

# Re: OT Gas Prices and the Blame Game

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- *From:* "Paul E. Schoen" <pstech@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 29 May 2008 14:26:26 -0400
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"Richard The Dreaded Libertarian" <null@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:pan.2008.05.29.17.48.21.738050@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

On Wed, 28 May 2008 22:45:08 -0400, Paul E. Schoen wrote:

"Richard The Dreaded Libertarian" <null@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

On Wed, 28 May 2008 05:59:57 +0100, Eeyore wrote:

Catastrophist. I'm sure Hollywood could  
make a film about it. People  
seem to  
like being scared. I suppose the IPCC is  
trading on that too.

People are already scared – most people are walking around  
in a state  
of  
abject terror – finding something to blame comforts them,  
even if it  
has  
no factual basis.

It's good that people are scared. It will probably take that to make  
them  
do something good about the environment. Even if GW is a hoax, or if it  
is  
beyond our control, energy conservation, recycling, and other measures  
are  
a "good thing". And strong action is needed if only for economic  
reasons.  
"Business as usual" is going bankrupt.

## Re: OT Gas Prices and the Blame Game

Here's the rub – this is the most insidious, and dangerous thing about the GW true believers – they're advocating massive government mandates, which are, in fact, anti-American.

Freedom is Good – Mandates are Bad.

But, if you don't like Freedom, then pick a slave master. But even then, you can't escape Freedom, because you are the one who decides which master to subjugate yourself to.

The problem is that many people want to "ban" things they see as bad, whether for the environment or personal health. Inasmuch as environmental insults damage and deplete our collective natural resources, we as a people are justified in levying taxes to limit unreasonable waste, and rebates or other measures to reward conservation. And likewise, activities such as drug abuse, prostitution, and gambling should be decriminalized to eliminate the profits from underground activity, but taxed or regulated so that the government (we the people) will have the resources to provide humane treatment to those who damage themselves from such things.

Perhaps there should be a way to "opt out" of any sort of governmental benefits, such as the Amish. But as long as we decide to provide (and be eligible for) public schools, police and fire protection, public works projects, welfare, public assistance, unemployment benefits, bankruptcy protection, social security, Medicare, etc, we must pay for it as equitably as possible.

But I agree that mandates are anti-American. Most of our problems can be solved by economics and free enterprise, as long as there is no abuse of publicly owned resources (and I consider these to include mineral rights, oil and gas rights, and water rights).

Paul

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