



CORPORATE WELFARE: WHERE'S THE OUTRAGE?

A Personal Exploration by Johan Norberg

Corporate Welfare: Where's the Outrage?

Quotes

Who is lobbying for the taxpayer? The answer is no one.

– **Johan Norberg, Host, Corporate Welfare: Where's the Outrage?**

In the last 12 years, we've been a number one or number two state for foreign and direct investment, which means more money from around the world is coming through Louisiana than almost anywhere else in the country. And you're like, okay, where is that money going? Because it's not going to me. It's not going to my schools. It's not going to my roads. So what's happening?

– **Helen Frink, Community Volunteer, Together Baton Rouge**

Monies that could be flowing directly into classrooms and communities was somehow given as breaks to those who really don't need a break.

– **Dr. Errol Domingue, Pastor, Elm Grove Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA**

It (massive property tax exemptions for petrochemical companies) was allowed to go on for 83 years because it wasn't in the light of day. When the public knew about it, that's where the outrage came.

– **Edgar Cage, Leader, Together Baton Rouge**

IKEA said, "Oh, we're interested in coming to the Memphis area." They also said, "Well, how much money are you going to give us before we decide whether we're going to come or not?"

– **Mark Cunningham, Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Beacon Center of Tennessee**

Our money is going to these billionaires in order to give them a competitive advantage. It is really the antithesis of what capitalism should be. This is basically socialism for the rich.

– **Mark Cunningham, Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Beacon Center of Tennessee**

We're paying for them to build luxury condos for the wealthy. This was not done democratically, and it was not done for the kids and the working people. It was done by a small group of people so that they could economically benefit \$6 billion dollars.

– **Tim Tuten, Co-Owner, The Hideout, Chicago, IL**





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The most frustrating thing about the TIF program is that it enables the pay-to-play politics that are so widespread in Chicago. We're taking away money from core government services; we're taking away money from schools and repairing roads and things that everybody in the community can use. And we're essentially using that money to offset costs for wealthy, well-connected business interests who really don't need the help.

- **Adam Schuster, Director of Budget and Tax Research, Illinois Policy**

They saw a small farm raising food locally. That gets people questioning a lot about what happens in industrial agriculture. But when you uncover what happened here, it's all about eliminating competition."

- **Pete Eshelman, Owner, Joseph Decuis Restaurant, Roanoke, IN, and Farmstead Inn, Columbia City, IN**

It went from the worst form of government to try to put somebody out of business to actually an example of how government works when you have the right people in place on all sides who were willing to listen and find common ground.

- **Pete Eshelman, Owner, Joseph Decuis Restaurant, Roanoke, IN and Farmstead Inn, Columbia City, IN**

The U.S. government still treats agricultural subsidies as if they're helping the small farm owner, but that's not the case at all. Most small farms today exist outside of the subsidy system.

- **Johan Norberg, Host, Corporate Welfare: Where's the Outrage?**

The USDA tells people to eat their fruits and vegetables, yet the subsidies all go to items high in fat and high in carbohydrates. We choose not to subsidize fruits and vegetables or clean proteins. If we're going to pay farmers, we should probably choose to pay farms something that put Americans on a better diet..."

- **Greg Gunthorp, Owner, Gunthorp Farms, LaGrange, IN**

When government starts interfering with market processes, it often produces very bad results, even when their intentions sound good.

- **John Allison, Retired Chairman and CEO, BB&T Bank**

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