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Why You Should Care

Money Power Creates a Dismal Future

The financial industry contributes twice as much money to political campaigns as any other industry and spends far more than any other sector lobbying our government, weakening essential financial protection legislation like Dodd-Frank. Wall Street bankers run our Treasury and the Federal Reserve to ensure their control over the money supply and their earnings from government debt. Big banks and their financial allies continue placing bets on derivatives spelling economic disaster for the rest of us.

Private Banks Bankrupt Government

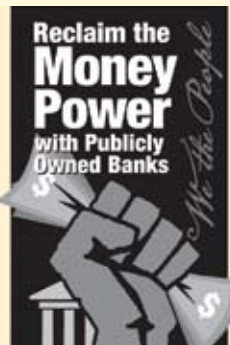
In their drive to maximize profits, the private banking industry has been preying on local governments, selling them snake oil like "credit-default swaps." Detroit and other cities have been bankrupted by such financial schemes. Meanwhile the Federal Reserve, run by the private banks, keeps the federal government in debt by loaning the government money which the Fed just creates out of thin air.

Public Control of Money is Necessary

Our privately created and controlled money supply has taken us on a 300-year roller coaster ride guaranteeing that the private money industry reaps the benefits of the system, while the rest of us pay the price. Public money proponent and 1884 Presidential Candidate General George Butler made the logical declaration that currency should be "uniform, sound, cheap, stable, and elastic." But to make that happen, money has to be publicly controlled.

Working Poor Need a Working Bank

Our banking system should work for the good of everyone. But it does not work for America's poor. A quarter of all US households, 34 million, mostly low-income households, do not have bank accounts. Banks will not even locate in poor communities. The residents of those neighborhoods must depend on a vulture industry of payday lenders that charge an average 400% interest, costing low-income communities \$95 billion dollars a year, trapping them in a life of poverty.



What You Can Do

Join the Public Bank Movement

Money is power. Until money is placed under public control, the power will reside in the vaults of our corporations and banks. To start taking back the power, create a public bank in your city, county or state. To find out how to get involved in the public banking movement that is spreading across the country, check out the Public Banking Institute at publicbankinginstitute.org And use Justice Rising to spread the word.

Support Local Institutions

Begin with grassroots action. Put your money into credit unions and local banks. Encourage your local government to move its money out of Wall Street banks and into local financial institutions, while making clear that partnership loans with a public bank will do far more to strengthen the local banks. Remember, deposits are a liability while loans are an asset.

Push for Publicly Controlled Money

Join the movement to nationalize the Federal Reserve. Encourage your Congressional delegation to embrace the power embodied in the U.S. Constitution to control our own money supply and to print our own currency. This way we will free ourselves from the stranglehold Wall Street has on our families and our communities and prevent our homes from being used as pawns in the race to unearned wealth.

Help the Working Poor Get a Bank

The US Postal Service providing banking services for the working poor is a win/win solution for the people, the Post Office and society in general. Postal banks are popular throughout the world. The US had postal banking services until the 1960s. The Office of Inspector General of the US Postal Service recommends it. The working poor need it. Senator Elizabeth Warren supports it. Join with Bank Act.org to get involved.