

# THE NATIONAL CENTER



# FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

*Winter 2005-2006*



*Ridenour family 2001*

## Message from David and Amy Ridenour

If success can be measured by how much one drives the liberals up a wall...

...our programs are very successful indeed.

In recent months, your National Center for Public Policy Research has been attacked by the George Soros-funded groups Media Matters and Center for Media and Democracy, the far-left *Nation* magazine and by Norman Lear's People for the American Way. Black conservatives affiliated with our Project 21 have been denounced from the podium at the NAACP's national convention and we've been targeted by the *Washington Post*, *New Republic*, the *Los Angeles Times* and other liberal publications.

For standing by our principles supporting property rights, we even were branded "far right" by a wayward Member of Congress – a Republican, no less – and banned from his office.

We consider assaults based on ideology as a badge of honor. The left wouldn't hit us so hard if they didn't regard us as a threat. Assaults come with the territory when one is effective.

By year's end, our personnel will have been interviewed, cited or published more than 7,000 times in 2005 alone. Our web presence is growing: Our main website receives a half million pageviews monthly.

We're also getting more out of every dollar that you donate. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase a new national headquarters located just blocks from the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, Fox News, CNN and MSNBC. It also saves us thousands of dollars each month in office expense in the process.

The pages that follow – a newly-designed "In the News" – provides more detail on our successes. We've changed the format not only to give you more information on our programs, but, through donor profiles, to introduce you to others who support our work.

From time to time, we'll also include articles that will assist you in getting the most out of your contributions.

We hope you enjoy our new format. And thank you for all you do to make our work possible.

David and Amy Ridenour

*“Project 21... representatives are the true moral heirs of the civil rights movement.”*

*Michelle Malkin*

*nationally-syndicated columnist and popular blogger*



*When the radical activists of A.N.S.W.E.R. and Cindy Sheehan gathered in Washington to protest U.S. policy in Iraq and the war on terrorism, Project 21 members Kevin Martin (pictured) and Mychal Massie rallied for our troops with the families of fallen soldiers, radio host G. Gordon Liddy, Members of Congress and others. The rally was covered live on C-Span, and President Bush himself saw the rally when he flew over in Marine One.*

Thirteen years ago, The National Center committed itself to minority outreach by launching the black leadership network Project 21.

Our goal in 1992 was simply to increase the number of conservative and moderate African-Americans quoted in the news media. In recent years, however, Project 21 has repeatedly taken on the mighty left.

When the San Bernardino, California City Unified School District decided to include the urban slang of Ebonics into its curriculum, Project 21 fought them. Members took to the airwaves and pages of KFAQ and KSFO, XM satellite radio, the Salem Radio Network, *Black Enterprise* magazine and others, arguing against lowering educational standards. The Ebonics curriculum was dropped.

Project 21 members are also vocal in their support of Social Security reform. Pointing out, among other things, that the existing program is unfair to blacks, Project 21 member and law professor Horace Cooper participated in a Capitol Hill panel discussion on Social Security reform to counter liberal panelists Congressmen Charles Rangel (D-NY) and Robert Scott (D-VA). Project 21 member Deroy Murdock, a National Center Distinguished Fellow and Scripps-Howard columnist, has written a series of hard-hitting “talking points” publications on Social Security reform that we distribute to thousands.

Google



Washington Post

### Project 21 Responds to Congressional Black Caucus Criticism of ...

U.S. Newswire (press release), DC - 2 hours ago  
2 /US Newswire/ – Members of the Congressional **Black Caucus** held a press conference today in which it was that asserted God "cannot be pleased" with the Bush ...  
[NCSL Mistakenly Included as Endorser of Congressional Black Caucus ...](#)

U.S. Newswire (press release)

[Katrina Response Angers Black Lawmakers](#) Washington Post

[Black lawmakers angry at Bush response to Katrina](#) CTV.ca

[CNN - all 55 related »](#)

### Democrat Congressional Black Caucus Blames Bush

The Conservative Voice - 6 hours ago

By Sher Zieve - In a Friday televised press conference, Democrat Congressional **Black Caucus** leaders lined up and joined other Democrat leaders in blaming ...

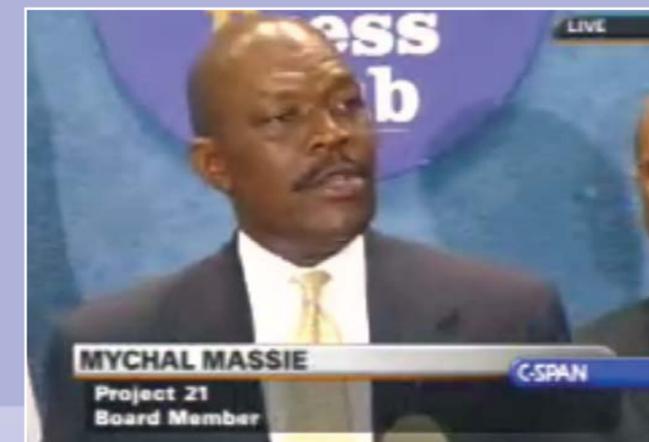
*Following Hurricane Katrina, the Congressional Black Caucus politicized relief efforts, playing the race card in an effort to harm the Bush Administration. Within hours of the CBC press conference, Project 21 condemned the CBC's action and received wide media coverage, including from the Chicago Tribune and, in the disaster zone, the Biloxi Sun Herald.*

*Pictured: Google News.*

Project 21 continues to operate a national syndication service of conservative op-eds by black authors to several hundred black community newspapers four to five times each month. Key themes include the importance of two-parent homes, education and self-reliance – values critical to the success of all communities.

As Project 21 members have now been quoted or published over 10,000 times by the news media, chances are you've seen a Project 21 member on Fox's Hannity and Colmes, heard them cited by Rush Limbaugh or read one of their columns or quotes.

When you see a Project 21 member standing up for free-market conservative values, rejecting the notion that all black Americans are represented by Jesse Jackson, pat yourself on the back. The opinions of Project 21 members are solely their own, but the press releases and columns that spread their views far and wide take money to publish – funds generously made available by supporters.



*Special interests seeking to derail John Roberts' appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court had fits when Project 21 member Mychal Massie (pictured here at a pro-Roberts press conference broadcast on C-Span) pointed out that his constitutional views are similar to those held by James Madison and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. People for the American Way dispatched one of its front groups to denounce Project 21. Throughout the tenure of the Bush Administration, Project 21 has been a recognized leader in advocating fair treatment as well as timely hearings and votes on judicial nominations.*



*Vice President David Ridenour (center) debating John Kostyack of the National Wildlife Federation on endangered species reform. Ridenour said of an early draft of ESA reform legislation, “The protections offered to private landowners are a lot like having the French on your side in war – largely symbolic.”*

*-Environment and Energy Publishing, Greenwire*



*In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that state and local governments can seize a person’s home or business and transfer it to another owner for private economic development or increased tax revenue. The National Center was a high profile critic of the Kelo v. City of New London decision, arguing that governments should not abuse the power of eminent domain by taking private property for condominiums, private office space and other tax-making enterprises.*

## NATIONAL CENTER THWARTS PROPERTY RIGHTS DISASTER

Fresh on the heels of the devastating U.S. Supreme Court decision in the eminent domain case *Kelo v. City of New London*, The National Center for Public Policy Research acted quickly – and successfully – to thwart another major assault on property rights.

Early this year, The National Center learned of a congressional effort to overhaul the often-dreaded Endangered Species Act (ESA), a law that has trampled the rights of American property owners for more than 30 years. But the initial draft of the ESA “reform” would have made the ESA even more harmful to landowners than it is now.

For example, reform measures would have permitted the federal government to take up to 49.9 percent of a person’s property without paying anything for it. Worse, it would also have given the government new powers to regulate so-called “invasive species.” Under an Executive Order signed by President Bill Clinton, invasive species are defined as “any species, including seeds, eggs, spores or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.” By this definition, almost any living thing could be considered an invasive species, thereby giving federal regulators broad new powers to regulate human activity – where we live, what we plant

in our yards and where and how we vacation. This proposal wasn’t ESA “reform.” This was putting the ESA on steroids.

So The National Center sprang into action, assembling and leading a broad coalition while issuing a barrage of in-depth analyses and press releases – all part of a full-court press to tell Americans and Congress the truth about the proposed “reform.” National Center staff and fellows briefed Members of the House and Senate as well as Capitol Hill staff.

The National Center also wrote two coalition letters to the House Resources Committee expressing grassroots concern. The first letter was signed by 70 organizations and the second by 90. When they were delivered to the House Resources Committee, they had quite an impact.

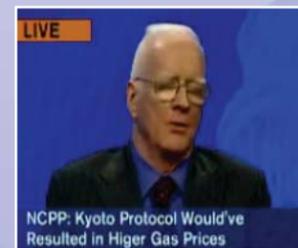
Thanks in large part to our efforts, the flawed legislation – which had been fast-tracked for approval before Congress’ August recess – was abruptly pulled for revisions. Two months later, the Committee returned with a modified bill which included nearly all of the crucial reform concepts championed by The National Center.

Although we had been told that such meaningful reform could not pass the House of Representatives, it did: 229-193.

## DEBUNKING GLOBAL WARMING ALARMISM

Environmental alarmists love to scare the public.

During hurricane season, they do it when blaming hurricanes on global warming and President Bush. Our job: Exposing the lack of scientific basis for a link between global warming and hurricanes, and do it without making people’s eyes glaze over.



*National Center Senior Fellow Dr. Bonner Cohen appearing on Bloomberg News to address global warming claims.*

We don’t wait for disasters, however, to tell the truth about global warming claims or the tremendous economic costs of proposed “solutions” (solutions that, even their backers concede, would have little impact) such as the Kyoto global warming treaty. During the height of the Kyoto debate, National

Center personnel had 228 newspaper op-eds on global warming and energy issues published during a single 12-month period.

Reputable polls show a decline in the number of people who believe the scaremongers are correct about the global warming theory. Given the tremendous bias of the mainstream press on this issue – even the Fox News Channel takes its cues on global warming coverage from the ultra-alarmist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. – it is a testament to many hours of hard work and dedication that the American people increasingly prefer to evaluate evidence, rather than simply emotion, when it comes to the global warming theory.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JAMES M. KNOTT, SR.



National Center donor Jim Knott knows that freedom isn't free. That's because he's fought for his own freedom against unscrupulous government regulators – and won.

On a chilly November day almost eight years ago, 21 heavily-armed federal agents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stormed Jim's manufacturing company. Jim's company has produced cutting-edge steel wire mesh used for lobster traps, chicken coops, erosion control and security fencing for over two decades.

The EPA claimed that had Jim violated the Clean Water Act by releasing highly acidic water into a city sewer system. They threatened Jim with six years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines – but Jim knew the charges were baseless since all his factory's wastewater is treated before release.

Jim, a Harvard alumnus and the recipient of the Massachusetts Governor's Award for developing pollution control technology, was stunned.

In similar situations, many business executives would look to settle, pay the fine and get on with life. Not Jim Knott.

"I knew there was no way I could be doing what they said I was doing. It was chemically and physically impossible. Knowing that I was innocent, I was determined to fight," Jim said. "I've heard of a lot of people who just pay the fine, but I knew I was innocent."

After a grueling two-year legal battle that cost Jim and his company hundreds of thousands of dollars, the EPA withdrew all charges against him in an unprecedented retreat. In fact, a judge later found that EPA agents had falsified critical evidence in their case against Jim.

U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel Gorton characterized the EPA agents in the raid on Jim's company as a "virtual SWAT team" that harassed the employees, "causing [them] great distress and discomfort... and humiliation."

Now Jim is in the middle of another battle – trying to recoup the substantial legal fees and lost revenue the EPA's assault cost him.

"I just can't ignore it" said Jim, recounting his military service. "On the 11th of June, 1954, I took an oath to defend this country against all enemies foreign and domestic."

Jim Knott and his wife Betty have been generous donors to The National Center for Public Policy Research for five years. Jim is a Chairman's Club member, and both are recognized by The National Center's Building for Tomorrow's Majority Fund.

*"I believe in what the National Center is doing. I discovered them ten years ago... there are too few organizations like it," says Jim. "The National Center has been a beacon of hope for those of us whose rights have been violated... It's a beacon of hope we need now more than ever."*

Stand on principle and never back down. Jim Knott is an inspiration to all of us.

## WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

Your generous support of The National Center for Public Policy Research already says a great deal about the legacy you wish to leave.

It says you want to leave to future generations an America that is a better place than you found it. It says you want America to be stronger, more secure and a place where liberty flourishes.

The National Center will fight to preserve your legacy and serve as your voice for generations to come.

You can help ensure our voice is strong by including The National Center in your will.

Words can never adequately express how grateful all of us at The National Center are for all you have done to make our work possible. We simply couldn't do what we do without the support of friends such as you.

We also know that, at times, you may have wanted to make a more meaningful gift but couldn't out of concern for your future financial needs and those of your family.

Bequests are an ideal way to both meet these obligations while providing the greatest possible support for our programs.

All assets bequeathed to The National Center are completely free of estate taxes. Although the federal estate tax was temporally lifted, unless Congress acts, it will return.

If you choose to include The National Center in your will, you will be eligible to be a part of our "Legacy Society."



As a member of the Legacy Society, your name will be listed on a plaque prominently displayed in our office – a permanent tribute to your generosity to The National Center for Public Policy Research.

As a Legacy Society member, you also will receive copies of all major National Center publications. You will receive invitations to special events and meetings. And you will periodically receive ideas for saving money on your tax bill.

Thank you for being an important member of The National Center family.

**For more information contact: David Ridenour**  
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**202/543-4110 ext.16**

### Through your will, bequests can be as simple or as complex as you like. Among the most popular options:

- **Giving a Percentage of Your Estate.** Donors wishing to make significant gifts, but uncertain of the final value of their estates, often choose to give a percentage of their final assets. The bequest language can be as simple as "I give, devise and bequeath to The National Center for Public Policy Research of Washington, D.C. X% of my estate to be used for its general purposes."
- **Giving a Specific Dollar Amount.** The simplest method of making a legacy gift is by bequeathing a specific dollar amount. If you are certain you will have sufficient assets to cover the charitable gift, giving a specific amount may be a good option for you. The language might be something like this: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The National Center for Public Policy Research of Washington, D.C. the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_."
- **Giving a Specific Property.** Another simple method of making a legacy gift is by bequeathing a specific asset such as real estate, artwork, stocks, bonds or other non-liquid assets. If you are certain you will not sell or dispose of the asset in your lifetime, this may be a good option for you.
- **Giving Residual Assets.** Providing for family and loved ones should be a priority in most estate plans. Because of this, you may feel uncomfortable bequeathing a percentage of your estate or a specific dollar amount to The National Center. In this case, you may wish to consider providing a gift of "what's left" after specifically providing for your family. You may provide that some, all, or a percentage of these residual assets go to The National Center.

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# The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Hot air inflates a flawed Kyoto Protocol

By RYAN BALIS and AMY RIDENOUR

**M**OST OF THE WORLD'S developed nations formally began a process yesterday to deal with the threat of global warming as the international treaty on climate control — a.k.a. the Kyoto Protocol — took effect.

More than two dozen industrialized nations — with the prominent exception of the United States and Australia — now will be legally bound to reduce overall emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by at least 5 percent under 1990 levels by 2012.

Though the accuracy of the global warming theory and its ramifications is debated, its advocates contend that the Earth's atmosphere is trapping gases burned from fossil fuels, resulting in a human-induced warming effect.

At Kyoto's signing in 1997, then-Vice President Al Gore pledged the United States would cut its greenhouse emissions 7 percent below 1990 levels.

The Senate, however, voted 95 to 0 that year to not ratify any global warming treaty that harmed the U.S. economy and that did not require rapidly developing nations, such as China and India, to likewise reduce their carbon-dioxide outputs.

The Kyoto Protocol failed both tests then and continues to do so. Not coincidentally, President Clinton — to the chagrin of Gore — never sent the treaty to the Senate for required ratification.

President Bush also determined that Kyoto was fatally flawed and in 2001 announced that he, too, would not seek Senate ratification. Australia soon made a similar decision, also finding that Kyoto's regulations would cost thousands of jobs and cripple its economy.

Although the treaty now has the support of the required 55 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emitters — the United States and Australia wisely lined up on the side of good fortune. Ratification of Kyoto and adherence to its provisions by the United States would cause massive economic losses to the United States — particularly to blue-collar workers.

Testifying before the House of Representatives, Richard Trumka, the president of the United Mine Workers, predicted ratification would cost the United States "hundreds of billions of dollars of lost economic output, and over a million-and-a-half lost American jobs."

Economic data developed by the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration during the Clinton administration predicted that ratification would cause U.S. gross domestic product to shrink by \$397 billion by 2010. The regulatory and tax costs of complying could be as high as \$338 billion — in 1992 dollars — annually from 2008 to

### Rules would do little to curb global warming, and the United States would suffer a massive loss of jobs.

2012. Consumers would feel the pinch as increased energy prices drove up housing, gas, medical and food costs.

**D**espite its staggering price tag, Kyoto would do virtually nothing to limit the slight, almost immeasurable amount of global warming that may be occurring.

Citing data from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, H. Sterling Burnett of the National Center for Policy Analysis says that even if all Kyoto signatories met their greenhouse gas reduction targets, the Earth would be only 0.07 to 0.19 degrees Celsius cooler.

Greenhouse gases, he notes, would continue to

increase because Kyoto exempts such robust economies as China, India, South Korea, Brazil and Indonesia, which will account for up to 85 percent of the emissions increase over the next two decades.

We'll never know for sure, however, because greenhouse gas reduction targets are not being met in the nations that have ratified the treaty.

The European Environment Agency reported in December that Denmark, Italy, Portugal and Spain are not on course for meeting their Kyoto emission reduction targets — "some by a wide margin" — while Germany is "in danger" of missing its target.

Canada is expected to miss its emissions targets, unless new, restrictive policies are soon put into place. To meet its target, Japan is supposed to cut emissions by 6 percent at a time when they have expanded by 8 percent above 1990 levels.

With Kyoto's prospects for influencing world climate appearing bleak, the United States and Australia should resist what may be stepped-up pressure. Signing such a treaty is not worth one American job, let alone hundreds of thousands.

Amy Ridenour is president and Ryan Balis is a policy analyst at the National Center for Public Policy Research, a conservative think tank. Comments to [oped@northjersey.com](mailto:oped@northjersey.com).