

Letters

Continued from Page 4

industries. The government increasingly seems less interested in these entities regaining stability, and more on assuming control over them, all the while using warnings of impending catastrophe as justification for their actions.

Obama has also promised deep cuts in funding for the military and advanced weapons system development, as well as a sharp decrease in the U.S. nuclear arsenal. He has further proposed increasing U.S. presence in Afghanistan as a show of his anti-terrorism resolve, but at not nearly the levels necessary for success.

Meanwhile, effectively spinning our wheels in Afghanistan, we are extending the olive branch to known rogue states such as Iran and Syria who are known to sponsor Islamic extremism.

The administration also opposes off shore and ANWAR oil exploration, while subsidizing development of energy sources that it knows to be years away from any economic viability as the way to energy independence, while virtually ignoring any programs utilizing natural gas, which the U.S. produces domestically. This will assure that our dependency on foreign oil will continue indefinitely.

During all of this, the government continues to sell itself to their constituency as the only solution, and if we just let give them carte blanche and do not question them, they will fix everything.

Now, to the root of my fears; Where is all this money going to come from? The government knows it can only print so much money, and while we are undoubtedly burdening future generations, there will be an immediate need for a major infusion of capital.

China is about tapped out, and is not really excited about how their existing investments are performing. Ditto for Japan. Europe is in worse shape than we are. Russia can't and won't infuse the kind of capital we need.

This leaves our Muslim 'friends' in the Middle East. They have the cash, as well as the desire to undermine /destroy the American way of life. What better way than to become a lien holder of pretty much every financial sector in America, courtesy of the U.S. government.

Is Obama really this incompetent and/or naïve? Or is this

really a wonderful plan and am I just being paranoid?

My prediction – if the stimulus package works too fast, along with the world economy destabilized, along with foreign governments who poured money into the U.S. dollar and U.S. treasuries during the latter half of 2008, a rapid economic recovery could lead to a sudden flight from U.S. debt.

The result could be inflationary and create an environment in which Washington couldn't borrow as easily internationally.

Oh yes, one more thing..... Obama needs to stop taking sole credit for closing Guantanamo and being the torture free savior, *the Senate voted in June of 2008, without the presence of Obama*, in favor of the shutdown at Guantanamo and to revert back to the military field manual SOP for detainment and interrogation rules when it came to prisoners.

**Jeremy Glover
Kanab**

(Somewhere between the right side of the wrong and the left side of confusion).

Roads, the Gospel according to Mark

Dear Editor:

The Kane County Conservation District (KCCD)'s January 26, 2009 letter, recently reported in the *SUN*, was written to "support" the Kane County Commission on the roads issue.

Unfortunately, the KCCD did not vet the letter's facts and perspectives with the commission. The purpose of this letter is to correct the KCCD letter's errors of fact.

The letter states that roads across federally managed lands "were traditionally managed by the county's 'B' road funds through an agreement with the BLM." Factually, the county managed and maintained the roads with 'B' road funds based on the highway jurisdiction conveyed to the county by the U.S. Congress under Revised Statute 2477. There has not been an agreement with the BLM related to the use of 'B' road funding.

From 1970 until 1996, the county and the BLM had a road maintenance agreement that served to allocate road maintenance responsibilities, but the BLM revoked this agreement as being unlawful when it began its campaign to eviscerate R.S. 2477 rights and just before it sued the county for trespass in 1996.

Last Spring, U.S. District Court Judge Campbell changed

the county and the traveling public's world by ruling the county has no R.S. 2477 highways or jurisdiction until after the roads were proven in a federal Quiet Title Act lawsuit. The county did not "decide" to quit maintaining roads across federally managed lands, as stated in the letter. The county was ejected from its roads by the ruling, which took away the county's historic jurisdiction under R.S. 2477. The county cannot accept the serious civil and criminal liabilities of performing work on federally managed lands without the jurisdiction to do the work.

The letter stated the county "has spent close to \$450,000 to appeal this ruling." Factually, appeal costs have been about 25% of that amount. It is important to consider that the Wilderness Society and SUWA brought the lawsuit causing the county to spend tax money to protect our local highways. Due to the serious harm in the decision, there was little choice for the county. The motive behind the environmental advocacy groups filing the lawsuit was to enable federal closure of our local roads in order to "create" more "wilderness" in Kane County because wilderness, by definition, is roadless.

The letter states, "They [BLM] say the county can continue to maintain roads under the FLPMA policy as it has for several decades." Factually, FLPMA preserved all existing R.S. 2477 highway rights-of-way and required federal agency actions to be consistent with those rights. Inconsistent with FLPMA, the BLM, Interior, environmental groups and the U.S. District Court Judge say the

county lacks highway jurisdiction until it adjudicates each of its roads. When asked, the BLM refused to identify even one road as being a county road, thus administratively denying the county the ability to maintain any roads across federally managed lands.

The letter states, "the BLM does not have the needed resources for road maintenance." That claim would mean that Kane County is financially better off than the federal government and is disingenuous to the public. Factually, the BLM has the money, manpower, and equipment to maintain the roads. The BLM and Interior have claimed federal jurisdiction over all roads across federally managed lands for years and is failing the public by refusing to keep the roads it claims safe for the travelling public.

The Wilderness Society and SUWA used Interior's policy and the BLM's planning to obtain the District Court ruling finding that there are no county roads, even though they have historically been county roads. The unintended consequence is that the BLM presumptively has jurisdiction over the roads and the BLM now bears the administrative responsibility to manage, regulate, and maintain roads on federally managed lands it claims to be under BLM jurisdiction.

The letter states, "We know of no other counties in the state that is abiding to this ruling by Judge Campbell." Factually, the ruling is only binding upon Kane County as a party to the lawsuit. However, two other U.S. District Court Judges for Utah have adopted the ruling

in subsequent decisions and the shadow of the ruling falls over every county in Utah. Because of this threat, Utah's other counties have joined in briefing on appeal to help overturn the District Court.

The letter suggests "our state personnel resources" should sit at the bargaining table to seek "some middle ground." Factually, the county has coordinated with the state over the years. The state has been appropriated \$2 million annually for the past 10 years to resolve the roads issue and does not have a single R.S. 2477 right-of-way to show for the effort. The state has negotiated with the BLM for years and has been unable to resolve ownership of even a single road. The county's own negotiations with Interior were also unsuccessful in achieving federal recognition of any county highway authority across federally managed lands. Neither the state nor the county has been successful in getting the BLM to recognize a single R.S. 2477 highway in the State of Utah.

Next week - part two - the core problem - public safety - and a simple solution.

**Mark Habbeshaw
Kane County
Commissioner**

Visit the Kane County website, www.kane.utah.gov/ for more information.

We love to hear from our readers. Send your letters to the editor to: SUN, 26 North Main, Kanab, UT 84741 or e-mail them to: sunews@kanab.net



26 East Center Street
Kanab, UT 84741

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Ph: (888) 673-8586
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