

Big Woods Declaration

2026

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"We are the ones we have been waiting for." – Jordan

"Love your neighbor as yourself." – Jesus

"We all do better when we all do better." – Wellstone

"All life is necessarily group life." – Veblen

"We are right to be afraid." – Paley

Two hundred and fifty years after our original Declaration of Independence, Americans face a new threat to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When the United States of America was founded, the threat was the tyranny of a single king. Today, the threat is the tyranny of elite, entitled members of a Counting Class^{N1} who wield nearly unlimited money power. This class of Counts waits on Free Income^{N2} to inflate runaway Money Counts.^{N3} Armed with extreme money, Counts upset balance with extremity and reduce American citizens to subjects. Counts break the promise of the American Dream.^{N4}

We the people of the United States of America can see that we are being left behind. Americans can tell that we don't have equal say in the decisions that shape our lives. Americans know that extreme money is corrupting our corporations, our governments, our families, and our relationships with neighbors. Americans can feel the hit to our dignity when we don't have the ability to pay for family needs and to keep up with the demands of today's world. We can see that we are missing out on the American Dream.

Our American Life^{N5} has been a great movement toward liberty and justice for all. America has generated wondrous abundance, breathtaking advances in science and technology, awesome creations in arts and entertainment, and a standard of living above anything the founders of our country could have imagined two and a half centuries ago. Our capitalist republic thrives on shared prosperity and the consent of the people.

Today, America is caught in a national crisis unlike any our country has faced before. Our American way of life is endangered by a Counting Class that throttles opportunity and cuts off the American Dream. Elite Counts hoard extreme money, retreat from the real world, and force their whims and wants on Americans without our consent.

America is held together by the strength and effort of all of us in the Contributing Classes.^{N6} Contributors are the Americans who show up each day to make, grow, create, and maintain things, to help and care for one another. Contributing Americans include everyone from families working to make ends meet, to middle class professionals, to farmers and wage workers, to business executives. We're parents, students, artists, volunteers, and caregivers.



Elite, entitled Counts are alien to this Contributing America. Counts are foreign to even our richest neighbors. Counts can choose to simply wait for Free Income to inflate their out-of-control, extreme Money Counts. They collect gains in Free Income as automatic as a clock, requiring no skill, knowledge, experience, or effort. They can stay exempt from work and taxes. Counts just keep ticking up the ranks of the Counting Class.

What Counts take out as Free Income is the value of the **Public Gains of America**.^{N7} That's trillions of dollars of American-made wealth. America thrives when we cycle our Public Gains back into American Life to power new growth. Then all of us in the Contributing Classes, richer and poorer, can make a greater American future.

America is an incredible engine of prosperity, formed of:

- **Public Knowledge**^{N8} (K) All the know-how from previous generations we inherit, develop, and pass along
- **Public Investment**^{N9} (I) All we do to provide public options up to the American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity
- **Public Resources**^{N10} (R) Everything we draw on and keep healthy in the real world, environmental and human
- **Public Extensions**^{N11} (E) All the ways we flex our power to adapt to changes, keep balance, and get things done



This generator, this **KIRE Engine of Prosperity**,^{N12} falters when Counts capture so much of America's Public Gains and fail to pay their debts to society. They hoard and withhold the money we need to fuel Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. The Counting Class takes apart what Americans have put together.

Members of the elite, entitled Counting Class live in denial. They show a lack of humble gratitude. They make believe that they are "self made." They refuse to accept their true dependence on America. They accuse Americans of their own failings: avoiding work, not earning their keep, suffering envy, and wasting resources. Counts complain about the needs of Contributing Americans and try to replace us with machines. They shirk responsibility for the extremism that they sponsor and inflame with extreme money.

The Counts of the Counting Class turn their backs on America, then rig our country for their self gain. They leave our neighborhoods behind, but tighten a remote grip on American lives. Runaway inflation of their Money Counts leaves us all worth less.

America thrives on the free and healthy competition of efforts and ideas. But America loses balance when entitled elites cross the **Counting Class Line**.^{N13} That's the point where the America we love falls subject to the corruption of extreme money. That's the point where a Counting Class emerges, a radical imbalance in our capitalist republic.

Armed with lethal extreme money, Counts endanger our American way of life:

- Counts withdraw from America.^{D1}
- Counts keep a grip on American lives.^{D2}
- Counts inflate the costs of living in America.^{D3}
- Counts drive America into debt.^{D4}
- Counts prey on the wealth of Americans.^{D5}
- Counts hoard the Public Gains of America.^{D6}
- Counts limit the wealth of Americans.^{D7}
- Counts take the future from young Americans.^{D8}
- Counts reject the American work ethic.^{D9}
- Counts shirk responsibility.^{D10}
- Counts awaken crude attitudes.^{D11}
- Counts push extreme plans on Americans.^{D12}
- Counts cheapen God and country.^{D13}
- Counts dishonor military public servants.^{D14}
- Counts undercut America's world standing.^{D15}
- Counts abuse America's land, water, air.^{D16}
- Counts imperil the American lifespan.^{D17}
- Counts shatter fellowship.^{D18}
- Counts corrupt charitable giving.^{D19}
- Counts corrupt education.^{D20}
- Counts corrupt corporations.^{D21}
- Counts corrupt governments.^{D22}
- Counts impair American judgment.^{D23}
- Counts warp real debate.^{D24}
- Counts replace qualified leaders in America.^{D25}
- Counts threaten American democracy.^{D26}
- Counts threaten capitalist America.^{D27}



Contributing Americans can call out these dangers. We can say, “Enough!” to the extreme money of elite, entitled Counts. We can unite as equals in all our differences to reclaim America’s Public Gains and regenerate our American Life. We can bring America up to our standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity.

When we stand united, Contributing Americans can save our American way of life:

- We can notice the Counts in America.^{S1}
- We can remember Counts are just real people.^{S2}
- We can trim back out-of-control Money Counts.^{S3}
- We can reclaim the Public Gains of America.^{S4}
- We can restrain the wrongdoing of Counts.^{S5}
- We can stop Counts from fleeing responsibility.^{S6}
- We can defend the values of the Contributing Classes.^{S7}
- We can embrace the spirit of insubordination.^{S8}
- We can evolve our outdated institutions.^{S9}
- We can decide what America's future will be.^{S10}
- We can expand Public Knowledge.^{S11}
- We can commit to Public Investment.^{S12}
- We can protect Public Resources.^{S13}
- We can exercise Public Extensions.^{S14}
- We can live and let live as equals.^{S15}
- We can champion the American Dream.^{S16}

There is a deep gulf in America between Counts and Contributors. Armed with extreme money, the Counting Class wields lopsided power over all American lives. No American can live free in the shadow of a Count.

Americans can choose to stand united with our neighbors against the tyranny of the Counting Class. Americans can achieve healthy balance. We can make a future of, by, and for the people. We can renew the American Dream of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, with justice for all. ■



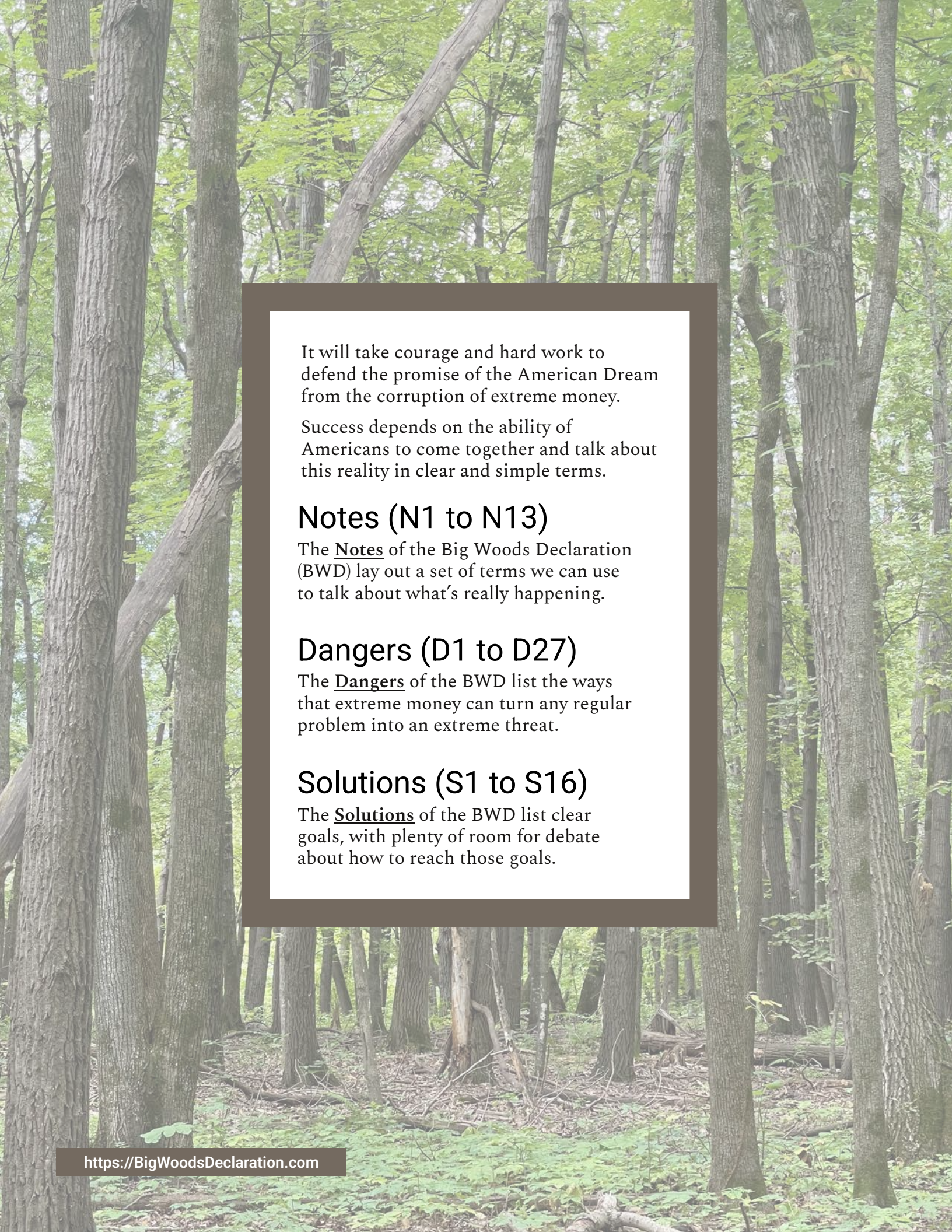
The Big Woods Declaration (BWD) is a First Amendment petition to the American people and our government. It is the result of a mission to find words to describe and defend the America we love. The Big Woods of Minnesota is a place of life and fellowship, where beautiful ideas have grown.

The BWD is made up of the Core Declaration (4 pages, 1,300 words), Notes (N1 to N13), Dangers (D1 to D27), and Solutions (S1 to S16). All photos in the BWD were taken in the Big Woods.

No form of AI was used to create the BWD. No opinion polling or focus groups were used to create the BWD. The opening quotes speak to ideas in the BWD. Their inclusion is not a claim of support.

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Some language and ideas were drawn from published writings of Thorstein Veblen in the public domain. The BWD was framed by Erik Christopher Sahlin with Alyssa Beth Wulf.



It will take courage and hard work to defend the promise of the American Dream from the corruption of extreme money.

Success depends on the ability of Americans to come together and talk about this reality in clear and simple terms.

Notes (N1 to N13)

The Notes of the Big Woods Declaration (BWD) lay out a set of terms we can use to talk about what's really happening.

Dangers (D1 to D27)

The Dangers of the BWD list the ways that extreme money can turn any regular problem into an extreme threat.

Solutions (S1 to S16)

The Solutions of the BWD list clear goals, with plenty of room for debate about how to reach those goals.

We could call them the Collecting Class or the Keeping Class or the Entitlement Class. But let's call them the Counting Class. They are the thousands of people in America who can afford to *wait* and *count* as clockwork Free Income inflates holdings of extreme money. Counts *exempt* themselves from most work and taxes, and they *take* more than they give.

Counts are the keepers of Money Counts above the Counting Class Line (CCL) of \$100 million. Above the CCL, a Count collects more in Free Income automatically than he can expect to earn from productive work.

What does it take to *become* a Count? Money. An inheritance or gift is simplest. Otherwise, reaching an entry-level Money Count of \$100 million before death could take a lot of work, or a lot of luck, or a lot of cheating.

What does it take to *stay* a Count? Nothing: no effort, no skill, no experience, no talent, no intelligence, no luck, and no grit. Not even greed is needed. It's just a machine process. Clockwork Free Income automatically inflates extreme money faster and faster. At a Money Count of \$100 million, or \$1 billion, or \$10 billion, or \$100 billion, all a Count has to do is to wait... and to count.

Being in the Counting Class doesn't mean sharing an agenda. Counts don't have to be on the same team with other Counts. Sometimes they may push the same plans, and sometimes they may not. Each Count can be a kind of lone operator, eyeing other Counts with envy. He can afford to spend his energy trying to jockey for higher rank in the Counting Class.

Counts live a virtual game, far removed from real life. They are absent from real America. Counts don't live in our neighborhoods. They can afford to retreat to remote compounds, out of touch with the lives of Americans. Counts can always choose to purchase private

freedom, private security, and private opportunity. They don't experience everyday stresses or needs. They don't have to show up for work. Counts don't even have to grow up.

But Counts are armed with lethal, extreme Money Counts that endanger all Americans. If a Count does nothing with that money, his hoarding throttles opportunity and threatens the American Dream. If he spends that extreme money, then he can corrupt our way of life to fit his personal whims and wants.

A Count may have good intentions. He may want to have a positive impact on the world. But he simply wields too much power. Just one Count—just one person—can be armed with a Money Count that outmatches millions of Americans put together. What if that one Count is mentally unwell? Or disloyal to American values? Or angry? Or careless? Or cruel? Then all Americans pay the price. ■



The Counting Class collects income in a way that requires no skill, experience, or even work. This income arrives as automatically as a clock. Let's call the money collected in this way Free Income. To collect Free Income, all that is required is to wait. Just *wait* and *count*.

Counts may want Americans to believe that it takes special genius to pile up extreme Money Counts. But the basic process is so simple a child could do it—as long as that child gets to start with at least \$100 million.

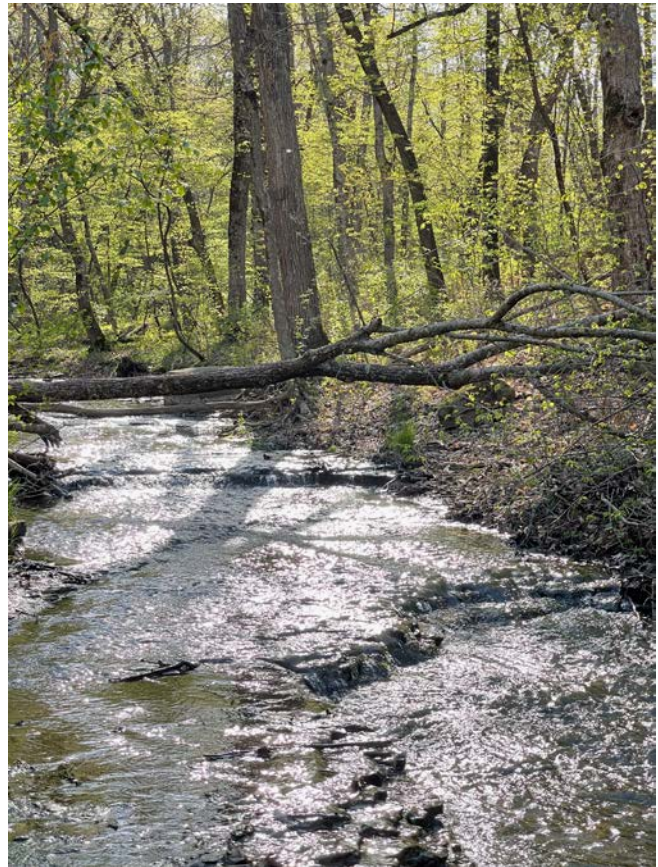
Every Count knows that he should expect an average yearly gain of 10%. This 10% increase is the famous long-term average gain of the stock market S&P 500. It extends across every market bubble and crash, and every run of exuberance or recession. Since Counts can afford to wait through ups and downs, they can get the 10% gains of the stock market.

This 10% is a powerful percentage. It causes a Money Count to *double* every 7.2 years. It means a Count can expect \$100 million to turn into \$1 billion automatically in 25 years, and then that \$1 billion to turn into \$10 billion automatically in the next 25 years. It's just clockwork math, ticking on and on.

Maybe there's a Count who has really bad luck or makes really poor choices and only collects Free Income at the rate of 7% or 5%. Then, the Money Count he keeps still doubles automatically every 10.3 or 14.4 years.

On the other hand, if 10% isn't enough, or is just too boring, there are lots of alternatives: hedge funds, private equity, private debt, or various kinds of arbitrage and speculation. Counts may lecture Americans that it's all too complicated to explain. But it's just the same simple plan: try to beat the 10% yearly gain in Free Income available from the stock market.

All this Free Income is the value of the Public



Gains of America. And that's OK in our capitalist American system, as long as we all have equal chances to compete for it. But Counts collect Free Income at extremes that Contributing Americans can't ever match:

- Unlike Counts, Contributing Americans don't get to start doubling Money Counts when we're young. First we spend years working to earn income and pay off debt.
- Contributing Americans can't afford to leave our money untouched for decades in order to lock in 10% gains. We have to use most of it for immediate needs. We use it for things like places to live, cars, raising our kids, education, food, and healthcare.
- A 10% gain on \$10 thousand or even \$1 million can never keep pace with the runaway inflation of Money Counts with 10% gains on \$100 million or \$100 billion. ■

Counts collect all kinds of things that can be sold for money, both real physical things and non-physical claims. Let's call the total price of a Count's collection his Money Count.

It's all we need to know about a Count.

It tells us: (1) how lethal his money power is, (2) how much he will get as Free Income, and (3) how big of a target he can eye next.

To make sense of all the ranks and sub-ranks of Counts, let's use something like the scoring system popular in video games. We can use "E8" for 8 zeros, "E9" for 9 zeros, and so on. In this way, a Money Count rank of "6E8" is "6 with 8 zeros," or \$600,000,000.

We have 4 ranks of Counts in America today:

- E8-rank Counts (centi-millionaires)
- E9-rank Counts (billionaires)
- E10-rank Counts (deca-billionaires)
- E11-rank Counts (centi-billionaires)

Money Counts automatically go up: Free Income makes them double every 7.2 years. And once a Count, it's very hard to lose that status. Even if a Count loses 90% of his entire Money Count, he only drops *one single rank*.

Elite Counts armed with extreme E8, E9, E10, and E11 Money Counts endanger Americans and our American way of life. They upset balance. They outmatch our governments and corporations. With extreme money, Counts wield unchecked power to push any whim or want on all Americans, without our consent.

Extreme money is a math problem. Clockwork math means that in the coming generation we will face E12-rank Counts (trillionaires), followed by E13-rank Counts.

That's like leaving a nuclear or biological weapon in the hands of a lone Count. It's the deadly power to threaten, harm, and end human lives in America and in the world. ■

Counting Class			
*stock market S&P 500 average yearly gain: 10%			
Rank	Sub-Rank	Money Count	Free Income Each Year*
E8	1E8	\$100,000,000	\$10 million
	2E8	\$200,000,000	\$20 million
	3E8	\$300,000,000	\$30 million
	4E8	\$400,000,000	\$40 million
	5E8	\$500,000,000	\$50 million
	6E8	\$600,000,000	\$60 million
	7E8	\$700,000,000	\$70 million
	8E8	\$800,000,000	\$80 million
	9E8	\$900,000,000	\$90 million
E9	1E9	\$1,000,000,000	\$100 million
	2E9	\$2,000,000,000	\$200 million
	3E9	\$3,000,000,000	\$300 million
	4E9	\$4,000,000,000	\$400 million
	5E9	\$5,000,000,000	\$500 million
	6E9	\$6,000,000,000	\$600 million
	7E9	\$7,000,000,000	\$700 million
	8E9	\$8,000,000,000	\$800 million
	9E9	\$9,000,000,000	\$900 million
E10	1E10	\$10,000,000,000	\$1 billion
	2E10	\$20,000,000,000	\$2 billion
	3E10	\$30,000,000,000	\$3 billion
	4E10	\$40,000,000,000	\$4 billion
	5E10	\$50,000,000,000	\$5 billion
	6E10	\$60,000,000,000	\$6 billion
	7E10	\$70,000,000,000	\$7 billion
	8E10	\$80,000,000,000	\$8 billion
	9E10	\$90,000,000,000	\$9 billion
E11	1E11	\$100,000,000,000	\$10 billion
	2E11	\$200,000,000,000	\$20 billion
	3E11	\$300,000,000,000	\$30 billion
	4E11	\$400,000,000,000	\$40 billion
	5E11	\$500,000,000,000	\$50 billion
	6E11	\$600,000,000,000	\$60 billion
	7E11	\$700,000,000,000	\$70 billion
	8E11	\$800,000,000,000	\$80 billion
	9E11	\$900,000,000,000	\$90 billion

The American Dream has never just been about getting by when you work hard and play by the rules. It has never just been about affordable groceries. The true American Dream has never been so small, so limited.

The true American Dream is young hope and aspiration. It's wonder and ambition. It's imagining a future of great possibilities: new families, new homes, new careers, new creations, new friends, new plans, new adventures. It's each of us getting to shape our own destiny. It's the spirit of America.

This is the American Dream that the Counting Class endangers. Counts throttle opportunity, hoard resources, and force their own whims and wants on us all. And Counts act like we're not smart enough to see their game for what it truly is. They advertise freedom and opportunity for all, but keep real freedom and opportunity for just themselves.



Counts try to sell the American Dream back to Americans as a kind of casino. They promote the possibility for a few of us to win big payoffs. They try to stir up feelings of envy and greed. They sell a shot-to-try-for-a-chance-to-win and call it opportunity.

But Americans know this predatory scam is not the American Dream. Casinos promise the maximum but only deliver the minimum. And Counts are like the casino operators. They aren't gambling along with the rest of us. They're counting on the clockwork math that ensures the house always wins. That's nothing like the equal opportunity that anchors the promise of the American Dream.

Keeping that promise for each new generation takes a real commitment. And young Americans today know we haven't done enough. They start out in a world where the Counting Class has already amassed extreme money impossible to match. They bear out-of-control costs for education, child care, and housing. They face terribly unclear job prospects. And they can see that Counts are taking apart the public options that would have offered them help and protection.

The extreme money of the Counting Class corrupts the American Dream. Counts shut down our chance to shape our own futures.

We can renew the American Dream for all when we reclaim America's Public Gains and put them back into our KIRE Engine of Prosperity. We can trim back extreme Money Counts and fuel Public Investment at the American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity.

The *pursuit of happiness* is the possibility of America. It's everything from trying to get rich, to enjoying the simple pleasures of life, without constant stress and worry. America is where we each choose our own destiny. ■

As Americans together, we work to grow, adapt, survive, and thrive in our ever-changing world. Let's call this group effort our American Life. It's how we renew the promise of America for each new generation. To support our American Life, we keep healthy cycles going. We avoid damaging extremes and keep a beneficial balance.

Regeneration is key. America's farmers understand the power of regeneration to produce the foods and the fibers we all need. They cultivate fruitful cycles: energy, water, nutrients, carbon. And the whole system of life gets stronger, more resilient, and more productive. On the other hand, wasteful extraction and depletion of resources results in degeneration, decline, and death.

We regenerate our American Life when we reclaim our Public Gains and cycle them back into America. We keep our engine of prosperity going strong when we renew Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions.

The Counting Class cuts off this healthy regenerative cycle, causing waste and stagnation. Counts hoard the Public Gains of America as Free Income to inflate their extreme Money Counts. They throttle the flow of money and resources. Counts close off Public Knowledge. Counts starve Public Investment. Counts abuse Public Resources. Counts bloat Public Extensions.

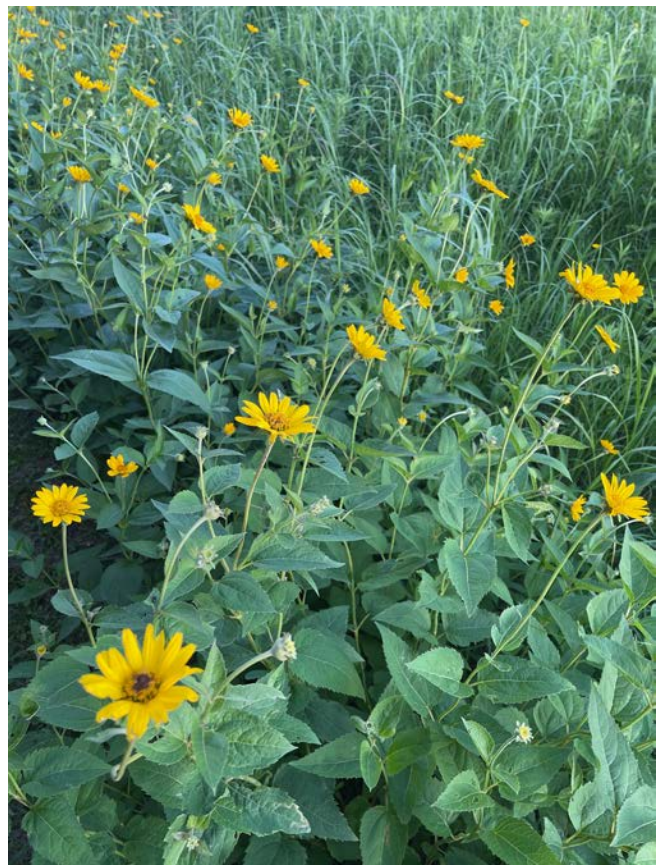
The regeneration of American Life may not matter that much to Counts. They're already holding extreme Money Counts, and it's easy for them to live in denial of their debts to America. If our American Life degenerates and declines, they can afford to retreat to remote compounds, or take away their Money Counts and flee America to foreign countries.

Some Counts may have the best of intentions.

They may think they know best how to run America. They complain if Americans don't follow their plans. But the problem is with the Counting Class itself. Extreme Money Counts are a kind of extreme waste and inefficiency that threatens American Life. When Counts pile up extreme money for self gain, they cut off healthy regeneration.

It's easy to make economic issues seem like they're too complicated to explain. But Contributing Americans get all of this as common sense. Balanced systems are stronger than ones with runaway extremes. Regeneration is how we nourish and nurture new growth. We draw on the best know-how. Get the right tools for the job. Put in the time and money and resources. Stretch and adapt to anything unintended or unexpected.

We repeat it all over again with each new generation. That's the cycle of American Life. ■



There are lots of labels for people who are *not* in the Counting Class: working class, small business owners, farmers, retirees, richer and poorer folks, professionals, stay-at-home parents, farmworkers, middle class, working families, students, caregivers, and even super-rich executives. Let's call all these do-ers the Contributing Classes. That's all of us who show up each day and work, make, care, create, volunteer, and help one another.

Contributing Americans are all of us who *give* more than we *get*. We're the ones who keep paying into America, whether in terms of money or effort. We stay present in our communities, we feel the drive to do what it takes to make a difference, and we know we are accountable to our neighbors. In many different ways, most all Americans share membership in the Contributing Classes.

But we also have a Counting Class whose members *get* far more than they *give*. Counts draw out much more Free Income than they can realistically expect to receive as earned income. And they do so while they retreat from our communities, avoid work, take advantage of others, cause extreme waste and inefficiency, and shirk responsibility.

We in the Contributing Classes are *all in* for America. Unlike Counts, we're still rooted here in communities throughout our country, living with our American neighbors. So we can't pretend we don't answer to one another. We can't make believe that we don't depend on one another. We can't just turn our backs when our neighbors are struggling. We can't just walk away from responsibility for our mistakes. And unlike Counts, if we don't like how things are going, we can't afford to just pick up and leave for a foreign country.

But despite our commitment, Contributing Americans are losing control over our lives. Absentee Counts wield extreme money to call



the shots on the decisions that shape our futures. And no matter how much money we earn, no matter how much our investments grow, we are always getting poorer compared to the Counting Class. All of us in the Contributing Classes—richer and poorer—are getting leveled down and left behind. The gulf in America between Counts and Contributors expands wider and wider.

We can't rely on Counts to solve this problem, since they are the problem. They collect America's Public Gains for self gain, while Americans face cuts to public options and swelling debt. To really deal with the problem, we can say, "Enough!" to runaway extreme Money Counts, and trim them back.

That way, we can welcome Counts to join the Contributing Classes, as "regular" super-rich Americans. That way, we can cycle our Public Gains and regenerate our American Life. ■

America has been the greatest wealth generating machine the world has ever seen. Most of this wealth is the output of America's special combination of Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. Let's call this American-made wealth the Public Gains of America. American Life thrives when we cycle Public Gains back into our engine of prosperity.

In our American capitalist system, we expect Public Gains to be cycled in two main ways: (1) Some Public Gains should be claimed by Americans through fair and balanced competition and, in time, cycled back into American Life. (2) Some Public Gains should be used by our governments to advance Public Knowledge, to commit to Public Investment up to American standards, to protect the health of our Public Resources, and to flex our power with Public Extensions.

The Counting Class corrupts both these ways Public Gains regenerate our American Life.

Counts take out a grossly outsized portion of America's Public Gains through automatic Free Income. But unlike any Free Income received by Contributing Americans, this money does little to support American Life. Instead, Counts keep larger and larger hoards that pile up faster and faster. And those extreme Money Counts are little more than a dead end for the Public Gains of America.

Counts also burden Americans *with* massive national debt, and *without* the resources we need to renew Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. Counts show a lack of gratitude for America's KIRE Engine of Prosperity. They deny their debts to America, as they lecture us all about "self made" money. They leave Americans without equal opportunity.

What the Counting Class does best is collect

a grossly outsized portion of our Public Gains. Doing nothing at all, a Count can get 10% gains yearly in Free Income, doubling his Money Count every 7.2 years. That starts at \$5 billion *a year* in Free Income to a middle-rank E10 Count. It's just clockwork math. And when a Count wields extreme money, he can prey on even more of America's riches: America's natural lands, America's communication systems, America's advanced science, and our most innovative companies.

When America is working, all Americans can share in the wealth of our Public Gains. That's either through individual gains from healthy competition, or through the renewal of our Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions.

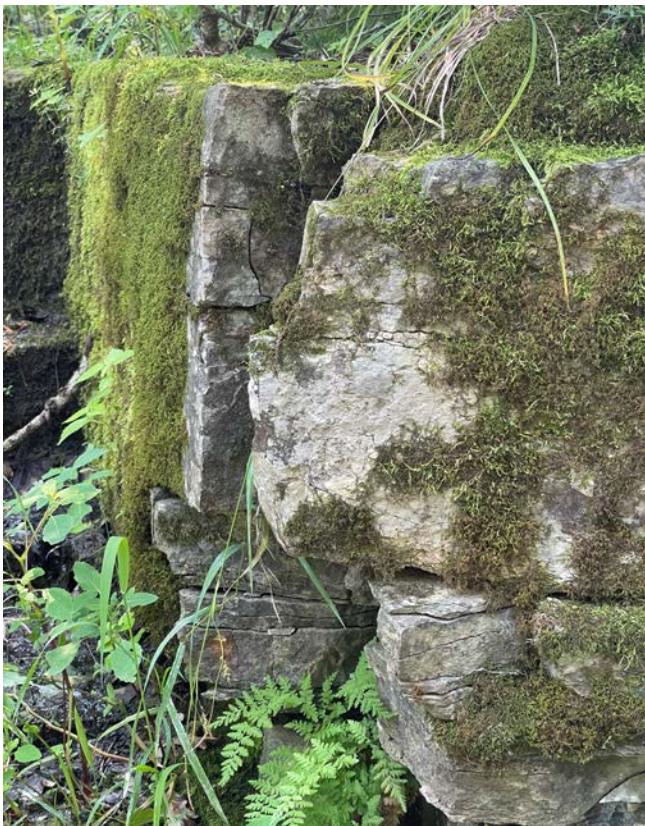
But today, Counts armed with extreme money collect more and more of America's Public Gains as their own private entitlement. ■



All Americans are born into a world that has already figured out how to do so many of the things that need doing. We inherit an absolutely massive body of know-how, handed down from the past. Our ancestors built it up over generations, and we all can contribute to it and carry it forward. Let's call this treasure our Public Knowledge.

America's Public Knowledge is stored in places like libraries and electronic databases. Our Public Knowledge lives in the minds of our teachers, parents, farmers, creatives, scientists, and specialists. And we pass it along in our schools, research centers, service organizations, farms, workplaces, and homes.

Our Public Knowledge increases in an open, inclusive, and curious environment. It's what makes creativity and innovation possible. We start with what's known, we make new discoveries and develop new techniques, and we produce the new *state of the art*.



When Americans build anything new—like a computer chip—we draw on a mind-boggling amount of existing know-how. That's everything from how to turn sand into pure silicon, to how to structure chains of logic, to how to keep a room perfectly free of dust. The “innovation” that makes a computer chip possible is more than 99% existing Public Knowledge and less than 1% new thinking.

Our inheritance of Public Knowledge is extraordinarily valuable. It's what makes America's prosperity possible. Putting that body of know-how to use is how we generate much of the Public Gains of America.

But it can take a lot of money to realize the potential of the most advanced Public Knowledge. So individuals team up and pool resources through corporations and governments. That's how we use the power of Public Knowledge to build a better airplane or to develop a new medical treatment.

No wonder the Counting Class targets Public Knowledge for self gain. A lone Count can wield extreme money to freely use of our advanced Public Knowledge, lock up control of new technologies, and outmatch any competing development. And then he can collect the Public Gains generated by the use of Public Knowledge as his own Free Income.

Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful, automated way to collect and mine Public Knowledge. AI can operate at a giant scale. Counts now use AI to mine much of America's stock of Public Knowledge, to extract profitable pieces of information.

Public Knowledge is our shared inheritance. Americans can decide to keep good custody of our treasure of know-how. We can commit to public options and guardrails for AI, strengthen public research, and pass our legacy of know-how to the next generation. ■

From education to healthcare to housing to public safety, we put our Public Gains back into America. That's how we work to make sure public options are available to protect the promise of the American Dream for all Americans. Let's call this commitment Public Investment. Our Public Investment is how we provide public options that meet the American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity.

The school system is our public option for learning. The police are our public option for security. The postal service is our public option for shipping. Social Security is our public option for retirement pay. The courts are our public option for justice. We can offer public options for credit, transportation, housing, healthcare, communications—for everything essential to American Life.

Public options are how we fulfill the promise of our social contract to one another. Our commitment to Public Investment is how we: (1) maintain safety nets for all, (2) provide equal access to resources to pursue the American Dream, (3) support fair and healthy competition, and (4) protect all Americans from the abuses of predatory bad actors.

When we don't commit to public options up to American standards, there's no true equal freedom, no true equal security, and no true equal opportunity. Many Americans live just one bad event away from getting wiped out. Contributing Americans don't have tools we need to follow our dreams. Small businesses can't compete with bigger corporations. And all Americans have to "take it or leave it" from Counts, when for anything essential to life, "leave it" is never a real option.

Armed with extreme money, the Counting Class can choose to purchase whatever freedom, security, and opportunity they please for themselves. Counts have no use for



public options. They can afford to take apart the public options Americans put together.

Counts often lecture Americans about how to make Public Investment more efficient. But their real objective is to get us to settle for less than our American standards. For the Counting Class, "efficiency" is really about cutting down Public Investment and limiting public options. Public options reduce potential flows of Free Income for Counts. And the more value Americans see in Public Investment, the more likely we are to rein in extreme money and reclaim our Public Gains.

The real waste and inefficiency happens as Counts divert money out of American Life to pile up Money Counts. When Counts throttle the money we need for Public Investment, Contributing Americans are left with less freedom, less security, and less opportunity. ■

America is endowed with an extraordinary wealth of natural resources and human energy. These are the people, plants, animals, land, water, and air we work to keep healthy and put to use for American Life to thrive. Let's call all these physical parts of America our Public Resources. Americans know our future depends on how well we protect, sustain, and renew our Public Resources.

There's always a balance to maintain. The *price value* of our Public Resources can lead to threats to the *life value* of our Public Resources. The price value can drive speculation, abuse, and depletion. Purely in terms of prices, it can make sense to poison our soil, dump carbon into our air, and dump toxins into our water. Price value demands maximum possible strain and sacrifice from America's workers for the least possible pay.

The price value can change dramatically. Any advance in Public Knowledge can change the price value of a particular Public Resource. For example, learning how to harness the power of electricity causes the price value of copper to *increase*, while advances in robotics and AI can cause the price value of human labor to *decrease*.

In contrast, the life value of our neighbors, our environment, our own lives—that's priceless. Money doesn't work to name the value. We don't use money to measure the value of human life or our environment. We understand the life value of our world through faiths, science, and our humanity.

Usually Americans can defend the life value of our Public Resources against extreme abuses. We can set up rules to regulate how we draw on those resources, to stop extremes and keep things in balance. We can make sure that when Contributing Americans go to work, we have the power to defend the value of that work. We can defend our wellbeing.

But the extreme money of the Counting Class knocks America out of balance. Elite, entitled Counts can easily override the will and efforts of Contributing Americans. Armed with extreme money, a Count can simply ignore or take apart the agreements we put in place to protect the health of our Public Resources.

It's too easy for Counts to abuse our Public Resources for self gain. They don't have to live with the consequences. They retreat to remote compounds and insulate themselves from any harms. Absentee Counts know they can afford to use up American lives. Counts know they can afford to damage and deplete America's land, water, and air. And Counts know they can avoid any responsibility and leave Americans to clean up their messes.

When Americans stand united to trim back extreme Money Counts, that's when we can truly protect our wealth of Public Resources. ■



America is strongest when we are able to adapt to change. We can pull in new people and draw on new resources. We can also flex America's power through extensions of credit. Let's call all the ways we stretch America's capacity our Public Extensions. We rely on Public Extensions to stay flexible and achieve new balance through big changes.

We can flex the power of Public Extensions in plenty of ways. We can welcome immigration and expand the use of public property. We can take on public debt, increase the amount of money in circulation, and offer public loans.

We can also exercise Public Extensions to provide public options for credit when private credit isn't doing the job. We can use Public Extensions to spread the costs of big projects over many years. We can flex Public Extensions to handle anything unexpected, from a pandemic to a war to a major change in technology, like AI or renewable energy.

But to keep flexibility for the future, we can't let America get overextended.

Americans know that our bloated national debt is a gross misuse of Public Extensions. Too many of those tens of trillions of dollars of debt has been used to put off problems and avoid hard decisions. We are leaving our kids a legacy of debt. We are limiting America's ability to respond and adapt to future change.

Who benefits most from this extreme debt? Elite, entitled Counts in the Counting Class. Each time we increase our national debt, we supply more money for Counts to target and collect. Each time we rely on borrowing instead of reclaiming our Public Gains, we leave even more in the hands of Counts.

When Counts continue to pile up extreme Money Counts, Americans pay the price. Much less money is available to renew our

Public Investment, Public Knowledge, and Public Resources. There's pressure to raise taxes higher on the wealth and income of the Contributing Classes. And we have to take on far more debt. Out-of-control Free Income to Counts throttles equal opportunity, pushes up taxes, and drives out-of-control debt.

It doesn't have to be this way. Americans can solve the paired problems of extreme money and extreme debt. We can trim back extreme Money Counts, reclaim the Public Gains of America, and pay down our national debt.

Public Extensions have juiced the extreme Money Counts of the Counting Class. But now that the bill is coming due, Counts make exit plans and pursue new targets. They even push an agenda to replace our US dollar with their own "crypto" money. When Counts try to take over the power of our Public Extensions, Americans can say "no." ■



The wealth we generate in America is made possible by our special combination of *Public Knowledge*, *Public Investment*, *Public Resources*, and *Public Extensions*. To keep it shorter and simpler, let's call this our KIRE Engine of Prosperity. It's how America has produced such incredible Public Gains.

The KIRE Engine sustains our American group life. Public Resources—we *the people* and our environment—operate like our American “body.” Public Knowledge—all the know-how we inherit and develop—is like our American “mind.” Public Investment is how we use our body and our mind in the world. And Public Extensions are how we keep flexibility and maintain our balance.

Every society has some form of KIRE Engine. It's not unique to America. But ours has been the most powerful and productive the world has ever seen. And every human society



produces Public Gains. But again, America has generated Public Gains beyond any other society on the planet. And those Public Gains are distributed in our distinct American way.

Another country might say Public Gains all belong to a royal family. Or it might try to portion out an equal share of Public Gains to each person. Or it might just let Public Gains go to the victors of a predatory free-for-all.

In capitalist America, we believe some Public Gains should be claimed by Americans through fair and balanced competition. And we expect those gains to be cycled back into American Life over time. We also reclaim some of our Public Gains to put back into our KIRE Engine, so it's stronger for all.

When our system is working, we keep moving toward more equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity. Each of us can have the chance to collect some of America's Public Gains directly as Free Income. And we can feel pride and gratitude for that bounty.

But the Counting Class cuts off the healthy regeneration of our American system. Counts hoard America's Public Gains as they collect more and more outsized amounts of Free Income to inflate their extreme Money Counts. They throttle our KIRE Engine, and even break it down for more self gain.

Today, each part of America's KIRE Engine is endangered by Counts. Counts use AI to raid Public Knowledge. Counts take apart the public options we provide through our Public Investment. Counts abuse Public Resources at extremes that threaten life in America. And Counts hinder Public Extensions with maxed-out debt and “crypto” money.

Our American future depends on the strength of our KIRE Engine of Prosperity. It's how America survives and thrives. It's how we keep the American Dream alive. ■

There's a point at which a Money Count becomes so extreme that it is no longer possible to be working for a living. It's the point where, no matter what a Count chooses to do, he can no longer *earn* more than what he *takes* automatically in clockwork Free Income. Let's call this point the Counting Class Line. It marks a deep gulf in America.

Currently, the Counting Class Line is at a Money Count of about \$100 million. The exact number is debatable. And it changes over time. But it is simple to identify: All we need to know is (1) the long-term *Free Income* rate available to those who can afford to wait, and (2) the *maximum wage* that the most highly qualified Americans can typically expect to earn from productive work.

In American today, we can say that (1) the *Free Income* rate is 10%, since that's the long-term average yearly gain of the stock market S&P 500. And we can say that (2) the *maximum wage* is around \$10 million, since that's about the take-home pay for the CEO of a typical mid-range, top-500 corporation.

This means that anyone with a Money Count over \$100 million collects more in yearly Free Income than the \$10 million he otherwise might hope to receive in earned income for work. And many Counts collect so much more: a middle-rank E10 Count collects \$5 billion a year in Free Income, just by waiting.

Beyond the Counting Class Line, a Count can choose to stay busy if he wants. He doesn't have to only wait to collect Free Income. But any income he might earn from work is easily eclipsed by that Free Income. In terms of money, past the Counting Class Line the *net contribution* to America turns negative.

The Counting Class Line is where we reach an end to any healthy competition of efforts and ideas. Counts can just collect inflating

amounts of Free Income. And things like work, quality, and merit matter less and less. That's a grave threat to capitalist America.

The Counting Class Line is a dangerous breaking point. As Counts become more and more disconnected from the reality of life in America, they also gain more and more power. With no need to work for a living or to work with neighbors, Counts can afford to play America like a game. They can treat productive corporations like hobbies, and they can treat any of our representative governments like personal pastimes.

The deepest gulf in America today isn't between richer and poorer members of the Contributing Classes. It's between all of us who keep contributing to American Life, and Counts who collect Free Income at escalating extremes. The elites who cross the Counting Class Line threaten the America we love. ■



Counts can afford to withdraw from America. They can collect America's Public Gains and retreat to remote compounds. And Counts threaten to take out our Public Gains and quit America entirely.

And this violates fundamental American values.

America is one nation. Every day Americans renew our pledge to our indivisible American republic, with liberty and justice for all. To be an American is to stand united together in our American Life.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Turn their backs on American Life.** Counts don't live in our neighborhoods. They don't drink our water, don't attend our schools or places of worship, don't shop at our grocery stores, don't work along with us, don't join our everyday lives. Counts make themselves absent.
- **Withdraw Public Gains at runaway speed.** The Money Counts of the Counting Class inflate as they withdraw the wealth of America's Public Gains as Free Income. The larger the Money Count, the faster it inflates. Contributing Americans are left behind, standing still.
- **Take the money and run.** When Americans try to reclaim our Public Gains, Counts simply threaten to leave and take America's wealth away with them as they go. Counts know they can afford to quit America entirely. Counts can afford to cash out on America.



- **Wall off private opportunity, security, and freedom.** Counts retreat to remote compounds where they can always choose to purchase their own private freedom, security, and opportunity. They don't need the support or protection of any public options, even for healthcare.
- **Deny their debts to America.** With a total lack of humble gratitude, Counts deny their debts to America. They retreat to the delusion that extreme money comes from isolated "genius," not America's KIRE Engine of Prosperity. They make believe that they are "self made."
- **Stick Americans with the bill.** Counts are nowhere to be found when it's time to pay the bill for America's national debt, or to use Public Gains to fuel Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. Americans are left to pay the bill. ■

Counts keep a grip on American lives. They wield extreme money to call the shots for communities across America. They shape places they have withdrawn from, do not represent, and do not understand.

And this violates fundamental American values.

America is of the people, by the people, and for the people. American citizens and our elected representatives make the decisions that shape our lives, not un-elected, absentee elites.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Wield absentee power over we the people.** Counts do not live with us, are not like us. They've made themselves alien to the "we" of we the people. But from far away, they make the decisions that shape our lives.
- **Decide what kind of lives Americans get.** Whether we get the medicines we need. Whether our air is safe to breathe and our water is safe to drink. Whether our kids are sucked into addictive technologies. Whether our communities stagnate or thrive. Whether we can afford the American Dream. Counts take our decisions.
- **Outmatch our decision making bodies.** Counts are armed with Money Counts that outsize and outmatch most of our governments and corporations. An E8-sized county government is no match for an E10 Count. An E10 Count can take advantage and do what he pleases.



- **Sideline our richest neighbors and local businesses.** Even our richest neighbors and local businesses are helpless against the whims and wants of a Count. A family or business with \$25 million doesn't even match a single day of an E11 Count's automatic Free Income.
- **Run America on their terms.** Counts put Americans in an impossible "take it or leave it" situation, where "leave it" just isn't a real option. Don't want your intimate, personal information captured, probed, and sold? Then you don't get to use modern technology.
- **Force bad decisions on Americans.** When Counts take away our Public Gains, they force us into bad decisions. Americans have to tax more and more of each other's limited wealth just to take care of basic needs. And that pits neighbor against neighbor. ■

Counts can inflate the costs of living in America, to the highest possible prices any American can bear. Counts benefit from higher prices, while the rest of us watch the American Dream slip away.

And this violates fundamental American values.

America is founded on the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. No one has the right to drive the price of the American Dream out of reach of Contributing Americans.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Price Americans out of prosperity.** For any necessity or luxury in demand, extreme Money Counts mean inflated prices. Counts have far more dollars to use to buy the same fixed set of things. The Counting Class can leave Contributing Americans priced out of prosperity.
- **Hold life essentials hostage for higher prices.** Counts can use extreme money to lay claim to anything essential to life. They can control a life-saving drug and then inflate the price to “what the market will bear.” And who wouldn’t spend everything to save the life of their child?
- **Push expensive debt on Americans.** When America is artificially juiced with tens of trillions of dollars from national debt, there’s more money for Counts to target and collect. But Americans pay the costs of a weaker US dollar and higher interest rates on any more borrowing.



- **Target the price protection of public options.** Public options protect against predatory pricing by Counts who have cornered a market. And so Counts target any existing public options: public schools, public healthcare, public transit, public mail, public security.
- **Make Americans pay more for the damage Counts cause.** Counts wield extreme money to pursue their whims and wants, leaving Americans with the costs. Climate damage means higher insurance costs. AI data mining plants mean higher energy and water bills.
- **Put a price on more and more of America.** The Counting Class uses extreme money to claim more of America and sell it for more money. Left unchecked, Counts will make AI a new subscription cost, charging Americans just to use our own Public Knowledge. ■

Counts can drive America into debt, while they fail to pay back their own debts to American society. Counts game debt of all kinds to increase their Money Counts and avoid responsibility.

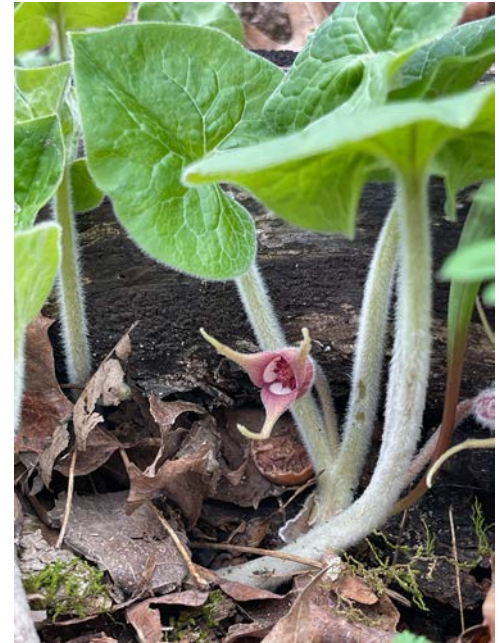
And this violates fundamental American values.

It makes sense for America to flex our power and take on debt to deal with specific challenges. But we don't believe in borrowing recklessly, and we don't believe in burdening our kids with debt.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Use America's national debt for self gain.** When America borrows tens of trillions of dollars, it makes more money available for Counts to target and collect. In this way, the extreme Money Counts of the Counting Class are sponsored by our massive US national debt.
- **Force more debt by hoarding Public Gains.** Counts hoard the Public Gains of America for themselves, leaving our national government without the money to keep Public Investment up to American standards. To save public options, we're forced into more debt.
- **Deal in debt to prey on America.** Counts push more debt on American corporations, American governments, and American families. For Counts, this debt is a strategy to raid wealth, careless of its effects on corporations, governments, and families.



- **Game debt to avoid taxes.** Counts game debt to shelter their extreme Free Income from taxes. To avoid any taxes, Counts can just borrow against their total Money Counts, over and over again. In this way, Counts take advantage of weaknesses in our outdated institutions.
- **Put the damage of debt on Americans.** Heavy debt can send families into bankruptcy, it can destroy businesses, and it can force governments to slash essential services. But the Counting Class can use extreme money to insulate itself from any damage.
- **Over-extend America.** Counts have left America without the flexibility to deal with future challenges. Our Public Extensions are over-extended. This leaves young Americans with crushing debt to repay. This steals the American Dream from young America. ■

Armed with lethal money power, Counts can target and prey on the wealth made by Americans. Extreme money makes taking easier than contributing. It undermines capitalist America.

And this violates fundamental American values.

America is a land of makers and do-ers and helpers. We don't want to exploit our neighbors, and we don't expect to get something for nothing. We just expect a fair share of the Public Gains of America.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Outmatch individual Americans.** Counts wield grossly outsized predatory power. An E10 Count takes more in Free Income in a single month than a Contributing American saves in an entire lifetime. With such a radical imbalance of power, Americans can't possibly compete.
- **Target America's riches for money.** To absentee Counts, America's wealth is a target to raid for more Free Income. Housing, pensions, hospitals, personal information, scientific knowledge, farmlands, public safety—whatever puts out a regular stream of money.
- **Outmatch our public protectors.** Even our governments aren't strong enough to defend Americans from Counts. A lone individual armed with an E11 Money Count easily outmatches an E10-sized state government, or any E8 to E10 local city or county or regional government.



- **Take the Public Gains of America.** A Count collects America's Public Gains as Free Income like an entitlement. No work or contribution to America is required. His inflated Money Count shows how far his *net contribution* to America has gone into the red.
- **Target America's KIRE Engine of Prosperity.** Counts even raid the engine of America's Public Gains: our Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. They risk breaking capitalist America for future generations.
- **Compete to take even more.** As Counts jockey for position in the ranks of the Counting Class, they compete to take even more. The available clockwork 10% gain in Free Income is just a baseline. Any Count can chase higher gains to increase his rank even faster. ■

Counts hoard the Public Gains of America. The Counting Class withholds trillions of dollars, throttling opportunity and limiting freedom. Counts break the promise of the American Dream.

And this violates fundamental American values.

We use American-made wealth to regenerate American Life for future generations. All Americans deserve equal opportunity, equal security, and equal freedom to pursue the American Dream.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Drain down the Public Gains of America.** Counts collect and keep the Public Gains of America. That's the value created by Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. That's the value of America's KIRE Engine of Prosperity.
- **Wait for hoarded money to increase automatically.** The money hoards of Counts increase automatically, like clockwork, fed by Free Income. The larger a Money Count gets, the more Free Income is collected. No work, skill, merit, or effort of any kind is required. Only time.
- **Amass far beyond what they can ever use.** The hoard of a typical E9 or E10 Count is beyond any sense of enough. It's far beyond what any single human can possibly ever use. The lowest E11 Count could spend \$1 million *every hour* and not outpace his clockwork gains.



- **Withhold Public Gains from America.** Counts have the power to choose to do nothing at all with extreme money. It's the power *not* to use. They don't have to do anything useful. Their hoards increase no matter what. But that withholding throttles the American Dream.
- **Turn America's Public Gains into extreme waste.** Movement of money stops with Counts. Their hoards of money build up as waste—stagnant and unused. The Contributing Classes make good use of America's Public Gains. But too often, Counts are just a dead end.
- **Cut off the regeneration of American Life.** Hoarding by Counts limits freedom, security, and opportunity for all Americans. Keeping the promise of America alive is about cycling America's Public Gains in order to regenerate American Life for future generations. ■

Counts can limit the wealth of Americans. They support a rigged system in which the Money Counts of the Counting Class increase much faster than the wealth of the Contributing Classes.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans have a right to equal opportunity to pursue the American Dream. It's not OK for one group of people to take an outsized share of wealth while they limit chances for everyone else.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Leave Americans falling behind in invested wealth.** Only Counts can afford to leave extreme Money Counts untouched for decades, protected from short-term losses, protected from taxes. Contributing Americans have to use more of our money for everyday life needs.
- **Keep the biggest gains for themselves.** Counts can start young and can afford to wait for 10% average yearly gains in the US stock market. That's Free Income that doubles their Money Counts every 7.2 years.
- **Leave Americans dependent on slow-growing wealth.** Many Contributing Americans count on our homes as a main form of wealth. But a house is a poor long-term investment. Houses gain value at a lower rate, are vulnerable to unexpected problems, and make us pay the costs of insurance, utilities, maintenance, and repairs.



- **Exploit America's wealth tax on American homes.** Property tax is America's only annual wealth tax. But it targets more of the wealth of the Contributing Classes than the Counting Class. That wealth tax goes up with any increase in assessment, year after year. And it's a tax a homeowner pays in full, even with a mortgage.
- **Starve American communities of Public Gains.** When Counts collect the Public Gains of America as Free Income for themselves alone, they leave American communities starved of the money they need. And so local wealth taxes (property taxes) have to fill the gap.
- **Let the wealth of Americans get wiped out.** Counts keep generational wealth, while Americans are always a step from having their wealth wiped out, whether by a health crisis, a natural disaster, or end-of-life care. ■

The Counting Class can take the future from young Americans. They hoard extreme money that is impossible to match. Old Counts break the promise of the American Dream for young Americans.

And this violates fundamental American values.

America is home to young dreams, young hope, and young ambition. We expect to leave young Americans with a stronger country and equal opportunities to pursue the American Dream.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Keep extreme money power for the old.** Counts use their lifespans to increase their power. The older they get, the more times they can double their Money Counts. Young Americans are powerless to catch up.
- **Leave young Americans shut out of Free Income.** The children of Counts can start collecting Free Income as soon as they are born. So \$10 million at birth can turn automatically to \$100 million by age 25. Unlike Counts, young Americans in the Contributing Classes work to save any money, and start out with debt and bills to pay.
- **Make “getting rich” a bad joke.** Counts lecture young Americans about how to “get rich”: work hard, cut spending, invest savings. But this lecture is just a bad joke. An E11-rank Count knows he takes \$1 million in Free Income every hour—24/365—for no work at all.



- **Take away the ladders of equal opportunity.** When Counts collect America’s Public Gains, they throttle Public Investment at the American standard of equal opportunity. Young Americans can’t count on affordable homes, schools, child care, or even jobs safe from AI.
- **Leave America in debt.** Old Counts take advantage of America’s national debt to collect even larger Money Counts for themselves. But they refuse to pay back their debts to American society, leaving young Americans to repay tens of trillions of dollars of national debt.
- **Leave America damaged.** Old Counts have withdrawn from America, protected from the consequences of what they’ve done. They have abused America’s land, water, and air, leaving young Americans to pay for the damage. Young Americans have to clean up after old Counts. ■

Counts can simply reject the American work ethic. Members of the Counting Class exempt themselves from work and make hard work meaningless. Then they scold Americans to “get a job!”

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans feel the pride of contributing to America. We make and create and grow things, we help and care and look out for one another. Americans believe in the dignity of a job well done.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Exempt themselves from any real work.** Counts can collect clockwork Free Income and exempt themselves from real work. All that’s required is to wait for Money Counts to increase over time. For a Count, any work-like activity is really just a kind of hobby or pastime.
- **Refuse to show up for work.** Even when Counts hold tight control over American corporations and American lives, they can still refuse to show up for any in-person work. Counts can choose to stay absent from American workplaces and American neighborhoods.
- **Take value instead of create value.** Extreme money allows Counts to lay claim to what others have made. Instead of making a contribution by creating something new and useful, a Count can simply raid productive businesses in order to extract the value for self gain.



- **Put whims and wants over needs.** Needs are not relevant to a Count. An E9 Money Count would cover the needs of entire cities of people. A Count can afford to chase any extreme whim or want, careless of what would actually benefit or contribute to America.
- **Value envy over a job well done.** Count are defined by their Money Counts. It’s how they keep score. It’s how they know if they’re “winning.” Counts live in a world of envious comparison with other Counts. Moving up in rank can matter more than making a contribution.
- **Blame everything on the Contributing Classes.** Laziness, envy, waste, over-spending. Counts accuse Contributing Americans of all their own flaws. And yet a middle-rank E10 Count knows that for no work at all, he takes over \$13 million every day, 365 days of the year. ■

Counts can choose to shirk their responsibilities to Americans. They can act with pure entitlement. A Count can push any extreme whim or want on us all, and deny the consequences of his actions.

And this violates fundamental American values.

We expect people with power to be responsible and accountable for their actions. No one is entitled to run from their responsibilities, or to evade the consequences of their actions.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Deny their responsibilities.** Whether Counts passively hoard or actively exploit their extreme Money Counts, they wield massive power that shapes American lives. Americans expect great power to come with great responsibility. But Counts can just take the power.
- **Shift the blame to others.** When Americans are harmed by a Count's extreme money, he can afford to shift the blame. He can claim those Americans are the wrong race or the wrong gender, that they don't have the right abilities, or that they didn't try hard enough.
- **Exempt themselves from responsibility.** Counts can use extreme money to exempt themselves from any real responsibility. They use legal loopholes, corporate shields, accounting tricks. They manipulate words and images. They can overwhelm our public protectors.



- **Retreat into make-believe.** Instead of accepting their responsibilities, Counts can escape into make-believe. Virtual worlds, mind-altering drugs, extreme political theories. Unlike Contributing Americans, Counts can afford to live in denial and check out from real life.
- **Stay like children.** Counts never have to grow up. They never have to get a real job. Protected from the pressures and stresses of real life, Counts never have to feel the burden of responsibility. Counts stuck in arrested development never have to answer to others. They never have to learn that "no" means no.
- **Play America like a game.** Far from American neighborhoods, Counts can afford to treat America like a video game, with Americans as just background characters. Whether we live or die, it doesn't matter. ■

Counts can drag America backward by awakening crude attitudes that have no place in today's world. Wielding extreme money, Counts push outdated and dying attitudes on all Americans.

And this violates fundamental American values.

All Americans have the Constitutional right to think and say what we believe. But no lone person has the right to force all Americans to keep dealing with extreme crude attitudes.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Prop up crude attitudes.** Americans all know we have ugly ideas in our past, like racial discrimination and the subordination of women. And we can work to make racism and sexism dying attitudes. But a racist or sexist Count has the extreme money to prop up crude attitudes.
- **Make crude attitudes seem widespread.** Counts have unlimited money to use on elected officials, social media, AI, foundations, interest groups, PR firms, news media. Counts wield extreme money to sponsor the illusion that crude attitudes are more widely held than they really are.
- **Demand Americans pay attention to crude attitudes.** A Count may be isolated in a remote compound, out of touch with real American neighbors. But if he forms a personal belief in some crude attitude, he can still use extreme money to demand Americans pay attention.



- **Push harmful backward attitudes:**
 - Race makes one person superior or inferior to another
 - Women and girls are objects to collect and control
 - Children may be abused by adults
 - Physical and mental abilities determine human worth
 - Science is no different than superstition
 - Nature can be damaged without consequences
 - Force and fraud are OK ways to take what you want
 - Violence is OK against people you dislike
- **Hold America back.** Counts want to claim they are the ones who drive America's future. But really, Counts hold America back and keep us all in the grip of the dead hand of the past. A Count holding a crude attitude can wield extreme money to push it on all Americans. Then we use more time and energy fighting the same battles. ■

Counts can push their extreme plans on Americans. Armed with extreme money, they can push any agenda as far as they want. They can go ahead no matter whether Americans give our consent.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans decide what's right for America's future, not a few elites. When it comes to major changes and new technologies, Americans expect to be involved, to work out the right balance for our country.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Invade the private lives of Americans.** Counts have the power to creep into the private lives of Americans. They can track our words and actions and relationships, and get into our personal financial records. Counts act like they don't have to ask Americans for permission.
- **Use our kids for their purposes.** Counts hook our kids on social media, gambling, porn, and AI chatbots. Counts twist the feelings of our children to groom them as good followers. Counts wield extreme money to go around American parents and target our kids directly.
- **Push extreme politics.** Extreme money fuels extreme politics. Counts can sponsor any extreme agenda that most Americans would simply reject as too radical or too wasteful. Armed with unlimited money, just one Count can push deeply flawed ideas on all of America.



- **Overwhelm America's protections.** Counts can easily overwhelm America's protections, including outdated laws and institutions. Americans are left unequipped to defend against the whims and wants of Counts.
- **Push nonconsensual acts on all Americans.** Replace people with machines? Extract our personal and private data? Overload America with AI data mining plants? Replace our public US dollar with private "crypto" money? Abuse our public lands for self gain? Counts can wield extreme money to force their own extreme plans on all Americans, without our consent.
- **Silence voices of moderation.** A Count armed with an E8, E9, E10, or E11 Money Count can easily track and threaten anyone brave enough to challenge his plans. He can terrorize and silence any voices of moderation. ■

No matter what they actually believe, Counts can cheapen God and country. They can take advantage of the deep beliefs of Americans to stop challenges to their own extreme money.

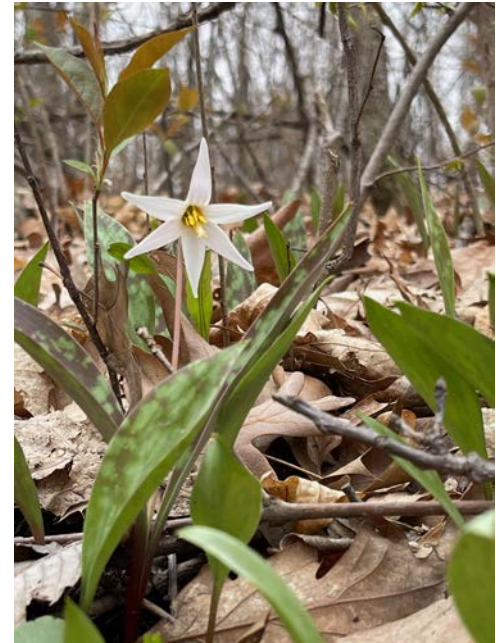
And this violates fundamental American values.

In America we honor and respect expressions of religious faith and love of country. But it's not OK when someone uses patriotism or faith to take advantage of others or to hide their own bad behavior.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Pretend their clockwork gains are approved by God.** Counts know that their gains in Free Income are as automatic as a clock. With no special effort, skill, or faith required, they receive endless, increasing streams of Free Income. But some Counts pretend that their clockwork gains are an expression of God's favor.
- **Use religious faith as branding.** Even when they are not true believers themselves, some Counts playact religious faith as self-promotional advertising. They use sacred religious symbols for their own branding.
- **Hide their failure to love their neighbors.** When Counts perform religious faith, it can be a way to turn attention away from their own bad behavior. These Counts may hope we won't notice their failure to love the American neighbors they have already left behind.



- **Pretend their Money Counts are an American "win."** Counts know that Free Income is how they hoard the Public Gains of America for themselves alone. But some promote the make-believe that their collections of extreme money are trophies of America's greatness.
- **Use patriotism as branding.** Counts are always ready to flee America, if their extreme Money Counts are ever challenged. But some Counts still playact patriotism as self-promotional advertising. They use cherished symbols of America just for their own branding.
- **Hide their failure to care for American neighborhoods.** When Counts perform patriotism, it can be a way to distract from how they take out our Public Gains for self gain. Counts may hope we won't notice they no longer live in or care for our American neighborhoods. ■

Counts can dishonor America's military public servants when they put themselves first, ahead of the lives of the patriots who defend America. Counts undercut those who keep us safe and free.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans respect our military public servants who keep us safe and free. We honor the sacrifices they have made, and we take responsibility for their personal losses in the line of service.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Dishonor sacrifice.** When Counts put self gain first, they dishonor selfless sacrifice—the willingness to lose something for the greater good. Our military public servants lose time with their kids, lose money, lose limbs, lose peace of mind, and may even lose their lives.
- **Dishonor service.** Counts exempt themselves and their families from military service. They act like service is beneath them. Counts even make plans to go AWOL on America. If Americans try to reclaim our Public Gains, they threaten to take their Money Counts and run.
- **Use our military as branding.** Some Counts cheapen our American military for self-promotional branding. They put out images of themselves that treat military symbols as decoration and soldiers as props. At its worst, it's practically a kind of stolen valor.



- **Try to replace military public servants.** America's military is our public option for national security. And Counts can see our military as another public option to raid. They try to replace our military public servants with for-profit soldiers, contractors, and technology.
- **Withhold the money veterans need.** When Counts keep so much of America's Public Gains for themselves, they're withholding what we need to support veterans. We can't make the Public Investment that supports our veterans at American standards of health and care.
- **Treat military public servants as disposable.** If a Count ever sees advantage in taking military action, it's too easy for him to spend down the lives of our military public servants. Like a video game, absentee Counts can use our military to run up their Money Count scores. ■

Counts can undercut America's world standing, and leave our country weaker, less respected, and less secure. They can afford to disregard America's neighbors, leaving people to suffer and die.

And this violates fundamental American values.

We don't turn our backs on America's neighbors. The strength of America's leadership in the world is based on using our wealth and power for good. And it's how we keep Americans safe.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Turn our backs on America's neighbors.** We save lives and improve America's standing in the world when we use some of our wealth and power to help America's neighbors when they're in need. But Counts can afford to make believe that it doesn't matter what happens to our neighbors. Counts treat American aid like waste.
- **Leave international relief efforts vulnerable.** Some Counts do give money to international relief efforts. But that's not a real solution. It leaves life-saving services vulnerable to the whims of individual Counts. If a Count loses interest, then the money and help stops.
- **Oppose international cooperation.** International cooperation is a threat to the power of Counts. It's how we can stop their abuses, hold them accountable for damage, and work to trim back global Money Counts.



- **Go around America's national interests.** Counts can afford to set their own agendas for international relations. They can ignore and undermine America's national interest for their own self gain. They can disrespect our own American diplomatic leaders.
- **Take advantage of neighbor countries.** Counts can use their extreme Money Counts to take advantage of outmatched E9 and E10-sized countries. And America has to deal with the consequences of any blowback.
- **Force us to spend more for safety and freedom.** When we leave our world neighborhood unstable and unsafe, Americans have no choice but to spend more money on military forces and military weapons. Counts make it more expensive to keep America safe. They jack up the price of America's security and freedom. ■

Counts can abuse America's land, water, and air for their own self gain. They leave expensive damage behind, and threaten the health of the environment that sustains all of our American lives.

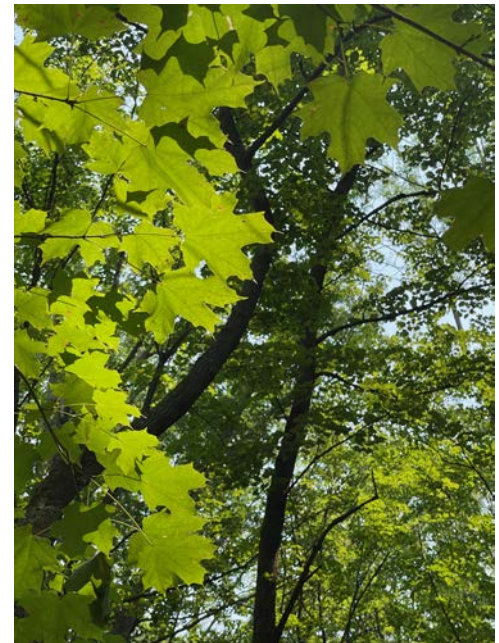
And this violates fundamental American values.

Our natural resources are essential to life in America the beautiful. Americans know we must treat our land, water, and air with respect. It's how we keep America healthy and full of life.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Abuse America's land, water, air.** Counts can use extreme money to decide for all Americans how we treat America's land, water, and air. They don't just claim the power to use America's natural resources, but also to abuse and deplete them for any whim or want.
- **Put the costs on Americans.** When Counts abuse America's natural resources, Americans pay the costs. Counts can focus on self gain. Americans have to clean up toxins and waste in our land, water, and air. Then we pay again in our insurance bills and our utility bills.
- **Take advantage of America's abundance.** America's natural resources are so vast that Counts can abuse and deplete a massive amount before the damage is clear. Counts can know that Americans may not recognize the extent of the real damage until it's too late.



- **Act recklessly.** Counts can seek self gain, careless of the resource costs and potential damage. They pursue AI, "crypto" money, artificial life. They put industrial plants across America, mining data for profitable pieces of information and drawing ever more water and energy.
- **Deny and hide abuse.** Counts likely understand the true damage they cause, whether to the water cycle or the carbon cycle. But they can use extreme money to deny and hide their abuses. Counts can afford to warp reality.
- **Leave Americans to live with health consequences.** Counts have already withdrawn from American neighborhoods. When they abuse our land, water, and air, they don't live with the results. Counts can always protect their own health. Counts can afford to retreat to remote compounds or flee to foreign countries. ■

Counts can imperil the American lifespan. They can afford extended, healthy, and easy lives for themselves, while they withhold what Americans need to live full lives with our loved ones.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans know the American Dream includes the hope for us all to live long lives with the ones we love: children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors. We deserve a fair chance for long, healthy lives.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Buy longer life time for themselves.** Counts lecture Americans that “money can’t buy time” but know that’s not completely true. While the lifespans of Contributing Americans stagnate, Counts can always afford the kinds of personal care and protection that extend life.
- **Live their own best lives.** Counts live free of the stress on Contributing Americans. Their bodies experience less wear. They can follow whims and pursue hobbies, while Americans work to hold our country together.
- **Leave older Americans less secure.** For Contributing Americans, old age can bring the risk of running out of money. But Counts just see more runaway inflation of extreme money. The longer a Count lives, the more times his Money Count doubles automatically. Old Counts get stronger, as older Americans become more vulnerable.



- **Hoard what Americans need for full lives.** Counts collect the Public Gains of America as Free Income for themselves. They can afford the most full and healthy lives possible. Americans are left unable to make Public Investment in public health up to American standards.
- **Sicken Americans as they damage our environment.** Waste in our air, in our water, in our land, in our food. All this waste sickens Americans and shortens our lifespans. But Counts can protect their own health.
- **Live and let die.** As Counts protect and extend their own lives, they act as if Contributing Americans are expendable. We could just be replaced by machines or artificial life. And so it doesn’t matter if we die from disease, extreme weather, toxins, or war. Counts can afford not to care whether Americans live or die. ■

Counts shatter fellowship. They can corrupt everything Americans rely on to gather, speak with, and understand one another. Counts can afford to treat the American people as underlings to manage.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans have the rights to gather peacefully, speak freely, and get the whole truth from our media. We work to understand our neighbors, build trust, and live in a shared reality together.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Corrupt print, radio, and video media.** Americans rely on our media to represent and share the reality of our lives. But a Count can take possession of an entire media network and push his personal views on all Americans. He can replace our reality with his whims and wants.
- **Turn social media into something anti-social.** Americans rely on social media to learn about one another. But a Count can choose to manipulate social media to keep Americans in bubbles with like-minded people. When Contributing Americans can't bridge differences, we can't stand united against Counts.
- **Leave Americans in the dark.** Without healthy media, Americans can't really know what we actually agree and disagree about. When our media is corrupted, all we hear are versions of what Counts think and believe and want.



- **Replace peaceful influence with private agendas.** Americans need media and community organizations as tools to peacefully understand and influence one another. But Counts have no need for these tools. Counts can easily ignore and override American neighbors.
- **Make Americans stop trusting one another.** When Americans can't count on a shared reality with our neighbors, we can't trust each other. And that's fine for Counts. When Americans are divided, we can't stop the out-of-control Money Counts of the Counting Class.
- **Make Contributing Americans feel powerless.** When Counts corrupt the ways Americans have common experiences, they leave us all feeling isolated and disconnected. Contributing Americans feel powerless against the extreme money of the Counting Class. ■

Counts can corrupt charitable giving. Extreme money lets Counts playact as experts. Charitable organizations serve serious needs. But Counts can warp them to follow their own whims and wants.

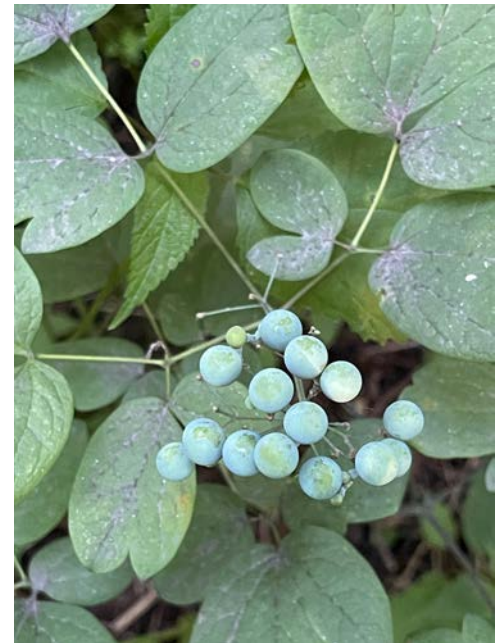
And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans help one another. We know that generosity means giving more than you get. Charitable organizations are tools Americans use to come together, pool resources, and respond to needs.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Playact as special experts.** Global hunger? Climate damage? Education reform? No matter a Count's actual background, charities have no choice but to listen and to yield to Counts. Extreme money means charities have to bend to the views of Counts as if they were experts.
- **Warp giving to follow personal whims.** A Count can make a charity follow his own whims, rather than respond to urgent needs. And when a Count loses interest, the money just stops, no matter who suffers.
- **Make stingy look generous.** A \$25 million donation might look incredibly generous. But to a Count armed with an E10 Money Count, that's less than 10 days of Free Income. For an E11-rank Count, that's one single day of Free Income. As portions of their own wealth, Contributing Americans often give far more.



- **Turn giving into getting payoffs.** Counts can twist charitable giving to be more about getting payoffs than giving to help others. What can I claim credit for? How much of a "return" will there be on my "investment"?
- **Make Americans beg Counts for handouts.** When Counts wield extreme money, Americans are reduced to begging them for assistance. Will you please help us build a new hospital wing? Will you please support our schools? Will you please help us feed the poor? Counts come to expect Americans to treat them like saviors.
- **Use charities as a cover for more hoarding.** When Counts make a show of their charitable giving, it distracts from the endless Free Income they continue to collect. It may seem like a Count is giving money away, but his Money Count actually keeps going up. ■

Counts can corrupt education. As long as Counts have their own access to Public Knowledge for self gain, they don't have to care whether there are public options in education for all Americans.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Education is how Americans secure equal opportunity to pursue the American Dream. All Americans deserve equal access to Public Knowledge, and with it a chance to contribute and thrive.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Limit the potential of Contributing Americans.** Counts lecture Americans that we need to better ourselves. But when Counts hoard Public Gains, Americans lose educational opportunities we need to build wealth and to realize our full individual potential.
- **Cause our schools to decline.** When we cycle less of our Public Gains back into our schools, those schools degenerate. Lower test scores, more disciplinary problems, fewer options for young Americans. We fail to deliver our Public Knowledge to the next generation.
- **Warp education goals.** Education is about curiosity and exploration across the full range of human knowledge and experience. But extreme money gives Counts an outsized influence on America's system of education. Counts can push a narrow focus on money and business.



- **Push extreme agendas on our kids.** When our public schools struggle, they're more vulnerable to the whims of any Count with an agenda. He can use extreme money to push that agenda on our kids with marketing, addictive technologies, and flawed and biased materials.
- **Sideline public education with AI.** AI is a new tool Counts use to lay claim to America's heritage of Public Knowledge. Count-controlled AI is Count-controlled Public Knowledge. That's a threat to our ability to transmit Public Knowledge through public education.
- **Make Americans more dependent.** Counts withhold the money we need to fuel public options in education up to American standards. Without equal access to our heritage of Public Knowledge, all of us are more dependent on knowledge controlled by Counts. ■

Counts can corrupt corporations. They can chase personal whims and wants ahead of building things or creating jobs. They can put collecting Free Income ahead of any healthy competition.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Corporations are how we make capitalist America work. They're how we form teams, set goals, and pool resources. They're how we engage in healthy competition to create jobs and do big things.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Weaken corporations.** With his extreme Money Count, a Count can outmatch and sideline all the people who make corporations effective: the board of directors, shareholders, employees, experts, and stakeholders. A Count can even turn a CEO into a weak middleman.
- **Twist corporations to chase whims and wants.** To a Count, a corporation is never a means earn a living. Instead, it can be more like his personal pastime or hobby. A Count can afford to twist a corporation to his whims and wants, no matter if it makes business sense.
- **Monopolize power.** To maximize flows of Free Income, Counts can push corporations to take anti-competitive monopoly power. Instead of seeing competitors and America's public options as standards to meet or exceed, Counts can simply try to wipe out any real competition.



- **Waste corporate resources.** Counts can take advantage of corporate travel, corporate security, corporate entertainment, corporate public relations. Counts can waste corporate expenses, while leaving their Money Counts untouched to collect more Free Income.
- **Gut productive corporations.** Counts can raid corporations just to extract money for self gain. With no mind to whether those corporations are already productive and profitable, Counts can wield extreme money to break them down and sell them for parts.
- **Use corporations to hide from responsibility.** The Counting Class is armed with extreme money that can cause extreme damage to Americans. But for a Count, even the most extraordinary abuses of power can be hidden behind massive and complex corporations. ■

Counts can corrupt our American governments for self gain. They can put their collection of Free Income first, ahead of America. Counts break our tools to keep the promise of the American Dream.

And this violates fundamental American values.

American governments are how we how we secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. Our governments should serve *we the people*, and ensure the promise of the American Dream lives on.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Outmatch our governments at all levels.** Many of our governments are simply not equipped to defend against Counts armed with extreme money. An E10 or E11 Count can overpower and push around any level of our government. He can manhandle our public servants.
- **Corrupt the purpose of our national government.** Our government exists to uphold the founding vision of America: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, with justice for all. Counts reduce our government to be about protecting their own flows of Free Income.
- **Wall off Public Knowledge.** Counts deprive Americans of custody of the treasure of Public Knowledge we all inherit. They throttle the public research and education we use to build on and pass along Public Knowledge. And they capture Public Knowledge in AI for self gain.



- **Starve Public Investment.** Counts hoard the Public Gains we would use to fuel Public Investment. They leave Americans without the money we need to provide public options at the American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity.
- **Abuse Public Resources.** Counts use extreme money to make American governments let them misuse and abuse Public Resources. They waste freely. They evade the rules we make to protect the health of the American people and the health of our air, land, and water.
- **Exhaust Public Extensions.** Counts push our national government into extreme debt, just to preserve and increase their Money Counts. Our crushing national debt steals the future of young Americans. And we're left without the power to flex for future challenges. ■

Counts can impair American judgment. They keep Americans from challenging how they hoard our Public Gains. They treat us like machines with buttons to push to get the results they want.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Americans expect to be the real decision makers in our lives. It's just basic dignity. Fair debate means being straightforward and upfront about what you believe, not using tricks to get your way.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Give themselves outsized voices.** Counts wield extreme money to control the channels of public communication: print, radio, video, social media, and now AI tools. Individual Counts get outsized voices. Contributing Americans can't balance out the voices of Counts.
- **Pretend it's all too complicated to explain.** A Count can pretend the way he takes millions or billions of dollars each year in Free Income is too complicated to explain to Americans. Counts can hide behind technical jargon instead of being straightforward about money.
- **Warp the core values we rely on.** A Count can strip the meaning of the words we use for deep values. Throttling Public Investment? It's "freedom." Forcing whims and wants on all Americans? It's more "freedom." Counts make Americans less free and then brand it "freedom."



- **Keep Americans addicted.** Counts can try to keep Americans addicted to their technologies. Counts can use brain science to try to manipulate Americans like machines. They can try to keep Americans locked in as loyal followers, not making real decisions and choices.
- **Make Americans less trusting of our neighbors.** Counts can give Americans a skewed sense of our own neighbors and country. They can give us the false impression that everyone has extreme views. Counts can leave us all feeling like we don't know who to trust.
- **Make Americans less trusting of our own senses.** Counts can make it difficult for Americans to see the reality that extreme money is an extreme threat to our country. Counts can warp what we all see and hear to leave us feeling unsure about what is real or fake. ■

Counts warp real debate on difficult issues. A Count can keep Americans stuck in disagreement, or force any result he wants. Counts rob Americans of the chance to work things out.

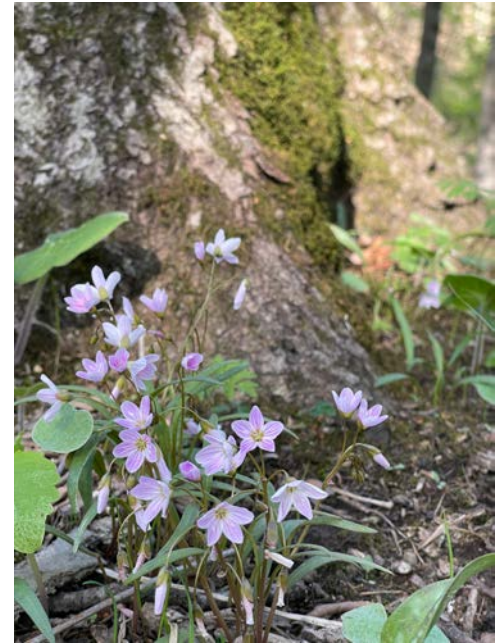
And this violates fundamental American values.

No matter how difficult the issue, Americans expect to be able to have a real, balanced debate. We may or may not agree. But we find ways to live and let live with our neighbors. That's the American way of life.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Throw any debate off balance.** No matter how extreme or questionable a Count's views, he can dominate debate and force the result he wants. There's no balanced debate with extreme money. The Counting Class can easily outweigh the views of Contributing Americans.
- **Warp debate on how to keep Americans safe.** There's a serious debate to be had about what it means to support real public safety in America. But instead, we get extreme agendas sponsored by Counts who already entitle themselves to any private security they want.
- **Warp debate on who gets to move to America.** There's a real debate to have about how to handle immigration and refugees and visas. But instead, we get extremism sponsored by Counts who entitle themselves to move freely to and from America whenever they please.



- **Warp debate on how to offer healthcare.** There's an important debate to have about how best to provide healthcare. But again, we get extremism sponsored by entitled Counts. Their kids can always get a vaccine, their daughters can always have an abortion. Counts can always access America's most advanced medical science.
- **Warp debate on how we deal with discrimination.** Instead of real debates on how to address discrimination of all kinds, we get extremism sponsored by Counts who exempt themselves from any impacts of discrimination.
- **Keep what they've taken.** Counts benefit from the lack of healthy debate in America. When neighbors are pitted against neighbors, Counts know that they'll get to keep what they've taken from America. They can keep piling up more and more extreme Money Counts. ■

Counts replace qualified leaders in America, without ever earning the privilege. They assume leadership on the basis of Money Counts, rather than knowledge, skill, merit, or experience.

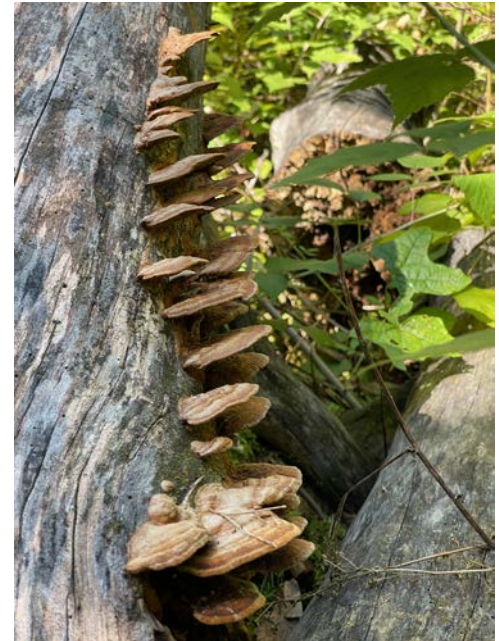
And this violates fundamental American values.

In America, holding great power is a privilege, not an entitlement. We expect our leaders to earn the privilege by demonstrating the will and ability and effort to better the lives of all Americans.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Fall out of touch with Americans.** Counts retreat from American neighborhoods, and can opt out of most of the public options Contributing Americans rely on. They aren't qualified to understand regular American lives.
- **Stay insulated from any real risk of failure.** An E11-rank Count could *lose a full 99%* of his Money Count and still hold an E9 rank (billionaire level). He would still collect hundreds of millions of dollars in Free Income every year. Counts aren't qualified to understand the meaning of any real risk of failure.
- **Stay sheltered from life stresses.** The Counting Class Line is the point where automatic, clockwork gains are greater than any realistic earned income. Counts don't feel the pressures of working for a living. Their Money Counts shelter them from everyday stresses.



- **Avoid any consequences of waste.** Extreme money allows Counts to waste freely. And America is so abundant and productive that there's a huge margin for Counts to waste. Insulated from impacts, Counts aren't qualified to understand the real consequences of waste.
- **Devalue public service.** Counts brag that they don't have to answer to anyone. They expect others to follow their commands and whims, with a "yes, sir!" Counts learn to put themselves first, not how to serve others. Many Counts don't see the value of public service.
- **Develop a god complex.** No matter where a Count puts money, no matter how poor the decision, he's still much more likely than not to see his Money Count go up. So everything he does looks like a "win." It's too easy for him to think he can do no wrong, like a god. ■

Counts can threaten American democracy. They take decisions that belong to the American people. And they try to weaken or control or wreck any part of our democracy standing in their way.

And this violates fundamental American values.

America is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our Constitution, our laws, our elections are how we work with neighbors to regenerate our American Life and set our destiny.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Take the power of the American people.** America is *we the people*. Legitimate power in America is based in the will of the people. But it can be hard for a Count armed with extreme money to accept that reality. He can try to turn American citizens into mere subjects.
- **Ignore the US Constitution, laws, and regulations.** Erosion of the rule of law is a symptom of the corruption of extreme money. Our Constitution, laws, and regulations are our American agreements. But it's too easy for a Count to exempt himself from our rules.
- **Abuse America's justice system.** Counts can force our justice system to do the work Counts should be doing by following American laws. Like entitled children, they do what they please and leave our US courts to clean up their messes. Counts can overwhelm our justice system.



- **Capture our democratic representatives.** Counts can turn America's public servants into their own personal servants who owe them personal loyalty. They purchase candidates, purchase political parties, and purchase elected officials. Counts take away our representation.
- **Outmatch democratic governments.** Counts outmatch America's democratic governments. Counts rule with their own armies of lawyers, money managers, lobbyists, and consultants. Our governments aren't equipped to defend the American people against the Counting Class.
- **Prepare to dump American democracy.** Counts act like they never have to listen to "no." When Americans get in the way of their plans, Counts complain about having to get our consent. Then they threaten to set up private cities with their own rules, or leave America entirely. ■

Counts can threaten capitalist America. They put their own Money Counts first, ahead of American prosperity. Counts keep collecting Free Income, no matter the harms to American Life.

And this violates fundamental American values.

Capitalist America makes incredible opportunity and freedom possible. Americans believe in doing the work to regenerate and strengthen our engine of prosperity for all.

Extreme money can turn any regular problem in America into an extreme threat.

Elite, entitled Counts endanger America by wielding extreme E8, E9, E10, E11 Money Counts to:

- **Create an affordability crisis.** Loss of affordability is a symptom of the corruption of extreme money. In our land of abundance, Counts collect much of America's Public Gains for themselves. Runaway inflation of those Money Counts leaves Contributing Americans poorer.
- **Cut off the regeneration of American Life.** Keeping alive the promise of the American Dream depends on cycling our Public Gains back into America. But the Counting Class hoards Public Gains and cuts off regeneration. Counts throttle the American Dream.
- **Wreck the KIRE Engine of Prosperity.** Our engine of American prosperity created Counts. But now they can afford to take it apart for more self gain. Counts close off Public Knowledge, deplete Public Investment, abuse Public Resources, and bloat Public Extensions.



- **Wipe out healthy competition.** No real competition is possible with extreme money. With Counts involved, there can't be a fair and balanced competition of efforts and ideas. It's just predators grossly outmatching their targets and getting to take something for nothing.
- **Hollow out American industry.** Counts have no real need for America's productive industry. And so it can just be a target to raid for more Free Income. Counts run up debt, corner the market, pile on prices, and replace industry specialists with money managers.
- **Attack the defenders of capitalist America.** Brave Americans call out the Counting Class as a threat to our capitalist system. But Counts use scare tactics to keep hold of extreme money. They use labels like "socialist" to vilify defenders of capitalist America. ■

We can notice the Counts in America who shape our lives. Americans have a right to know who collects \$10 million to \$10 billion or more a year just in Free Income, and who wields that extreme money to push any whim or want on us all. Far too many members of the Counting Class operate out of sight, holding nameless decision power. We can expect transparency and accountability.

Americans can say, "Enough!" to the out-of-control, extreme Money Counts of elite, entitled Counts. Contributing Americans can renew the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, free from the corruption of extreme money, as we:

1

See who holds the power of extreme money.

We now have thousands of E8, E9, E10, and E11 Counts operating in the public and private sectors. Some Counts draw attention to themselves, others mask who they are. Either way, Americans can expect accountability from those who wield extreme power. Who are the Counts?

2

See what's corrupted and what's trustworthy.

Americans have a right to know what corporations, organizations, and governments are controlled by Counts. Too many of our institutions are no match for the Counting Class. Which institutions can we count on to protect Americans, and which have been corrupted?

3

See the foreign Counts operating in America.

Foreign Counts armed with extreme money are a threat to US national security. And foreign Counts can funnel our Public Gains right out of America. We can track foreign Counts, stop any corrupting influence, and if needed, cancel privileges. We can limit the Public Gains they take out of America. ■



We can remember Counts are just real people. Some Counts act like they should be worshipped as god-like heroes. But in reality, Counts are just human beings with the same gifts and flaws we all have. In many cases, the danger of a Count has little to do with who he is as an individual. The problem is that Counts hold extreme power to shape the lives of all Americans.

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1

Humanize Counts. We can be clear that there's nothing special about Counts as people. They're not super-human or sub-human. They aren't uniquely able to save America. They're not essentially any better or worse than the rest of us. What makes them a special kind of problem for America is their extreme Money Counts.

2

Know the growing threat is a math problem. A Count doesn't need to intend to hurt anyone to increase his Money Count. He may not even be greedy. He's just a product of math: clockwork Free Income results in runaway inflation of his extreme Money Count. The threat of extreme money increases automatically with time.

3

Know Counts have human limitations. No Count can possibly understand all the damage and harm he can cause when he wields extreme money. It's at a scale beyond human capacity to comprehend. And a Count may wish he could he could make a *net contribution*. But that's almost impossible beyond the Counting Class Line. ■



We can trim back out-of-control Money Counts and welcome Counts into the Contributing Classes of America. In this country, it's fine for some people to become super rich. But it's not OK for a small group to be armed with extreme money that gives them predatory power over all Americans. When we trim back extreme Money Counts, we achieve healthy balance for America.

Americans can say, "Enough!" to the out-of-control, extreme Money Counts of elite, entitled Counts. Contributing Americans can renew the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, free from the corruption of extreme money, as we:

1

Disarm Counts of lethal money power. Extreme Money Counts are extreme threats, like weapons of mass destruction. No American is truly safe or free in the shadow of a Count armed with extreme money. It doesn't matter who is in elected office. Americans will only be safe when there are limits on extreme money power.

2

Encourage Counts to self-trim. Many Counts will refuse any change. They don't know when to stop. But some Counts see how extreme money endangers America. And they can do the right thing and support real tax reform. They can stop "investing" just to collect more Free Income. They can stop turning their children into Counts.

3

Measure success by lower Money Counts. It will take real work to find the best tax and non-tax methods to trim back extreme Money Counts. Even a 90% extreme Money Count tax would *still take years* to bring an E11 Count back into the Contributing Classes. Success will be measured by the real reduction of total Money Counts. ■



We can reclaim the Public Gains of America to regenerate our American Life. Let's say we can *re-public* our Public Gains. That's how we renew Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. That's how we meet American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity. It's how we keep the promise of the American Dream.

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1

Re-public what has been taken from America.

When Counts collect so much of America's Public Gains as Free Income for themselves, America is left with crushing national debt, unhealthy people and natural resources, sub-standard public options, and faltering research and education. We can do better when we *re-public* our Public Gains.

2

Boost the efficiency of our engine of prosperity.

Counts may know how to *efficiently collect* Free Income. But Contributing Americans know that we need to *efficiently cycle* Public Gains back into Public Knowledge, Public Investment, Public Resources, and Public Extensions. We can trim waste to generate prosperity for all Americans.

3

Regenerate American Life. The regeneration of American Life is about keeping the promise of the American Dream alive for young Americans. We can deliver on America's potential. The measure of success is whether all Americans can live our lives at the American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity. ■



We can restrain the wrongdoing of Counts. When entitled Counts wield extreme money, they often don't know when to stop. Americans need rules and protectors equal to the predatory power of Counts. The more lethal the extreme money, the stronger the safeguards we need. That's how we rein in the power of the Counting Class and keep America in healthy balance.

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1

Build up protectors as powerful as Counts.

Our American governments are not equipped to defend Americans against the extreme money of the Counting Class. We can work to make our protectors at least equal to the power of Counts. That way, our justice system can ensure Counts follow the rules and are punished for wrongdoing.

2

Make Counts take "no" for an answer.

Americans already say "no" to slavery and "no" to sex trafficking. We can say some things are not for collecting and selling, like our personal data, our natural resources, and our public options. We can make Counts take "no" for an answer when they don't know when to stop.

3

Regulate the radical imbalance. Where we don't have effective rules and regulations, Counts can take free advantage. We can regulate the radical imbalance of money in America, in areas like media, business, and elections. And for extreme abuses by Counts, we can make sure that the scale of a penalty fits the size of the wrongdoer. ■



We can stop Counts from fleeing responsibility for their debts to America. Unlike Contributing Americans, Counts can easily afford to take America's Public Gains and leave the country at the first sign of changes they don't like. But we don't have to let that happen. And we're not helpless to stop them. Americans can make sure that Counts stay accountable to America.

Americans can say, "Enough!" to the out-of-control, extreme Money Counts of elite, entitled Counts. Contributing Americans can renew the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, free from the corruption of extreme money, as we:

1

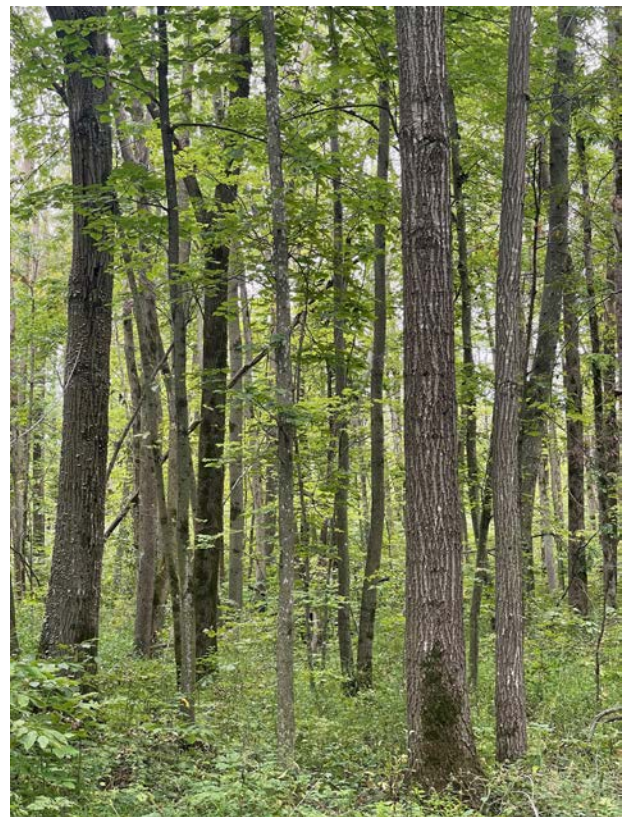
Treat Counts as flight risks. Counts are quick to threaten to go AWOL on America. They prepare so-called "migration options" to leave America and evade taxes and accountability. Americans can treat Counts as serious flight risks, and put in place the law enforcement tools to make sure they can't flee responsibility.

2

Set clear consequences. When Counts do flee responsibility and funnel extreme money abroad, we can set clear consequences. We can restrict or revoke American privileges like travel visas, ownership of certain kinds of assets, use of specific technologies, or access to elite schools. We don't have to let Counts flee with impunity.

3

Work with world neighbors. The Counting Class is a growing threat to countries around the world. As a nation, we can ally ourselves with world neighbors to coordinate enforcement of taxes and regulations on extreme money. We can use the power of alliances to put pressure on any countries that harbor or shelter Counts. ■



We can defend the values of the Contributing Classes. Counts have limited imagination for what America is all about. Counts live far removed from real American neighborhoods, exempt from work and waiting to collect Free Income. Contributing Americans value showing up and making a contribution. We feel the joy in work. Together we build America the beautiful.

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1

Recognize the value of working together.

Americans in the Contributing Classes show up, in person. We look our neighbors in the eye, we listen, we learn how to be kind to one another. If Counts want to do things that impact our communities—like trying to put in AI data mining plants—they can come and work it out in person.

2

Experience the reward of really contributing.

Americans are moved to contribute. We work as parents and caregivers, we make and do and create in our workplaces, we help our neighbors. It's how we feel useful and alive. If a Count wants to make a *net contribution*, he's first going to need to trim back his extreme Money Count.

3

Put American Life first, ahead of self gain.

Counts can get caught up in envious comparison with other Counts, with a narrow focus on Money Counts to keep score. Extreme money can cause Counts to lose sight of things beyond self gain. Contributing Americans know we have to keep regenerating American Life for all Americans. ■



We can embrace the spirit of insubordination. It's the spirit of a free country. It's what makes America the home of the brave. It's about being able to say "no" when someone else tells an American to conform to one way of thinking or talking or acting. Counts can use extreme money to chase any whim or want, but Americans don't have to bend or bow or follow as subordinates.

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1

Keep alive America's great tradition. Over our history, courageous Americans have kept alive the spirit of insubordination. Insubordination to enslavers, insubordination to those who exploit workers, and insubordination to those who subjugate women. Brave Americans today don't have to let the Counting Class subordinate us all.

2

Stop listening to Counts. Counts can try to command our cares and attention. A Count can use extreme money to speak over the voices of Contributing Americans. He can try to impress Americans with marketing, image-making, and branding. Contributing Americans can block this noise and keep our attention with one another.

3

Stop following the plans of Counts. Counts need followers for their extreme plans. That's how a Count can push his own personal agenda onto all Americans. But we don't have to go along with any Count who puts his own whims and wants first, before America. Insubordination to Counts is a chance for all Americans to live free. ■



We can evolve our outdated institutions to fit today's reality. The Counting Class takes advantage of any of our failures to update and adapt. The institutions we've inherited from the past are not built to defend against the corruption of extreme money today. And all Americans feel the disconnect when old ways don't keep up with how our lives change and advance.

Americans can say, "Enough!" to the out-of-control, extreme Money Counts of elite, entitled Counts. Contributing Americans can renew the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, free from the corruption of extreme money, as we:

1

Keep America growing and adapting.

Americans know that we've got to keep reconstructing and improving what we inherit from the past. It's real work to figure out what to alter, update, or abolish. And it's work to adjust to new ways of doing things. That's work we do to renew the promise of America.

2

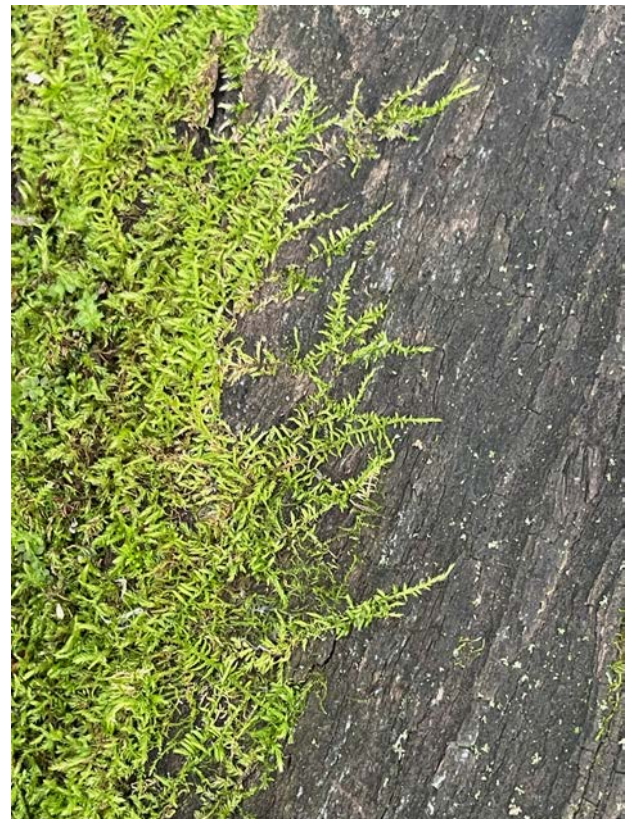
Get the right fit for today's America.

It doesn't help America to go to extremes, whether old or new. We can achieve the right balance of changes and updates for 21st-century America. Counts will keep wielding extreme money to push extreme plans on Americans. We don't have to let them throw America off balance.

3

Fix the weaknesses exploited by Counts.

The Counting Class has used weaknesses in our laws, our courts, and our elections to keep increasing their extreme Money Counts. Counts easily take advantage of outdated systems. Is our US Supreme Court or US Congress or system of elections corrupted by Counts? Update them. ■



America is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Counts may act like they're entitled to shape America's future for us. But American citizens are not here as background characters while Counts play America like their own video game. The bigger the decision, the more important that all Americans—we the people—are able to understand, debate, and decide.

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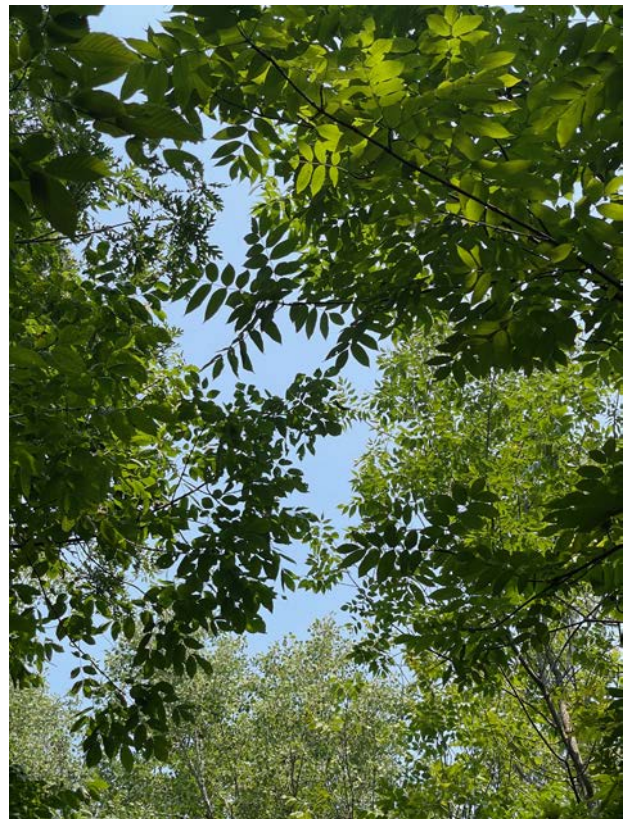
Decide on the big stuff. Counts corrupt our large-scale decision-making bodies: corporations, nonprofit organizations, and governments. They try to monopolize decisions about everything that shapes American lives: AI, "crypto" money, education, housing, healthcare. Americans can reclaim our tools for making big decisions.

2

Require clear and simple terms. Counts can hide behind technical jargon instead of being straightforward. They pretend their plans are too complicated to explain to regular Americans. But that's just an excuse to leave us out of important decisions. Americans can require clear and simple terms for anything that needs doing.

3

Think like parents. Counts abuse and waste America like there's no tomorrow. And if things get too difficult, they can afford to leave. But Americans know that's not OK. We can think like parents as we make decisions. We can make sure the regenerative cycle of American Life is strong. We can help future generations thrive. ■



We can expand Public Knowledge. We can develop our inheritance of know-how, and pass it along as our legacy to future generations. Our Public Knowledge is the essential ingredient of all American innovation. It makes an abundant and easy livelihood possible for all Americans. We can defend our Public Knowledge from Counts who control access for their own self gain.

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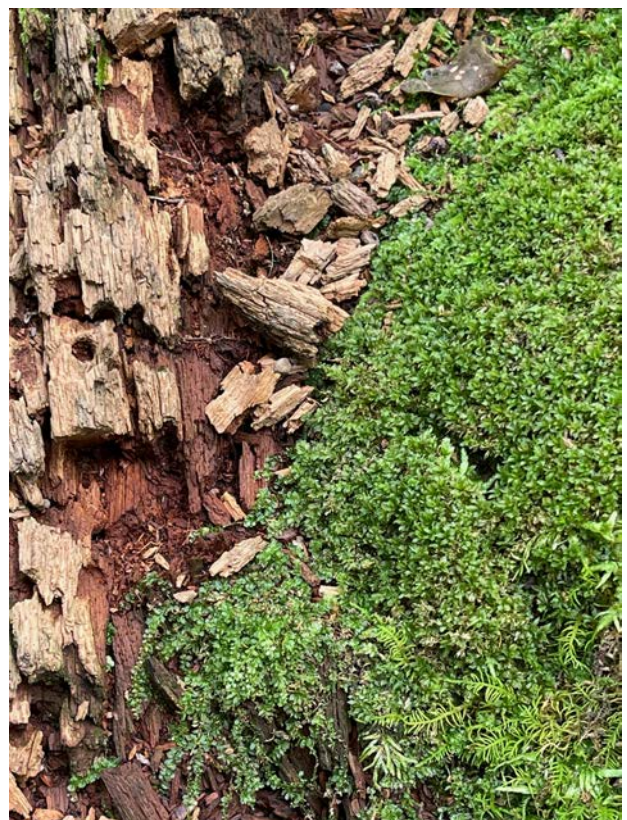
Boost public research of all kinds. Basic research, applied research. Exploratory research, descriptive research. Research in fields from medicine to earth sciences, from agriculture to history, from linguistics to physics. We can secure America's future by building up the homes for wonder and curiosity, like universities and labs.

2

Deliver Public Knowledge to Americans. Counts can try to control access to our Public Knowledge and decide for Americans how it gets used. We can deliver the current state of Public Knowledge in our schools. And we can deliver the fruits of Public Knowledge to all Americans in public options at current American standards.

3

Share Public Knowledge openly. The power of our Public Knowledge grows through open sharing. Any new tools for using and advancing Public Knowledge—like AI—need public options. Businesses may temporarily keep small portions of knowledge in patents, but we can make sure to *re-public* new know-how into Public Knowledge. ■



We can commit to Public Investment that meets the Americans standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity. And we can keep improving that Public Investment as American standards advance. To regenerate American Life, we need to cycle our Public Gains back into America. That's how we fuel the public options that protect and empower all Americans.

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1

Provide public options across American Life.

To reach the American standard of equal security, we need the public option of professional police. For equal opportunity, public options in education are vital. And equal freedom requires public options in things like justice, credit, healthcare. Public Investment is how we offer public options.

2

Meet current American standards. American standards keep improving over time. *Invention is the mother of necessity*: high speed internet, healthier homes, safer and more energy-efficient transportation, life-extending medical treatments. The necessities of life keep advancing. And our Public Investment needs to match today's reality.

3

Fulfill the promise of America's social contract.

Public options in public hands are how we can (a) protect Americans from getting cornered by bad actors, (b) support more healthy and balanced competition among businesses, (c) maintain safety nets, and (d) ensure we have equal access to resources to pursue the American Dream. ■



We can protect America's wealth of Public Resources. We can sustain the health of America's people, plants, animals, land, water, and air. Counts make extreme claims on America's Public Resources, and they shelter themselves from the damage they cause. We don't have to let Counts abuse and deplete our Public Resources just to keep inflating their extreme Money Counts.

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1

Protect the life value of all our Public Resources.

Counts can afford to keep a narrow focus on the price value of our resources. They can insulate themselves from the damage they cause through waste and abuse. Americans can say "no" to this mistreatment. We can balance the life value of Public Resources against price value extremes.

2

Renew the energy of the American people. The health of the American people is the ultimate measure of how well we protect the health of all our Public Resources. We can cycle America's Public Gains to nurture healthy American bodies living in a healthy environment. We can measure success in longer lifespans and greater wellbeing.

3

Hold Counts accountable for their harms.

Americans don't have to let Counts use up America and walk away. Counts take excessive water and energy for AI data mining, they wear down human bodies for cheap pay, they load up America's land, water, and air with waste. We can make sure Counts pay for the harms they cause. ■



We can exercise Public Extensions to meet the future. We're strongest when we have maximum flexibility to pull in new people, draw on new resources, and extend credit. Then we can handle whatever comes our way: war, recession, new technologies. From immigration to the use of public lands to the supply of money, we can flex American power and achieve healthy balance.

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1

Pay down our national debt. For too long, Counts have over-extended America for self gain. Allowing our national debt to bloat just benefits the Counting Class. When we reclaim America's Public Gains, we can pay down many trillions of dollars of debt. That way we keep the flexibility to respond and adapt to any future challenges.

2

Provide equal access to credit extensions. The path to the American Dream can require credit extensions. Buying a home, starting a business, getting career training. Public options for credit ensure equal access and balance the power of private credit. We don't have to let Counts be the gatekeepers of credit for all Americans.

3

Keep public control of Public Extensions. Public Extensions are about being able to flex America's power. Some Counts would replace our public US dollar with "crypto" money, leaving Americans without control of our own supply of currency. We don't have to let this happen. We can keep Public Extensions in public hands. ■



We can *live and let live* as equals. This is America's democratic habit of mind. It's about finding a fair and balanced way to live with our neighbors, to treat each other with respect and tolerance. It's not the entitlement of some Counts, who act as if they are better than Americans and get to push any whim or want on all of us. Americans enjoy freedom as equals with our neighbors.

Americans can say, "Enough!" to the out-of-control, extreme Money Counts of elite, entitled Counts. Contributing Americans can renew the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, free from the corruption of extreme money, as we:

1

Achieve a healthy balance. It doesn't work to live and let live when Counts can easily manhandle Americans and force any of their plans down our throats. We can regulate their extreme behavior and trim back their extreme Money Counts. We can achieve a healthy balance so that Americans can enjoy the equal freedom to live and let live.

2

Live in fellowship with our neighbors. America works when we stay in touch with one another. It doesn't work when Counts absent themselves and retreat to isolated compounds. To build tolerance and acceptance, we have to talk and listen to our neighbors, and see how we affect one another. That builds the mutual trust to live and let live.

3

Reclaim our real disagreements. When Counts call the shots, they rob Americans of the chance to work out our differences. And that just leaves us more and more upset with one another. We can reclaim our disagreements, and handle them with tolerance and grace. Then we're more ready to live and let live with one another in peace. ■



We can champion the American Dream, so that each of us can truly shape our own destiny. And why not? Why would Americans settle for less, when broad prosperity is in our reach? We don't have to let Counts keep the real American Dream for themselves and sell a cheap knock-off to Contributing Americans. We don't have to accept the gulf in America created by extreme money.

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1

Rise to a fuller American Dream. The American Dream isn't so small as "work hard and play by the rules," just to get by with a small piece of what Counts leave for us. The true American Dream is richer. More than basic dignity, it's also the hope to make some real contribution in life. It could be in business, art, family, science, service.

2

Get real about what it takes. The possibility of America doesn't exist without real effort. We've got to protect the health of our Public Resources. Flex Public Extensions. Leverage the power of our Public Knowledge. Commit to Public Investment up to the American standards of equal freedom, equal security, and equal opportunity.

3

Regenerate the American Dream as our legacy. Counts act like the American Dream ends with them. They collect America's Public Gains as Free Income and walk away. We know the American Dream should continue with new generations of young hope. Americans can reclaim our Public Gains and regenerate the American Dream. ■

