

ESG Sabotaging Economic Freedom and Damaging Economic Growth

ESG (Environmental Social Governance) is weaponizing taxpayer dollars to push leftist agendas at the state level. That's right, your money is being exploited to sabotage our economic freedom, which in turn is severely damaging economic growth.

ONE ISSUE: State pension funds are being used against the state's values, prosperity and economic growth.



For this week's briefing, we brought Derek Kreifels into the Economic War Room® to discuss how we can use strategic, economic weapons to preserve liberty through the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF).

Derek is the co-founder and chief executive officer of SFOF whose mission is "To drive fiscally sound public policy by partnering with key stakeholders and educating Americans on the role of responsible financial management in a free market economy."

In this briefing we will review the following topics:

- » The public-at-large is very skeptical of most elected officials and their managing of financial issues.
- » Who are state financial officers and why are they critical to weaponizing your state's money?
- » ESG is secretly trying to create a new branch of government that is not elected and has no accountability.
- » WE CAN FIGHT BACK AND WIN!

YOUR MISSION: Support your state treasurer, auditors, and other state financial officers in a fight for fiscally responsible public policy.

- » To bravely defend our liberties: economic freedom, rule of law, federalism, accountability of free society, free speech, and civil discourse.
- » To understand that pocketbook issues matter and to weaponize money around your values.

⚠ ATTENTION: Large fund managers have been using their leverage of ownership to manage state pension funds and tax dollars to promote their own social agenda. They're grossly influential. Although concealed behind the doors of powerful boardrooms, they're overtly undermining our personal liberties and deeply held values.

Ep. 6-215 (OSINT) Open-Sourced Intelligence Report. This briefing includes conversations with Kevin Freeman and Derek Kreifels. Derek is the co-founder and chief executive officer of the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF). They are the only nonprofit in the U.S. that combines groundbreaking free market research with a strong network of state treasurers, auditors, and other financial officers. They actively sustain the health of each state's economic outlook.

Before co-founding the SFOF in 2012, Derek spent five years as an assistant state treasurer of Kansas where he oversaw the state's college savings plan (Able plan), debt and bond management, and pension investments. During his tenure, his office processed over \$21 Billion annually and he managed 42 employees with an annual budget of over \$3.5 million dollars.

1. The public-at-large is very skeptical of elected officials and their managing financial issues. Derek explains:

*When asked, "Who do you trust more on state financial issues in your state - your state treasurer, your governor or your member of Congress?"**

- *The lowest that a state treasurer got was 60 percent in any state.*
- *The governor was between 20 percent and 25 percent.*
- *Members of Congress, regardless of party, were in the tank.*

**SFOF polled 14 states – red, purple, and blue states.*

State Treasurers have more credibility on financial accountability than almost any other elected official.

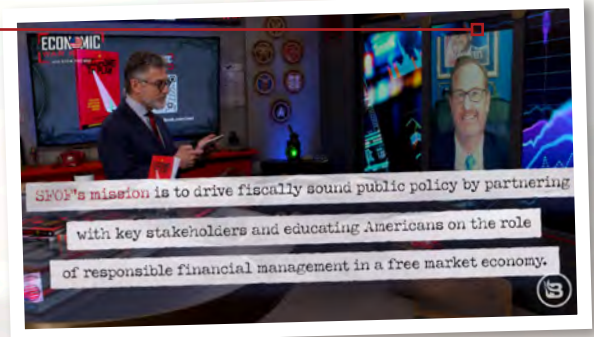
"We realized we had an untapped resource when it came to a statewide elected official who could lead on issues like pension reform, state budget policy, state taxation policy – all of those things that are financially related, that touch state government and the everyday lives of people in the various states. And so, we started organizing and realized that we had some incredible men and women who have stepped up to lead on some of these big issues." —Derek Kreifels

These insights led to the beginning of the State Financial Officers Foundation - SFOF

SFOF's mission is to drive fiscally sound public policy by partnering with key stakeholders and educating Americans on the role of responsible financial management in a free market economy.

SFOF wants elected financial officials and state leaders to raise the red flag when:

- » A state's governor is doing something that does not make the most financial sense, that's not smart.
- » A state legislature might be going off the rails in thinking about how to spend state tax dollars.



2. Who are State Financial Officers and Why are They Critical to Weaponizing Your State's Money?

How it Works:

The State Financial officials are good men and women who have solid conservative free market foundations and principles that are guiding their decisions.

While they're not lawmakers, they are people who have an incredible amount of influence on these issues.

Working together this organization provides the resources and support to be able to take a stand.

- » SFOF provides them with the tools they need – the research, the data and other tools to be able to take that bite when the federal government starts rolling out big fiscal items and bail out plans like some of the bills that have come out in the last few years.
- » These men and women are on the front lines of their state economic dollars and watching how those federal decisions impact each state individually.
- » Elected, state financial officials are people that report to the public. They are public servants. They don't serve the governor. They don't serve the bureaucracy. They serve the public and stand watch as public servants and as state financial advisers.

“I love the key principles you’ve got here: economic freedom, rule of law, federalism, accountability of free society, free speech, and civil discourse. Those are the bedrock principles of the United States of America and you’re standing on a financial foundation. Therefore I call it economic warfare. You’re standing up on a financial basis to defend these liberties.” —Kevin Freeman



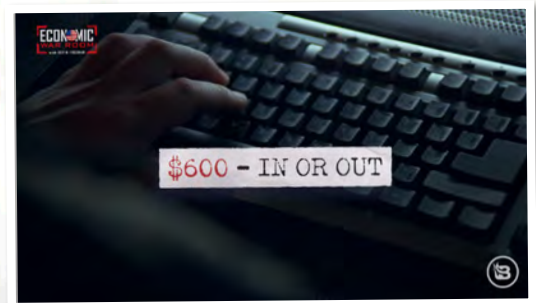
Case Study: Weaponizing the IRS.

When President Biden was first elected, we started to see an all-out assault, a weaponization of money in the United States.

One of the first things that we saw that our treasurers and auditors stood up against was this **weaponization of the IRS.**

There was a proposal at the United States Treasury Department, they called the “Green book.” It was a book of ideas that the left wanted to potentially implement by having Congress pass laws.

- » One of them was this idea of snooping on individual Americans bank accounts to the tune of \$600 in or out, whether they were deposits or payments.
 - It assumed that Americans were not paying all of their taxes, or they were guilty of something else.
 - In the United States we’ve always been taught that we’re innocent until proven guilty.



Trying to weaponize the IRS set the tone for a lot of these men and women to push back against the federal government and the IRS, and say, “Look, that’s an extraordinary invasion of privacy to suddenly have every kind of expenditure coming in and out of your bank account, having to be reported by the IRS.”

The SFOF worked with the credit unions and the bankers and a lot of other great free market organizations to squash that idea. That’s an example of some of the things that SFOF is working on.



NOTE: The state is designed to protect its citizens under the Constitution. It's clear any power not given explicitly to the federal government is reserved for the states and the people. That's the role of federalism at the state level.

More about Federalism:

“Another basic concept embodied in the Constitution is **federalism**, which refers to the division and sharing of power between the national and state governments.¹ By allocating power among state and federal governments, the Framers sought to establish a unified national government of limited powers while maintaining a distinct sphere of autonomy in which state governments could exercise a general police power . . . The Tenth Amendment, which provides that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” — Constitution Annotated (https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/intro.6-2-3/ALDE_00000032/)

3. ESG is Secretly Trying to Create a New Branch of Government That is Not Elected and Has No Accountability.

What they cannot legislate, globalist and institutions are implementing through corporate mandates to achieve their goals.

ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance and **it is un-American!**

- » The very large fund managers have been using the leverage of ownership that they have or the ability to manage state pension funds and tax dollars to promote their own social agenda.
- » This movement on the left was developed to create a new branch of government where players know that they can't get leftist policies passed through the courts or the democratic process.
- » What they're doing is leveraging giant corporate boardrooms from fund managers like BlackRock, State Street, and Vanguard.

✳ AT ISSUE:

- Collectively, Black Rock, State Street, and Vanguard manage the largest portions of state pensions across the country.
- They also have 16 percent to 20 percent ownership in the top 500 publicly traded corporations.

These organizations will often work together and decide to vote as a bloc to get a climate activist, for example, elected to the board of directors for ExxonMobil or other shareholder proposals. Currently, they have the power to do that and that's what SFOF is trying to stop.

“I think ESG is pure fascism. That's corporatism at minimum. That's what Benito Mussolini wanted so he could put his policy through Italy in the thirties and forties and control the people [of Italy].” —Kevin Freeman



4. Beware of Corporatism. Corporatism is the control of a state or organization by large interest groups.

A closer look at the motivations for these corporations to advance the ESG agenda. It's more than the fact that they know they can't get it easily passed through our democratic process.

⚠ CAUTION: Watch for Corporatism's own self-interest and greed to play out in the process.

- » There's an actual desire to do business with the people of China. *(Note: While we don't have any ill will towards the people of China, we certainly know that the Communist Party of China is not our friend. And they have been nefariously working against the United States for years.)*
- » Many appear to be willing to prioritize new markets and retail customers over the values of liberty and security.



Companies like BlackRock see a huge number of new retail customers and potential profits from China.

⚠ WARNING: You don't get to do business in China without the Communist Chinese Party's permission and approval.

That's why they're pushing things like global climate action and the net zero race to become carbon zero for other countries, but not China.

- » It's all being done in a very hypocritical way.
- » No one is saying the same thing to China as it relates to climate.
- » At the same time, China is building 50 new coal fired power plants in 2022. The most by any country in the world!

Hypocrisy reigns! Forced behavior is now virtuous.

- » There's a giant gap of hypocrisy where all these world leaders that sprung out of the UN and European Union nations got together and decided **they can force the behavior.**
- » Look at Larry Fink's quote, "At BlackRock, we're forcing behaviors." (<https://www.onenewspage.com/video/20220324/14566447/BlackRock-CEO-Larry-Fink-We-apos-re-Forcing.htm>).



They are expecting everybody to just fall in line!

Outlawing combustible engines – Is it bad for America and Good for China? You decide.

- » There is a movement is that all combustion engines are bad, and that they need to be outlawed in America.
- » **At issue:** The more that the US becomes dependent on electric cars, electric charging stations, the more we'll be dependent on China, who owns a majority of the rich minerals in the world. So, it's bad for America.

The hope is that we can really educate and wake Americans up to that realization.



ALERT: Note that we do not have the infrastructure and power grid in place to support this transition. Ask yourself, what is the real agenda?



5. Being Dependent on China is not just bad for America!

It's bad for the environment!
It's bad for social justice!
It's bad for governance!

China is bad in all the above:

- ✓ They are likely the worst polluter on the planet.
- ✓ Possibly the worst at social good and being good socially.
- ✓ China has enforced a one-child policy by forcing abortions.
- ✓ It's a nation that has forced organ harvesting from live prisoners.
- ✓ In terms of governance, everything must support the Chinese Communist Party. It doesn't support the Chinese people at all. It's not transparent. It's not good governance.
- ✓ China is the height of hypocrisy. It's also a massive wealth transfer.

ESG is the elites thinking they know better than the American people while being unaccountable, unelected, and trying to force us in their direction.

- » And the elite just happen to make a little profit from doing business with China.
- » It's detestable what these corporations are doing.


“SFOF is number one among those raising the alarm, telling the American people what's going on.” –Derek Kreifels



6. ESG - Far More Than Climate Change Ideology. Paid Abortions are Next.

Many think that ESG just focuses on issues like climate change. But we're seeing some of these large fund managers and different companies making shareholder proposals that would mandate so-called “reproductive rights” opportunities at some of the nation's largest corporations.

- » In May, almost a month before we saw the reversal of Roe, we saw shareholder proposals at TJ Maxx, Lowe's, and Walmart that would have mandated a \$5,000 paid trip and three days off to go have an abortion in the state of their choice.
- » Those proposals failed, but those are the kinds of things that we expect to grow in number more than exponentially in the next shareholder season.
- » We anticipate that there will be over 100 shareholder proposals on the abortion issue alone in 2023

 **ACTION:** If you are an investor in Walmart, TJ Maxx, Lowe's, and other publicly traded companies, you need to pay attention and start thinking about and learning how you can vote your proxy vote as an investor when it comes time for shareholder meetings.

“Corporations are doing this not because they think it's going to add to their customer base. They're doing it because they want the investment from those following an ESG mandate, which is measured in the tens of trillions of dollars. So, they're doing it to appease the investor class, which is not your average investor. It may be your money, but you're not the one calling the shots.” —Kevin Freeman

7. The SFOF is doing important work as they push back on ESG ratings for state governments. The SFOF states they are not interested in S&P 500 mandating ESG on state governments.

 **ATTENTION: Arbitrary ratings are being pushed out on both local governments and corporations.**

- » Standard and Poor's has a global rating system.
- » BlackRock, Vanguard, State Street together own just a little bit over 18% of Standard and Poor's.

When S&P Global Ratings started pushing a new ESG ratings on state governments, many of SFOF treasurers and states started pushing back.

- » Most notably this year, was the state of Utah, where Treasurer Marlow Oaks organized a letter that had every member of the federal delegation, including Senator Romney, Senator Lee, the Governor, the Attorney General, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House basically saying to Standard and Poor's, “We're not interested in having you rate our funds.”

Basically, the S&P gave Utah a poor or a negative ESG score because it is in a drought.

- The question S&P has refused to answer is - How does a drought impact the state's ability to pay back their debt? It doesn't.
- These are completely arbitrary ratings.

Utah's state officials are the ones leading the biggest chargeback against ESG.

8. Other Arbitrary rating systems are being thrust on local governments and corporations.

There's another rating service that is asking city and county governments how many charging stations and electric vehicles the city or county government owns. The rating service is weighing that into their evaluation on how to manage their debt.

- Morningstar owns a company called Sustainalytics. They were just hit in the news because their system of rating says the company had an anti-Semitic push to it.
- Whatever the left finds that they can't get passed through the democratic process or the courts, they're going to try and get it snuck in behind the American people's back.

"ESG now has become this kind of banner to push back against pro-life issues, push back against the Second Amendment." -- Derek Kreifels

Congratulations to the Utah officials, especially if you get both Mitt Romney and Mike Lee to sign on to the same document. Utah's state officials are the ones leading the biggest chargeback against ESG!





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9. We Can Fight Back and Win. States are now winning as it relates to legislation and divestment of those groups working against their citizens.

Five states have passed legislation this last year. Some examples are included below:

In Texas, Senate Bill 13 passed, led by folks like Senator Bryan Hughes and other senators.

Senate Bill 13	Senate Author: Birdwell et al.
Effective: 9-1-21	House Sponsor: King, Phil et al.

Senate Bill 13 amends the Government Code to prohibit a state agency or political subdivision from entering into a qualifying contract with a value of \$100,000 or more for goods and services unless the contract contains a written verification from the contracted company that it does not and will not during the contract term boycott energy companies.

That prohibition does not apply to a governmental entity that determines that the prohibition is inconsistent with its constitutional or statutory duties related to the issuance, incurrence, or management of debt obligations or the deposit, custody, management, borrowing, or investment of funds.

Senate Bill 13 also requires the comptroller of public accounts to prepare, maintain, and provide to the permanent school fund (PSF) and each statewide retirement system a list of all financial companies that boycott energy companies. The bill provides for the divestment of certain assets the PSF or any such retirement system holds in a listed company that does not cease boycotting energy companies within a specified time frame, exempts certain investments from divestment, prohibits the PSF or an applicable retirement system from acquiring securities of a listed company, and establishes certain reporting requirements for the PSF and the retirement systems. The bill authorizes the attorney general to bring any action necessary to enforce the prohibition on investment in companies that boycott energy companies.

It was a great blueprint for a lot of other treasurers and legislators to work together on their states.

In West Virginia, Treasurer Riley Moore passed a law that was a little bit different than the Texas law that was aimed just at the big banks.

- It said, “Look, if you are discriminating against our signature industry, which is coal, natural gas and oil, the primary economic engines for the state, the livelihood of thousands of West Virginians, then you’re no longer welcome to do business with our state.”
- Moore is acting as a market participant. So, he’s not boycotting banks. The banks are boycotting West Virginia and then want to do business with them, by the way.
- Moore passed a law and was able to promote a list this summer that announced companies like BlackRock and others weren’t allowed to be in state contracts any longer.

In Kentucky, Treasurer Alison Ball shepherded a bill that is part of four state contracts. This one’s a little broader.

- “Any vendor that wants to do business with the state of Kentucky that has a contract valued at \$100,000 or higher, **can’t do business with Kentucky if they’re actively discriminating against what they consider their signature industry of their state.**” Again, the fossil fuel industry.



It’s about Beating the Playground Bully. States are defending other industries and their constituents as well.

In Kansas and Nebraska, it might be agriculture and cattle ranching where this ESG movement has started pushing against companies that support the cattle industry because cattle produce methane, and they think that that’s going to end the world.

In addition to legislation and banking contracts, divestments are also a focus area!

While states are actively looking at legislation, in the last several months, the headlines have been all of the divestments that these state leaders have pushed in many of these state treasurers’ offices.

- » A lot of people don’t realize that state treasurers control the banking contracts.
- » Many also have some play with fund managers and treasuries that they manage internally in their office.

The results of SFOF are making a difference! \$1.5 Billion divested, with more on the horizon!

Riley Moore was the first treasurer to announce a divestment back in January of this year that was valued a little bit over \$1.5 billion.

Since then, Treasurer Loftis of South Carolina, Treasurer Schroeder of Louisiana, Treasurer Fitzpatrick of Missouri, Treasurer Oakes of Utah, Treasurer Milligan of Arkansas and others have jumped on to that and have announced similar divestments.

It's adding up, \$3 billion has been divested from Black Rock.

“While we only have divested \$3 billion from BlackRock’s \$8.5 trillion funds under management globally, we’re getting their attention. I think that unfortunately, that’s the language they speak, it’s their bottom line, and that’s the best way for us. It’s kind of like dealing with a playground bully. You’ve got to pop them in the nose real hard, real fast. And that’s frankly, what these men and women are doing.” --Derek Kreifels

“As a former Templeton executive, I can guarantee SFOF is getting the ESG’s attention. You lose \$100 million, \$500 million, and \$800 million, plus a one point something billion-dollar account, it gets your attention, but it also makes headlines. So, people say, ‘Hey, wait a minute, I want to divest too.’” —Kevin Freeman

Upholding the Principles of the Constitution.

“There’s a famous line that the Constitution is not a suicide pact. You don’t allow so much freedom that they can use the Constitution to destroy your freedom. And here the states are fighting back and pushing back and SFOF is leading it. You’re doing what we say all the time – weaponize your money. And the states are weaponizing their public money for liberty, not to control them, not to manipulate them, not to do anything nefarious, but to uphold the principles of the Constitution.” —Kevin Freeman



Why Should You Care?

- » The public-at-large is very skeptical of most elected officials and their managing of financial issues.
- » Your state financial officers are critical to weaponizing your state's money against ESG and leftist ideology that can destroy our republic.
 - When you hear about state treasures and these men and women talking about their fiduciary duty and fiduciary responsibility, that's the foundation of our fundamental argument that no other political issue should be considered when it comes to making a state's investment decisions.
- » ESG is secretly trying to create a new branch of government that is not elected and has no accountability.
- » WE CAN FIGHT BACK AND WIN.

Action Steps

1. Learn more about SFOF (<https://sfof.com/>) and how they are educating Americans about the dangers of ESG – fighting for our money and our values.
2. Check out their new educational website, OurMoneyOurValues.com to learn more about what ESG really is.
3. Get to know your treasurer, get to know your state auditor, know who they are. It's an important part of the election and ask them where they stand on ESG and their attempt to control without accountability.
4. Study the ESG issues that are affecting your state. Start here:
 - ESG: The Invisible Fist (<http://thenakeddollar.blogspot.com/2022/04/esg-politicization-of-capital.html>)
 - 19 Attorneys General launch investigation into banks pushing ESG (<https://americasfrontlinenews.com/post/19-attorneys-general-launch-investigation-into-banks-pushing-esg>)



NOTICE: ECONOMIC WAR ROOM AND KEVIN FREEMAN DO NOT RECOMMEND INVESTMENTS in our briefings or our episodes. Given the insights Derek shared with us, you may want to do your own research and investigation or ask your financial advisor to do so.



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5. Forward this to all your friends and loved ones and get them to take action.
6. Join us weekly in the Economic War Room. We are building new solutions with thought leaders that come through our doors every week.
7. Listen to and study Economic War Room (<https://www.economicwarroom.com>) resources to help you understand the geopolitical landscape and threats against your money, your livelihood, and your way of life to better prepare you to enter the battle.
8. If you have a financial advisor, make sure they have your values and interests at heart. Make sure they really understand what ESG investments mean for our future. Suggest that they become part of the NSIC institute and nominate them to participate in our online certification (see below).

ATTENTION: Again, if you have not contacted your financial advisor, it is time to make it happen! If you don't have an advisor, it's time to consider getting one.

IMPORTANT: If you have a financial advisor make sure they are aligning your investments with your values and that they understand the economic war being waged against you. (See more on Weaponizing your money below)

9. Financial Advisors sign up for the online NSIC class at Liberty University. If you have a financial advisor make sure they see this link:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Also, you can nominate your financial advisor to participate in the NSIC Institute at www.NSIC.org and we will reach out to them.

10. **Join us weekly in the Economic War Room®.** We are building new solutions with thought leaders that come through our doors every week. Understanding the geopolitical landscape and threats against your money, your livelihood, and your way of life will allow you to be better prepared as the Great Reset is waged against America. Be sure to sign up for our weekly updates at <https://www.economicwarroom.com>.
11. It is time to weaponize your money, see below as it relates to finding an NSIC advisor.

We are in an economic war, as you seek ways to Weaponize you Money in your Investments, Spending, and Giving, consider an NSIC trained financial advisor.

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Financial Advisors go www.NSIC.org. Be sure to sign up for more information at <https://www.nsic.org/nominate.html>.

If you do not have a financial advisor, now is a good time to get one. We will soon publish of NSIC advisors who have participated in the training and elected to become part of the NSIC Institute.

12. Weaponize your money toward principles that support Liberty, Security, and Values (LSV). You control your giving, spending, and investing. Nominate your financial advisor to attend our next class at Liberty University this fall.

- **Investing.** We suggest you get a like-minded financial advisor. We've done surveys and a clear majority of investors want an advisor who matches with their political and cultural beliefs. Unfortunately, Wall Street is pushing for you to just take what they offer in order to force a leftist agenda on you.
 - o "If your advisor isn't willing to match your investments with your values, send them to us for training and education. If they won't do that, I can promise you that there are lots of other advisors looking for new clients." –Kevin Freeman
 - o If you are following Economic War Room®, you will be on the leading edge regarding global threats, geopolitical analysis, and how you can weaponize your money to strengthen America. Your money, livelihood, and way of life are at risk and these tools are designed to mobilize America to protect our economic liberty.

In the **Economic War Room®**, we encourage Americans to be the "small ships that make the difference." You cannot solely rely on the government or the president to solve America's problems. You have to make a difference. It is up to you to help take our country back and create a voice for economic liberty. [The small ships are based on Churchill's Operation Dynamo that rescued the British Expeditionary Forces in the Miracle of Dunkirk.



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Shareable Quotes:

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The EWR Collection Deck – From Kevin Freeman (List of resources and external links for more information)

Quick Access Links

[About Derek Kreifels and SFOF](#)

[People are Losing Trust in Government Officials](#)

[IRS and the Weaponization of Money](#)

[The Dangers of ESG](#)

[Corporatism Replacing or Colluding with Government](#)

[China and ESG Hypocrisy](#)

[The Corporate War on Life](#)

[SFOF and States Pushing Back to Protect the People](#)

[ESG Ratings for State Governments?](#)

[About LSV Investing and the NSIC](#)

[] - Must Read/Watch

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Link to all Economic Battle Plans™ <https://www.economicwarroom.com/battleplans>

According To Plan Book <https://accordingtoplanbook.com/ewr>



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Episodes and Economic Battle Plans™ from Prior Shows with Application to this Topic:

- 11/10/22, EP214, Big Tech Tyranny, Dr. Robert Epstein, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
- 11/03/22, EP213, The War on Life, Nick Vujicic, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
- 10/27/22, EP212, The Speech the Changed Everything, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
- 09/22/22, EP207, Pushing Back Against Woke Wall Street, Tom Dans, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
- 09/15/22, EP206, Energy, Immigration, and China, Rep. Brian Babin, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
- 08/25/22, EP203, 10 Solutions to Help Weaponize Your Money, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
- 08/18/22, EP202, In a Woke World Profits are Evil, Katherine Novikov, [Download Economic Battle Plan™](#)
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CEO of SFOF <https://sfof.com/our-staff/>

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Free Enterprise Project <https://nationalcenter.org/programs/free-enterprise-project/>

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ECONOMIC BATTLE PLAN™

THE ESG SCAM IS HARMING AMERICA **6.215**

CLEARED FOR RELEASE 11/17/2022
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Why ESG Is a Train Wreck and the LSV Investment Solution

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Invest in Liberty, Security, and Values, Not ESG: Freeman

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