

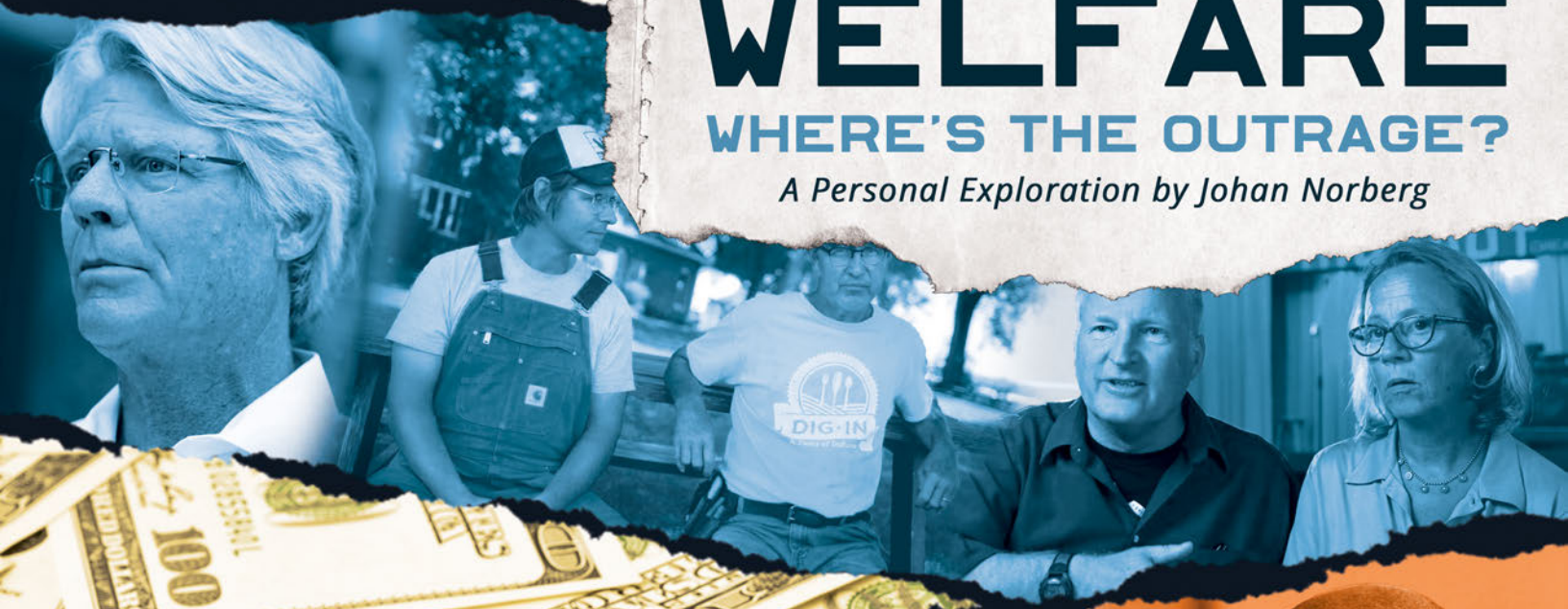
Take Action



# CORPORATE WELFARE

WHERE'S THE OUTRAGE?

*A Personal Exploration by Johan Norberg*





## Corporate Welfare Engagement Toolkit

### Take Action – Groups

Tax exemptions, subsidies, regulations, and bailouts... who pays when cronyism between business and government benefits the wealthy and well-connected?

*Corporate Welfare: Where's the Outrage?* explores the many strands of cronyism by telling powerful stories of people trying to bring change to their communities. Corporate welfare is an issue that transcends left/right politics; it's simply unfair to ask the poor to subsidize the rich.

#### Get Involved

- **Identify a corporate welfare issue** – This should be easy... every city/state has them, and estimates range from \$100 billion at the national level to millions at the local level. Some ideas on where to start:
  - **Good Jobs** – [www.goodjobsfirst.org](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org)
  - **Open The Books** – [www.openthebooks.com](http://www.openthebooks.com)
  - **The Sunlight Foundation** – [www.sunlightfoundation.com](http://www.sunlightfoundation.com)
  - **The Center for Responsive Politics** – [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)
- **Join a local group** – Check out The Policy Circle to meet and discuss local and national policies with people in your community.

#### Take Action

- **Small actions add up.** One person can make a difference, especially when they propel agents of change in their community. You can write op-eds for your local news outlet, write letters, sign petitions, or donate money to organizations that fight corporate welfare and cronyism.
- **Support companies not actively soliciting subsidies.** You cannot blame a business for taking a tax deduction or enjoying the advantages of a loophole. But no one can make you buy a product or service from a company actively seeking to reduce competition or enrich itself through the taxpayer. And if you *run* one of these companies, see what you can do to wean the company off taxpayer support.
- **Attend budget meetings.** Advance agendas are often posted online or in the local media. When questionable regulations or budget items are being considered, show up to ask a few hard questions rather than allowing them to pass uncontested. It's your money!
- **Run for public office yourself.** There are 3,142 counties and county-equivalents, 285 cities with more than 100,000 people, and thousands of smaller towns and villages, each with its mayor, board of supervisors, or other elected officials. And as you just saw in the film, many of the corporate welfare dollars that flow to the wealthy via state and local governments were the result of targeted local lobbying and horse-trading. A reform-minded citizen serving in government can play a meaningful role in jump-starting change.
- **Vote.** Remember, cronyism is a relationship between business and government. In the marketplace and at the polls, your vote is your voice.