tel:937-748-0842) [council@cityofspringboro.com](mailto:council@cityofspringboro.com)

REMEMBER – BE RESPECTFUL – BUT FIRM. THEY HAVE VIOLATED JENNY'S PROPERTY RIGHTS – RAMMED A BIKE PATH RIGHT TO HER FRONT DOOR!! WOULD THESE OFFICIALS STAND FOR IT ON THEIR PROPERTY?

Thousands of us from all over the country, flooding the commissioner's offices with phone calls and emails will let them know that we are serious, and that the activists they see are backed by the voices of a nation that is sick and tired of being treated like second class citizens, subject to the whims of government edicts.

And if we can win this fight for Jennie in Ohio, we will have the strength and momentum to help the next victims of government overreach elsewhere in the nation. ●

**Lights** *Continued from Page 8*

The high cost of taxpayer subsidies and consumer electricity rates also results in two to four jobs being lost in traditional industries for every wind and solar job created via government manipulation of the marketplace. Blue-collar, poor and middle class families feel the worst impacts from this enormous wealth transfer to lobbyists, pressure groups, bureaucrats, and “green energy” companies and investors.

These subsidies are not sustainable; nor are the birds and bats and wildlife habitat being sacrificed on the altar of politically correct energy. Even worse, President Obama’s determination to slash hydrocarbon use by 80% – to stave off manmade global warming catastrophes that exist only in computer models, White House statements and Hollywood movies – will require a 25-fold increase in wind and solar electricity generation, resulting in the annihilation of numerous species in regions all across the Lower 48 States.

Renewable energy hucksters ignore all of this, as they seek more grants, tax credits, production mandates, feed-in tariffs, production tax credits, and guaranteed annual returns on investments. They seek to claim the high moral ground, by chanting “renewable” while ignoring the environmental, economic and human costs of capturing and delivering energy from their preferred sources.

A recent BBC News article notes that, while wind turbines are typically permitted for up to 25 years, developers anticipate upgrading or replacing them after as few as 10 years in many locations. Offshore life spans are even shorter. A new Scottish Natural Heritage report says, by 2034, the industry will need to recycle or dispose of some 225,000 metric tons of turbine rotor blade material per year. This means 225,000 metric tons of *new* rotor blades will have to be manufactured, using materials extracted from the Earth via mining, drilling and other processes that use energy and generate mountains of waste.

A 2009 article in *MacLife* magazine acknowledges that, while “solar-powered gadgets have become *de rigueur* in our attempts to shrink our carbon footprint,” there is a rarely discussed “dark side” to solar energy. Many solar panels are made with cadmium, a highly toxic carcinogen, and when these panels are

decommissioned after about 20 years there will be a huge accumulation of “e-waste.” Manufacturing polysilicon (a key component in sun-capturing wafers) generates four tons of toxic silicon tetrachloride for every ton of product – and Chinese firms that produce the bulk of this material and rare earth metals for solar panels and wind turbines have been dumping their wastes on farmlands and wildlife habitats.

Electric cars are likewise “environment friendly” only in the minds of renewable zealots. They require multiple large batteries that typically last up to three years and cost about \$8,000 apiece, not including disposal costs, Diane Bacher points out in eHow. Battery disposal involves putting their hazardous metal wastes in special landfills, and the mass production of electric car batteries will create large volumes of hazardous wastes, while placing as much demand on the power grid as traditional vehicle equipment manufacturing, Bacher notes. Increased use of electric vehicles would put enormous strain on power grids that rely increasingly on intermittent wind and solar energy and less on coal, natural gas and nuclear.

Meanwhile, Europe’s obsession with climate change and fossil fuel eradication has caused it to spend \$882 billion on wind and solar power since 2005. Over 800,000 Germans have had their electricity cut off, because they could not afford to pay their soaring electricity bills; millions of British families have been driven into fuel poverty; and millions remain jobless in a stagnant EU economy.

“Renewable energy” is a deliberate false labeling strategy, designed to curry favor with trendy urbanites who are ignorant about energy and economic reality. The real cost to U.S. economic growth, jobs and living standards from following the Green Brick Road to ecological paradise is equally beyond their ken.

This is energy policy by and for not-so-bright lights, who let their religious fervor for anything not hydrocarbon get in the way of common sense and fact-based analysis. Their policies will result in dim bulbs in our future light fixtures – and expensive, job-killing energy for other needs. We cannot afford to continue going down this suicidal path.

Craig Rucker is executive director of the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow ([www.CFACT.org](http://www.CFACT.org)) ●

# Not so bright lights

Craig Rucker

So-called “renewable energy” is not clean, renewable, reliable, affordable or sustainable.

“Renewable energy” is a sexy term used to drive public policies and spending. The Obama Administration and like-minded Green zealots have said repeatedly that they are waging a “war on coal,” intend to bankrupt coal-based power plants, and delay or block oil, natural gas and nuclear projects – while fast-tracking and subsidizing ethanol, wind and solar programs.

Another apostle of the renewable energy, anti-hydrocarbon movement is Senator Harry Reid. The chief organizer of and keynote speaker at this week’s falsely named National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas, Reid is a true believer in destroying conventional energy through subsidies, regulations and strong-arm tactics. He even wants to shut down every coal-fired power plant in Nevada.

Senator Reid may believe that compelling and subsidizing increased renewable energy use, while undermining and even outlawing conventional energy, is the way to economic growth and energy independence. In reality, this reckless scheme could easily cause the collapse of our energy grid, job creation, economy and living standards, just as it is already doing in Europe.

Unfortunately, Reid and his allies could get away with it, because “renewable” confers an almost Holy Grail status that ensures widespread political, media, public and corporate support (for a lot of wrong reasons). That lofty status, however, ignores two fundamental facts:

- 1) Wind, solar and biofuel energy are not renewable, eco-friendly, reliable, affordable or sustainable.
- 2) Renewable energy schemes can no longer be justified by claims that we are rapidly running out of fossil fuels or causing dangerous manmade global warming. Oil sands and hydraulic fracturing have obliterated the depletion myth, while climate change fears are belied by a 16-year hiatus from planetary warming, historic lows in hurricane and tornado activity, and the abject failure of CO2-focused climate computer models.

In other words, the craze for “renewables” is driven by religious zeal, not science or economics.

Capturing, converting and transmitting energy from any source requires an infrastructure – which involves construction, maintenance and eventual replacement, all of which require land disturbance, raw materials extraction and processing, energy and investment. There is no pure fountain from which to drink – only limited options, each with its own upsides and downsides.

To compare energy sources honestly and rationally for specific purposes (heating, lighting, transportation or manufacturing, for instance), we need to apply the same standards and analytical methods for each alternative. However, those who champion “renewables” have consistently misrepresented the human, environmental, capital, manufacturing and maintenance costs of providing reliable, affordable energy in sufficient quantities to power a modern economy and maintain desired living standards.

For example, the subsidies needed for wind and solar projects are many times higher per unit of energy actually produced than is the case for oil, natural gas, coal or nuclear power. And yet, even with those subsidies, electricity delivered by “renewable” sources is far more expensive than is power from conventional alternatives. That means families and businesses pay much higher bills for lighting, heating, air conditioning and machinery power, when renewable mandates are imposed – and higher costs for all consumer goods, since higher energy and manufacturing costs are passed along to consumers.

When we factor in the natural gas, coal or nuclear power plants needed as backup for intermittent, unreliable wind and solar facilities, supposedly environment friendly renewable options also require more land, raw materials, energy and money than alternative, conventional energy sources. Solar arrays also impact vast areas of wildlife habitat, while wind turbines [slaughter millions of birds and bats](#) annually – necessitating broad, long-term exemptions from endangered species and other environmental laws.

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