

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. ■

