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Inside Track

Kentucky to Divest From Companies Over ESG



(hirun/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

On January 3, Kentucky State Treasurer Allison Ball released a list of 11 companies engaged in energy boycotts, a hallmark of so-called ESG (Environmental, Social, Corporate Governance) funding. Those companies must notify the State Treasurer's office within 90 days that they are ending those energy boycotts or risk divestment from the Bluegrass State.

The companies put on notice are BlackRock, Inc.; BNP Paribas SA; Citigroup Inc.; Climate First Bank; Dankse Bank A/S; HSBC PLC; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Nordea Bank ABP; Schrodgers PLC; Svenska Handelsbanken AB; and Swedbank AB.

According to the treasurer's statement, Kentucky's energy sector accounts for nearly eight percent of all employment in the state and nearly 145,000 jobs. Currently, fossil fuels supply 94.5 percent of Kentucky's electrical power generation.

Those are not resources that the Bluegrass State is willing to lose because of the whims of climate hysterics.

"When companies boycott fossil fuels, they intentionally choke off the lifeblood of capital to Kentucky's signature industries," Ball said in her statement. "Traditional energy sources fuel our Kentucky economy, provide much needed jobs, and warm our homes. Kentucky must not allow our signature industries to be irreparably damaged based upon the ideological whims of a select few."

The state's actions are part of a nationwide pushback against so-called ESG funding schemes, which look to promote left-wing causes such as fighting "climate change," abortion availability, censorship in the name of guarding against "misinformation," and gun control.

Kentucky now joins a growing list of states who are fighting back against "woke" ESG funding schemes that prioritize globalist climate-change policies over the good of their investors. Among those states are Louisiana, Florida, and Arizona.

The new GOP majority in the House of Representatives is also set to investigate ESG investment schemes, which some congressmen believe are "merely partisan politics masquerading as responsible



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corporate governance.”

— James Murphy

***New York Times* Suggests Shorter People Are Better for the Planet**

A January 1 guest essay published in *The New York Times* makes the point that a shorter population would be better for the planet. While the author, Mara Altman, has her tongue firmly implanted in her cheek, her blatantly size-ist bigotry is impossible to ignore. Entitled “There Has Never Been a Better Time to Be Short,” Altman’s article declares that a shorter human race is better for everyone.



(BigCheesePhoto/Getty Images Plus)

Altman, who reports that she is only five feet tall, bluntly states that the future belongs to the diminutive as she states, “short is better, and it is the future.”

“The short are also inherent conservationists, which is more crucial than ever in this world of eight billion,” Altman points out. Echoing the writings of Thomas Samaras, known as the “Godfather of Shrink Think,” Altman concludes that if we “were just 10 percent shorter in America alone, we would save 87 million tons of food per year (not to mention trillions of gallons of water, quadrillions of B.T.U.s of energy and millions of tons of trash).”

She suggests that one way to ensure a shorter population is to lower one’s dating expectations — literally.

“Lowering the height minimum for prospective partners on your dating profile is a step toward a greener planet,” Altman suggests. Because “when you mate with shorter people, you’re potentially saving the planet by shrinking the needs of subsequent generations.”

Altman and the *Times* met with a fair amount of ridicule regarding the article.

While Altman’s piece is at least in part an attempt at humor, it’s important to note that certain climate fanatics have actually advocated genetic engineering to make people shorter as a means of causing them to consume less. They’ve also suggested such things as inducing allergies to meat in the population in order to make people crave less of it, and introduced the idea of decreasing testosterone and adding hormones such as oxytocin and serotonin to increase mankind’s ability to empathize with



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others.

— James Murphy

ATF Keeping Permanent Records of Gun Owners

A recent report from the FBI, released in early January, reveals that Barack Obama is no longer “the best gun salesman in America,” as CNN’s Aaron Smith claimed back in 2016. At that time background checks had soared from 14 million in 2009 (Obama’s first year in office) to nearly 28 million in 2016 (his last year in office).



(gsagi/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

The title “best gun salesman in America” then fell to President Donald Trump: During his four years in office (2017 to 2020) background checks averaged nearly 30 million annually.

The mantle now rests on the shoulders of the current White House resident: In Biden’s first two years, background checks averaged more than 35 million per year.

This is no doubt partly due to concerns ordinary citizens have over protecting themselves from increasing gun violence, especially in cities and states run by anti-gun Democrats who have more concern for criminals than their victims. And part is due to the virtual explosion in concealed-carry permits, now estimated at more than 20 million.

However, there is one number from the FBI report that is particularly unsettling: Since 1998, when the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) was launched, there have been *443 million* background checks!

How many of those background checks remain in the hands of the ATF — the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — in spite of laws prohibiting the government from keeping any such registry or database?

It turns out that there isn’t just *one* database keeping permanent records of gun owners applying for permission to purchase a firearm. There are five: the Multiple Sale Reports database, the Suspect Guns database, the Traced Guns database, the Theft Guns database, and the Out of Business Records database. There are several hundred million records in these databases.

Millions of Americans think they are simply exercising their Second Amendment-protected right by



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purchasing guns, while in fact they are giving their personal, private information to a government that might one day try to confiscate those guns.

— *Bob Adelman*

Canceling Keystone XL Cost Thousands of Jobs, Billions of Dollars



JonathanNafzger/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline cost the United States tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity, the Biden administration has belatedly confessed.

According to Fox News, the Department of Energy (DOE) released a report “in late December without any public announcement” stating that the pipeline project “would have created up to 59,000 jobs and would have had a positive economic impact of up to \$9.6 billion.”

President Biden canceled the project’s permits on his first day in office, drawing criticism not just from Republicans but also from his erstwhile labor-union allies, who did not appreciate his destruction of thousands of anticipated union jobs.

Just how many jobs Keystone XL would have created has long been in dispute. TC Energy, the Canadian firm that operated the pipeline, initially claimed it would create 20,000 jobs, a figure then-President Barack Obama disputed, saying the number was “maybe 2,000 during the construction of the pipeline” and 50 to 100 permanent jobs thereafter. Around the same time, the State Department forecast the project would create 42,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction and nearly 4,000 direct jobs after construction. The Biden administration, which had every incentive to lowball its estimate of jobs lost to the pipeline’s cancellation, actually came in with by far the highest projection of all. No wonder it kept its report under wraps until after the midterm elections.

“The Biden administration finally owned up to what we have known all along — killing the Keystone XL Pipeline cost good-paying jobs, hurt Montana’s economy and was the first step in the Biden administration’s war on oil and gas production in the United States,” Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.) said in a statement to Fox News. “Unfortunately, the administration continues to pursue energy production anywhere but the United States.”



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— *Michael Tennant*



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