

THE DEWEESE REPORT

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Private Property Ownership is the Only Way to Eradicate Poverty

By Tom DeWeese

Poverty. It's the excuse for nearly every government spending program. Help the poor. Tax the Rich. Get the 1%. How dare they get so wealthy while everyone else suffers!

And what is the preferred way to eliminate poverty? Redistribution of wealth. It is the force behind the Occupy Wall Street movement; Agenda 21 and its Social Justice schemes; nearly every poverty program of the Federal government; and even most charitable poverty programs.

These schemes are all the same. Take money from the producers and give it to the non-producers. Yet, as billions of dollars are taken for the "cause" poverty steadily increases. If one truly wants to help eliminate poverty, perhaps it's time to rethink the process. To start, ask the question – why are some nations (and individuals) wealthy and others are so poor.

There are many efforts underway to focus attention on world poverty. In a world of massive government spending that is supposed to be used to help the poor the statistics on global poverty are staggering. According to the United Nation's Millennium Project, there are currently 1.2 billion people living in poverty. 50,000 deaths per day occur worldwide as a result of poverty. Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases. More than half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day and 800 million people go to bed hungry every night.

To combat the situation, there are massive efforts underway, from churches, to charitable organizations, to local, state, federal and international government programs designed to eradicate poverty. Billions of dollars in foreign aid have been distributed to countries around the world to help feed the poor. Poverty reduction

targets have been set. International goals have been announced. Deadlines have been determined. Agreement has been reached by every national leader that poverty must be eradicated.

There are faith-based programs designed to feed the children; education programs designed to create awareness of poverty and starvation; corporate programs designed to enhance global development, which would help to create business or bring existing corporations into nations to provide jobs; and government programs designed to build hospitals, schools and improve healthcare and education. Charitable contributions and government money, either from the local level or through foreign aid, are the main source of funds for these efforts.

Yet little progress is being achieved as, in fact, the problem continues to escalate. There is an ever-growing disparity between rich and poor. Why?

To date, nearly every effort to eradicate poverty has focused on temporary relief of the suffering rather than getting to the root of the poverty and creating real solutions to actually eradicate poverty permanently. The result of such efforts while well intended, and perhaps necessary in the short run, to assure the poor are at least kept alive, will not solve the problem of poverty. In fact, such programs may actually make the situation worse.

Frankly there is not much new in this type of activity. For more than fifty years governments and charities have been focused on rushing aid to the poor and starving. Yet none of these efforts address the basic reason poverty exists in the first place. The solutions which call for more and more aid simply respond to the visual effects of poverty such as starvation, ignorance and poor health.

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None truly address the cause. As a result, rather than easing the situation, the number of poor continue to grow.

Most of the current anti-poverty efforts focus on redistributing funds from wealthier nations to poorer ones, either through mandatory taxation or charitable donations. This system ignores the fact that tomorrow the poor need to be fed again. Taxpayers or the voluntary donor must dig into his own funds yet again to help. The process is repeated daily, each time the poor recipient is only temporarily helped, as the tax payer or the donor become poorer themselves. Meanwhile, as massive funds are moved in and out of governments, bureaucracies are institutionalized to run the system. More and more money goes to feed the machinery of poverty than gets into the hands of the intended poor. Such a system sustains poverty rather than eradicates it.

Meanwhile, some corrupt and totalitarian governments also learn how to divert funds into their own coffers, again, depriving the poor of their daily bread. A system of bribes and local corruption often exist making it nearly impossible for average citizens to receive government services. Such a system forces many of the poor to live outside of society in a virtual underground economy. This actually serves to sustain poverty against the efforts of those trying to eradicate it.

In addition, some international policies essentially institutionalize poverty. Policies which prevent or severely restrict development and energy use result in the violation of the most basic human rights, denying economic opportunities and the chance for better lives, the right to rid their countries of diseases that were vanquished long ago in Europe and the United States. For example, lack of electricity means no water purification or sewage treatment, no power for offices or hospitals, and no stoves to replace pollution-belching, lung-disease-causing open fires.

Yet, as the UN, through its Millennium Project, tells us that the goal is to eradicate poverty by the year 2015,

the UN and nations including the United States, promote policies that make such goals impossible. Specifically, they promote Sustainable Development, which supporters say must stop the spread of human advancement in the name of protecting the environment. According to the doctrine, the poor in third world nations need to just do without electricity, clean water or modern development, for that is sustainable! Shameful.

To enforce such policy world wide, the UN, at the Rio+20 Summit, held this past summer, in the name of ending poverty, sought to enforce a tax on every developed nation equal to 0.7% of their gross national product. To every American, that is a redistribution of wealth equal to \$1,325 per year for an American family of four. The money, they say will end poverty and protect the environment.

And to get the job done, using that money, the UN will find it necessary to create a new global council to oversee it all; new UN Agencies to administer the programs; budgets and power; and “genuine global actions.”

In 2006, when I debated the head of the UN’s Millennium Project at Cambridge University in England, I said to him over dinner before the debate, “You realize you don’t have a chance to end poverty by 2015 by using redistribution of wealth, don’t you?” He said, “Yes, I know.”

The real way to end poverty

It is becoming increasingly clear that poverty will never be eradicated unless those working on the problem will allow themselves to look for a drastically new way to attack it. Simply put, rather than constantly applying band aids to the effects of poverty, they must look for the cause and fix it.

One must first look at the world and see where wealth is created and why it is so. The greatest example of wealth creation is obviously the United States. It is the beacon of wealth and freedom for the entire world. Most in the world envy the US’s wealth and

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Why the Founding Fathers Matter

It has become typical in school text books, in public discussions, and in the smug wisdom of Progressives, to diminish the words and actions of those who led the founding of the United States. However, now that the nation has gone through what Al Gore called a “wrenching transformation” away from limited government, free enterprise, and individual liberty (all major ingredients to making the US the freest and most prosperous nation in history) it’s time to listen again to their wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson warned us to ...

Avoid Sustainable Development: “When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.”

Avoid the Welfare State: “The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.” “I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”

Avoid Massive Government Debt: “It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world.”

Avoid Government Over-regulation: “My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”

Avoid Control of Individual Gun Ownership: “No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.” “The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

Avoid Compulsive Taxation of Income: “To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”

Avoid the Federal Reserve: “I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property - until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.”

Keep the Founding Documents Intact: “May (the Declaration of Independence) be to the world, what I believe it will be, to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all, the signal to assume the blessings and security of self-government.” His last written words June 24, 1826

The Founding Fathers are irrelevant? Every one of these issues is in the forefront of today’s political debates. Our Founders understood government and its dangers to our liberty. They feared it above all other threats and tried to create a system of self government through which we could protect ourselves from its tyranny. When their warnings are ignored we get Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and a government of lies, oppression and national bankruptcy. ●

From the Global Warming Front Lines... And it's not good for the Chicken Littles!

Leaked emails expose Obama's crony Green capitalism From CFACT

A trove of over 150 emails released late Wednesday (October 31, 2012) by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reveals crony capitalism at the highest levels of government. The emails show that the loans given to failed companies like Solyndra, Abound Solar, A123, and other failed companies were pushed through for political reasons by Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu, Vice President Biden, and even President Obama himself.

DOE Credit Advisor Jim McCrea wrote in an October 30, 2010 email to his boss at the DOE Loan Program Office (LPO), "I am growing increasingly worried about a fast track process imposed on us at the POTUS [President Of The United States] level based on this chaotic process that we are undergoing."

And in a June 25, 2010 email, LPO Executive Director Jonathan Silver instructs McCrea, "You better let him know that WH wants to move Abound forward. Policy will have to wait unless they have a specific policy problem with Abound." Abound Solar got its funds, but is now bankrupt.

These emails and many more directly contradict President Obama's recent claim on Friday October 26, 2012 to a local Denver news anchor, that the Green energy loan decisions are "decisions, by the way, that are made by the Department of Energy, they have nothing to do with politics" and Secretary Chu's claim that there was "not a whiff" of politics when his staff hands out grants and loans.

The emails go on and on, revealing that Vice President Biden, Secretary Chu, and other high-ranking White House officials consistently pressured career DOE officials to approve loans to politically favored Green energy companies. Many of these now bankrupt companies had close personal ties to the Obama Administration. Research by Marita Noon and Christine Lakotos shows "that at least 90% of the projects had close ties to the White House and other high ranking Democrats."

CFACT has consistently reported that solar, wind, and other so-called Green energy sources are inefficient and bound to fail so long as they are dependent on government rather than private investment. They currently can't compete with traditional energy sources unless they are heavily subsidized by the government. It is no surprise that these companies failed, which makes the billions of taxpayer dollars wasted on these loans all the more shocking.

As CFACT recently reported, when battery maker A123 declared bankruptcy, "Green energy profiteers get rich and leave workers and taxpayers to share the pain."

These emails show that the Obama White House was directly involved in expediting loans and grants for businesses it favored, that both the White House and Energy Department lied and that the Energy Department stonewalled to cover it up.

Report by Craig Rucker, Executive Director of the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow, (CFACT) www.cfact.org ●

SHORTS

Climate RIP as political issue?! First time climate ignored in debates since 1984 Has Gore's Life Been in Vain?

Note From Climate Depot's Marc Morano:

It is very surprising to see three presidential debates and one Vice Presidential debate pass without a single mention of climate change. This is the first time this has happened since global warming hit the national stage in 1988. Global warming activists are justifiably outraged by this. After all, Obama declared in April of this year to Rolling Stone that he would make global warming a key campaign issue in 2012. Obama let down a key part of his political base by going silent on climate.

What happened? How did climate change get reduced to a comedic punch line in the 2012 presidential campaign?

The answer is clear. The man-made global warming fear movement never overcame having a partisan figure like Al Gore being its public face and suffered from having the scandal ridden and distrusted UN IPCC as the source of its science.

Adding to these woes is the fact that the Climategate scandal had massive consequences on public opinion and there was a collapse of the UN climate treaty talks. In addition, the continued disintegration of the warmest climate claims by real world data and in the peer-review literature make attempting to scare the public into climate 'action' virtually impossible.

Perhaps the most important factor in the climate silence in the 2012 presidential race was a result of the forced vote in the House of Representatives to pass a cap-and-trade bill in 2009 which helped fuel the rise of the Tea Party movement in the U.S. No longer could a politician regurgitate the standard global warming claims of consensus and the need to 'act' without facing laughter and derision from angry crowds.

It is finally time to say RIP man-made global warming fears in U.S. politics?

By Marc Morano, Climate Depot
(www.climatedepot.com)

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seek ways to share it, yet very few look at how the nation got there or care to try to copy its system for success.

Why did the United States become so wealthy? Was it the possession of vast natural resources? Africa has more. Was it the existence of greater industry? Japan has more. Was it the existence of a superior education system? The US now ranks below the top ten nations in education.

The reason the United States has led the world in wealth, standard of living and abundance is that the average resident of the United States has had the ability and the opportunity to invest and produce capital.

Why could ordinary citizens of the United States produce their own capital to create personal wealth, and yet most of the rest of the world failed at such an attempt? The answer is actually very simple. The United States created a very easy, immediate, complete system for recording and securing ownership of private property.

Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto explains the root of American wealth in his book, *The Mystery of Capital*. de Soto asks, "Why does Capitalism thrive only in the West, as if enclosed in a bell jar?"

Capital, he argues, "is the force that raises the productivity of labor and creates the wealth of nations. It is the lifeblood of the capitalist system, the foundation of progress, and the one thing that the poor countries of the world cannot seem to produce for themselves."

Why not in other countries? Because the laws and practices of most countries in the world make it nearly impossible for average citizens to own property or to prove ownership of property. There are vast obstacles to gaining legal ownership. For example, in Mexico it takes twenty years before a piece of property can be recorded. In Peru it took de Soto's team of experts 289 days to legally register a new business, even after paying over \$1,200 in registration fees. In the Philippines a prospective property owner would first have to organize an association with his neighbors in order to qualify for a state housing finance program. The entire process could take 168 steps, involving 53 public and private agencies and taking 13 – 25 years. And so it goes in country after country.

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The impact of a \$1,200 fee in a poor nation is enough to forever discourage even the attempt to register property. Such an amount, in many developing countries may equal an entire year's income. It is important to note the impact free markets and private property have on the income of a nation's citizens. The per capita income for Americans is \$41,400 per year. For Europeans, where more government control is exercised, the per capita income is \$27,400. In the former Communist nations of Eastern Europe it is now \$3,295. Yet, just a few years ago it was \$2,047. As more freedom and greater ability to own property grows, so does the per capita income.

If ownership of property cannot be properly recorded and able to be traced directly to the owner, then it cannot create equity and cannot be used as collateral for credit. It is not of value to the owner, only an expense. This situation has created, in deSoto's estimate, over \$9.3 trillion in "dead capital." That is property that cannot be used by anyone to create equity and therefore wealth.

While it is common practice in the United States to buy property, hold it for a few years and sell it at a substantial profit or move up to a better home, thereby creating individual wealth, such a system is basically unheard of in most nations of the world. If one doesn't have or can't prove title, then no bank will make loans on the property. In nations where property cannot be easily and legally registered, the only recourse is to go to friends and relatives, get a smaller loan (thereby reducing one's ability to build a company) and still never have title to the business or the business property financed that way. Though people may live on and pay for property for years, it is hidden in an underground economy not beneficial to the individual or the national economy because ownership cannot be shown.

"In the West, by contrast," de Soto argues, "every parcel of land, every building, every piece of equipment, or store of inventory is represented in a property document that is the visible sign of a vast hidden process that connects all these assets to the rest of the economy." 70% of all small businesses in the United States are started by equity loans on personal homes. Small, independently-owned businesses employ the majority of people in the U.S.

This then is the hidden secret of why the West became so wealthy and the rest of the world has been mired in poverty. I put this statement in past tense because the United States is now losing wealth as a result of a massive campaign to reduce private property ownership through the policy of Sustainable Development. If not reversed, the United States will find itself in Third World

status for exactly the same reasons other nations have landed there – destruction of private property rights.

Obviously poverty can never be eradicated – and will actually increase – until government gets out of the way and everyone has the equal opportunity to own and benefit from the wealth associated with private property ownership.

Yet nearly every politician, at every level misses this vital point. They tell us we need to relocate manufacturing jobs, away from the First World into the Third World as a means to help them prosper. Such bad policy only leads to reducing wealth worldwide.

The fact is, there are many corporations and private and government programs which are working to establish industry and create jobs in poor nations. Certainly having a job is necessary to living a better existence. But such jobs, while certainly a step up from daily aid, are not the complete answer. Simply working a job and paying for one's daily needs does not build wealth and it does little to help make citizens independent to fulfill their dreams. Yet, "providing jobs" has become the most advocated, and most wrong-headed method of eradicating poverty.

As stated in the beginning, there are literally thousands of programs designed to provide a subsistence for life. It is, however, a life of perpetual bread lines and dependency on the charity of others -- necessary to exist, but hardly an answer to fulfill dreams, wants and desires.

During the great depression of the 1930s when many were out of work and flat broke, they were, of course, grateful for the assistance of private charities and government agencies. Such relief efforts helped them feed their families and provide the bare essentials of life. But they weren't happy. They weren't satisfied. Instead they had a drive to stand on their own -- to make their own way – to live independently. In the United States most finally did break free of the assistance and created an independent life. As a result, the U.S. economy rebounded and grew, new industries rose and a vibrant economic engine grew out of the ashes of the Depression. For most Americans the drive to own their own private property was the goal to be achieved. The process became known simply as the American Dream.

Today's poor in undeveloped nations certainly want the same opportunities to advance. Yet many now live in societies that are in some ways 3,000 years behind the modern world. Because of its system of private property ownership, the West has created a world of advanced technology, health and leisure where life expectancy is increased each decade. In the West, people truly can pursue a life of happiness.

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supplies; production wells use cement and steel casing that extends hundreds of feet below the surface; and sensitive instruments monitor down hole activity, to ensure that valuable gas does not escape into near-surface formations or the atmosphere.

Groundwater contamination. Fracking fluids are 99.5% water and sand. The other 0.5% is chemicals that fight bacterial growth, keep sand particles suspended in the liquid and improve production. The vast majority today are found in household items that Americans use safely every day – including cheese, beer, canned fish, dairy desserts, shampoo and cosmetic products. New fluids like those developed by Family Joule and Halliburton represent the new kinds of entirely nontoxic and biodegradable chemicals that almost all drillers are now using.

Steadily improving technologies, techniques and regulations minimize risks even further. For instance, heavy plastic liners are now commonplace under drilling rigs, storage tanks and containment pits. Along with modern drilling and well casing methods, they help make the likelihood of chemical or salt contamination of groundwater a minuscule fraction of what is posed by winter salting of icy roads.

Wastewater and water depletion. In addition to changing the composition of fracking fluids (and making that information readily available online), to address concerns about water use and wastewater disposal, drilling companies increasingly recycle the water they use. Devon and other companies have recycled hundreds of millions of gallons, and some 90% of water produced in the Marcellus shale region of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia is now reused. Moreover, the amount of water used in fracking is far less than what is required to grow corn and process it into ethanol.

Earthquakes. Fracturing rocks does cause cracking that can be measured with ultra-sensitive equipment. But these micro-seismic events measure around 0.8 on the Richter Scale, about what is caused by a car passing by. Even loaded dump trucks register only a 3 (the minimum that can be felt by humans), and property damage does not begin until level 5. Deep injection of water for geothermal energy development or enhanced oil recovery operations (or to dispose of petroleum, municipal or industrial wastewater) has caused detectable seismic activity; however, of more than 800,000 injection wells nationwide, only about 40 were actually felt at the surface. Rules and practices increasingly address these injection well issues.

Fracking regulation. State and local regulation and cooperation with industry, constant refinements and improvements in rules and practices, and accommodation to

public concerns about water, drilling and fracking fluids, road congestion, community impacts and other issues have been ongoing for decades. That is part of the reason that 2.5 million instances of fracking worldwide (over 1 million in the USA) since 1949 have not caused any serious harm. That's a safety record any industry would envy.

Unfortunately, environmentalist fractured fairy tales cost us energy, jobs, revenue and prosperity – for no ecological benefit. The ultimate irony is Europe, where Big Green opposition to fracking and nuclear power is ushering in a coal-burning renaissance. Germany and other central EU countries will be building 10,600 megawatts of new coal-fired electrical power plants during the next four years!

Meanwhile, green power mandates have already pushed Germany's electricity prices to the second highest in Europe (32 cents per kWh, compared to an average of 10 cents in the USA) – and the average German household faces another big rate hike over the next year. Countless jobs are also at risk.

America has the world's largest reserves of oil, gas and coal. We need access to these deposits, under rational regulations that reflect reality, instead of eco fairy tales. We need people in the White House, Congress and government bureaucracies who can distinguish between fact and fiction, understand how to produce real energy, jobs and revenues, and don't have an agenda to "fundamentally transform" our nation.

Paul Driessen is senior policy advisor for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow and Congress of Racial Equality, and author of *Eco-Imperialism: Green power - Black death.* ●

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In most of the world where poverty continues to increase, life is one of hopeless drudgery, where the constant drive for survival leaves little or no time for dreams or personal happiness or achievement. The West pours money into a broken system that simply does not address the problem. As we rush to provide each day's aid, few charities or government programs seem to take the time to understand that hopes and dreams aren't constant breadlines. Daily aid doesn't allow the poor the opportunity to live their lives on their own terms.

Eradication of poverty in the world won't come from endless aid designed for mere existence, nor will it come from simply providing jobs. The answer to poverty in the world will come only from providing the tools needed to create new, independent wealth. The solution to end poverty is private property ownership and for government to get out of the way. ●

Fractured fairy tales

Greens hate natural gas and fracking, but costly, parasitic wind energy

Paul Driessen

Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have boosted shale gas production from zero a few years ago to 10% of all US energy supplies in 2012, observes energy analyst Daniel Yergin. Fracking has also increased US oil production 25% since 2008 – almost all on state and private lands, and in the face of more federal land and resource withdrawals, permitting delays and declining public land production.

In the process, the fracking revolution created 1.7 million jobs in oil fields, equipment manufacturing, legal and information technology services, and other sectors. It will generate over \$60 billion this year in state and federal tax and royalty revenues, reduce America's oil import bill by \$75 billion, and save us \$100 billion in imported liquefied natural gas, concludes a new IMF Global Insight analysis.

A resurgent American petroleum industry could add “as many as 3.6 million jobs by 2020, and increase the US gross domestic product by as much as 3 percent,” says Citigroup's “Energy 2020” report. Fracking is bringing new jobs and revenues to states underlain by shale deposits, and could give our nation over a century of hydrocarbon energy that will keep prices low for fuel and petrochemical feed stocks.

That means more manufacturing and other jobs for millions of graduates and unemployed workers, and new prosperity for the “Rust Belt” and other areas. “Plunging natural gas prices have turned the US into one of the most profitable places in the world to make chemicals and fertilizer,” says the Wall Street Journal. It's also “slashed costs for makers of energy-intensive products such as aluminum, steel and glass.”

It could make North America energy independent and even a net exporter of natural gas. In fact, this amazing new technology could turn the United States into the world's #1 oil producer within just a few more years.

For people still concerned about “catastrophic manmade global warming” (despite 16 years of stable global temperatures), unconventional gas also provides a way to cut carbon dioxide emissions by up to 40% using clean-burning fuel that costs a third less than oil on a per BTU basis, notes Danish economist Bjorn Lomborg. The USA's CO2 emissions are now

at their lowest levels in 20 years, because of natural gas, a sluggish economy, and the retirement of 100-200 coal-fired power plants due to an EPA regulatory onslaught that is based heavily on agenda-driven, slipshod and even fraudulent and illegal science.

Logic and common sense would engender unprecedented public, political and even environmentalist support for hydraulic fracturing and expanded oil and gas production. Indeed, that is Governor Romney's perspective and policy. Unfortunately, Team Obama remains largely opposed to domestic drilling, fixated on “renewable” energy, despite having already wasted some \$97 billion on wind, solar and algae projects – and poised to unleash a boxcar of new EPA and BLM rules designed to usurp state control and restrict or hyper-regulate fracking on federal, state and private lands alike, win or lose on November 6.

Team Obama justifies its stance by citing public anxiety over fracking. It fails to mention that this anxiety has been nurtured and orchestrated by a host of environmental pressure groups whose existence, monetary sustenance and political power depend on a steady stream of new eco-hobgoblins. Their fractured fairy tales about this game-changing energy technology would be as funny as the Rocky and Bullwinkle tales, if the economic, employment, national security and environmental consequences weren't so serious.

Hydraulic fracturing devastates their mantra that we are running out of oil and gas. It annihilates their incessant assertions that hydrocarbons are the energy of the past, and renewables are the future. In reality, wind and solar cannot live with cheap natural gas (because they cannot possibly compete with it) and cannot live without it (because they only work 20% of the time and need gas as constant backup power).

Consequently, the anti-fracking factions have concocted a hodgepodge of eco-scares, each one more absurd and indefensible than the last.

Burning tap water. Yes, you can ignite methane at your kitchen faucet, *if* your well was drilled through gas-bearing rock formations and was not properly cemented and sealed to keep gas out. (Eternal Flame Falls in New York's Chestnut Ridge Park is one example of natural methane leakage.) But fracturing zones are thousands of feet below groundwater

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