Natural Asset Companies

Greetings,

An article published in “The Pipeline” written by Elizibeth Nickson recently came to my attention when researching conservation easements. The article titled “As ‘Net Zero’ Comes a Cropper, a New Threat Arises,” opened with the following line: “If not stopped, on November 17th, the U.S. government will pass a rule that allows for America’s protected lands, including parks and wildlife refuges, to be listed on the N.Y. Stock Exchange. Natural Asset Companies (NACs) will be owned, managed, and traded by companies like BlackRock, Vanguard, and even China.”

Immediately after reading the full article on November 15th, GLTPA sent the article link and a message to Senators Baldwin, Johnson, and Stabenow, Congressmen Westerman, Tiffany, Van Orden, Bergman, Stauber, and the Executive Director of the Western Caucus, Mr. Miller, asking if they knew anything about NACs and if any action would be taken on November 17th to implement this attack on America’s wealth. As you have all learned, natural resources are America’s true wealth, not the fiat money we use to purchase things with. Anything such as these NACs are a threat to Americans and the nation’s wealth.

According to the article, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed a proposed rule on October 4th to create Natural Asset Companies. After the filing, a 21-day comment period, half of the normal comment period, which is normally required, was allowed which brings this to November 17th.

What is a Natural Assets Company? NRCs are something that would allow rich companies like Blackrock, Bill Gates, and even China to hold rights to ecosystems, land, water, air, and natural properties enrolled in NACs. In other words, they will have “management authority” over the land while claiming tax deductions and selling carbon allowances to businesses, families, and townships according to the article. Basically, as the article states, “We peons will be renting air from the richest people on earth.” Lands qualified too placed in NACs are National Parks, National Wildlife Refugees, Wilderness Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Conservation Areas on Private and Federal Lands, Endangered Species Critical Habitat, and the Conservation Reserve Program. All of this sounds as if it came directly from the most renowned forest certification programs which have defined what the areas are and dictate how loggers should be trained.

As was stated earlier and what led to the discovery of the article was research on conservation easements. Associations like GLTPA have been told multiple times that our members should be tripping over ourselves to support CEs as the savior of the forest industry. The property in a CE can never be subdivided and will always remain forests, right? Isn’t that the pitch? Is it realistic to think these lands are conserved in the name of the forest industry? Take the “Nature Conservancy” (TNC) for instance. Classified as a 501(c) 3, it holds over $6 billion of land in its books, and I’m told that may be underestimated. Those lands were acquired with donor money and grants which came from the government using taxpayer, yours and mine, money. Remember where true wealth lays? Whoever controls wealth controls everything else including people. Of course, these programs are all voluntary, but I do not remember electing to have government use my tax money to destroy the forest industry, do you? Think the cost of raw material is high now? Industry has seen nothing yet. Wait until the real impact of easements and carbon credit programs kicks in. Groups like TNC may have good intentions, but America’s wealth was built on individuals owning property, taking care of it, and using it to provide goods and services to the mass population. When individual ownership and control is lost, the wealth of the middleclass will be lost also.

What has given so much momentum to these movements is climate change and the false belief that we need to be saved from ourselves or so it seems. It has nothing to do with climate change and everything to do with greed and more wealth for the wealthy and control over the natural resources which are the nation’s wealth. It does, at times, appear as though the forest industry takes the easy road and falls in line with these schemes in fear of retaliation from extreme environmentalists. These extremists who may come to the table a time or two, don’t care what industry thinks anyway. The bottom line is they want industry gone and will stop at nothing to achieve their goal so why cave to their demands instead of fighting for the truth about forest management.

The title of article used as a basis for this message includes the term “Net Zero” which is a stepchild to ESG. Ever heard the phrase give someone enough rope and they’ll eventually hang themselves. From reading more documents “Net Zero” could be the one thing that blows up the carbon scam. Hopefully that happens before landowners become too dependent on any income they might receive. Whether in a conservation easement or a carbon program, the one thing landowners still have the right and responsibility to do is pay the property taxes even if they don’t control anything else on their property. If the income dries up, the taxes are still due. When taxes aren’t paid who ends up with the property, government of course. Remember the term 30 X 30 from last month. You’ll figure it out.

As this article is being written Thanksgiving is one week away. As I read to bottom of the “Pipeline” article I was very thankful to know groups like “Kansas Natural Resource Coalition,” “Financial Fairness Alliance” and “Blue Ribbon Coalition” have joined with “American Stewards of Liberty” and filed opposition comments to the SEC. Senators Pete Ricketts, James Risch, and Mike Crapo sent inquires to SEC and Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY) offered an amendment to defund the proposed rule to approve listing of the NACs. One can’t help but wonder why there was so little media and awareness by our elected officials as to how this diabolical scheme was even considered. But then again, I have often wondered how a handful of Senators and Congressmen/women with an annual salary of $174,000.00 become multi-millionaires after a few short years in office. Feel free to draw your own conclusion.

Despite all the attacks on Freedom within, there is one promise that never ever, ever waivers. That promise is the birth, life, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the promise he made to those who believe in him and follow his perfect example of leadership to serve others to be saved in eternal life with Him, the creator of all things.

May His Christmas Blessings be abundant to all of you now and in the New Year to come.

Until next month,

Luke 2: 8-14; and there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on who his favor rests.”