Victory in the Global Warming Debate

The final months of 2015 marked many major victories for the effort to restore sound science and economics to the debate over man-made climate change. As Winston Churchill famously said in November 1942, “Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Some of these victories include:

Victory in Paris
On December 12, 2015, the effort to adopt a global warming treaty with binding commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and redistribute income to developing countries collapsed in Paris at the Twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP-21), effectively ending the international effort to impose restrictions on nations. President Barack Obama, realizing a treaty would never pass the U.S. Senate for approval, even announced the Paris agreement was not a treaty at all, but only an unenforceable “commitment.” Nothing in the agreement binds policymakers in the United States.

The mainstream media, parroting claims by politicians, proclaimed the agreement to be a moral victory based on empty promises of future emission reductions, but in fact the conference ended without legally binding restrictions on emissions for either developed or developing countries and no binding commitment to fund the Green Climate Fund intended to pay reparations to developing countries. By the Left’s own predictions and admissions, Paris was a colossal failure.

With international efforts to cap emissions now rendered moot, the battle shifts – properly so – to the national level.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Congress Steps Up
Congress passed resolutions in November and December under the Congressional Review Act calling for repeal of the Clean Power Plan, the Obama administration’s unconstitutional effort to ban the use of coal in the United States. Obama vetoed the measure in December, but in February 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the regulations, effectively killing the program until a new president arrives in 2017.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith (TX), chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, exposed the manipulation of data and secret coordination with environmental activists by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), subpoenaing its top official and holding a series of hearings featuring genuine climate scientists.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (TX) has been outspoken on the climate change issue as a candidate for the Republican nomination for president, expressing his skepticism toward claims that the science is settled and that more needs to be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In December, he said that if he were elected president, he would withdraw the United States from the United Nations agreement reached in Paris.

Smith and Cruz join U.S. Sen. James Inhofe (OK), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, as powerful voices for climate realism in Congress. With their leadership, the prospects for sending pro-environment, pro-energy, and pro-jobs legislation to the next president of the United States are excellent.

Public Opinion Moves Our Way
New opinion polls show a significant decline in public concern over global warming. A Fox News poll from November found only 3 percent of Americans list global warming as their top concern. An ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted in December found only 47 percent said the government should do more about global warming, compared to 61 percent and 70 percent who favored more activism in 2008 and 2007, respectively.

A February 2016 YouGov poll of 18,000 people in 17 countries found only 9.2 percent of Americans rank global warming as their biggest concern. Only Saudi Arabians were less concerned about global warming at 5.7 percent. Also in November, a Chinese survey found only 18 percent in China view climate change as a “very serious” problem.

The verdict is clear: People across the globe simply don’t believe global warming is a crisis.

EPA Waste and Fraud Exposed
Probably the most powerful ally of the global warming alarmist camp is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). With an annual budget of nearly $8 billion, more than 1,000 lawyers on its staff, and the source of more than $72 billion in grants to universities and environmental advocacy groups since 2000, EPA is the engine pulling the global warming movement’s train.

EPA’s waste and lobbying were exposed in October by an audit conducted by OpenTheBooks.com, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization devoted to transparency. According to the audit, EPA invests heavily in trying to influence public opinion: Since 2007, $143 million in salaries plus bonuses was spent on EPA public relations staff plus $15.1 million on outside PR consulting firms.

EPA is also wasteful: It spent $48.4 million since 2005 on Herman Miller upscale furniture and nearly $5 million on Knoll, Inc. furniture. (Forty examples of Knoll furniture are on permanent display at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City.)

Waste and fraud by EPA are so endemic that presidential candidate Donald Trump referred to the agency as “the laughingstock of the world,” “what they do is a disgrace,” and “every week they come out with new regulations.” He pledged to reduce the agency’s budget if elected.

Fraud by NOAA Exposed
Manipulation of the surface temperature data has long been a tool of climate alarmists. In 2015, the science community backed by members of Congress rose to object.
Climate scientists Dr. Patrick J. Michaels and Dr. Richard S. Lindzen, writing in June at the blog Watts Up With That, commented on NOAA’s use of unreliable water temperature records to create a spurious new record to support alarmist claims: “As has been acknowledged by numerous scientists, the engine intake data are clearly contaminated by heat conduction from the structure, and as such, never intended for scientific use.”

Starting in July, Congressman Smith reported NOAA whistleblowers had come forth to question NOAA’s study. NOAA refused repeated requests by Smith’s committee for information, so in November, Smith threatened the head of NOAA with “civil and/or criminal enforcement mechanisms” if her agency didn’t turn over emails and internal communications explaining how the report was produced.

In November, massive manipulation and falsification of the surface temperature record by NASA and NOAA were exposed in a detailed analysis by German scientist Friedrich-Karl Ewert titled “NASA GISS Temperature Records Altered – Why?” In January 2016, some 300 scientists signed a letter to Congressman Smith supporting his investigation into NOAA.

The Apostasy of Philippe Verdier
In October, one of Europe’s most respected and well-known meteorologists, Philippe Verdier, came out of the closet as a global warming skeptic. The establishment promptly tried to silence him and when that failed, arranged to have him fired. The resulting controversy produced headlines throughout Europe ... though the matter was studiously ignored by the mainstream media in the United States. (Only CNN mentioned it ... once.)

Verdier was France’s premier weatherman, a household name for his nightly forecasts on the “France 2” channel. In a promotional video for a new book, Verdier said: “We are hostage to a planetary scandal over climate change – a war machine whose aim is to keep us in fear.”

Shortly after news of the book broke, France 2 took him off the air. Then, after a “forced holiday,” Verdier was fired. Verdier told a local radio show host, “I’m in shock. This is a direct extension of what I say in my book, namely that any contrary views must be eliminated.”

Thanks to Philippe Verdier’s apostasy, millions of Europeans have learned what millions of Americans already know: Only one side of the global warming debate is allowed to be aired by the mainstream media, and it is the one with the weight of special-interest groups, not science, on its side.

* * * * * *

The year 2015 will be remembered for many things, including the rise of domestic terrorism, Pope Francis’s visit to the United States, and the phenomenon of Donald Trump running for president. But perhaps the most consequential event that year was the beginning of the end of the global warming movement. For those of us who have been in the debate for some decades, that moment couldn’t come too soon.

Joseph L. Bast is president of The Heartland Institute.
By the Numbers

During the fourth quarter of 2015, The Heartland Institute ...

- Contacted elected officials 233,251 times, including 5,406 one-on-one contacts by phone, email, or in person.
- Generated at least 54 broadcast, 875 online, and 137 print media hits reaching 25 million subscribers.
- Released two books, three booklets, one Heartland Policy Brief, and 34 Research & Commentaries.
- Added 50 interviews to podcasts, attracting 315,813 listeners.
- Held successful events in Paris during the United Nations’ COP-21 climate conference and in Essen, Germany.
- Addressed 25 events with audiences totaling at least 1,986 people.

- Sent more than 8,000 copies of “The Future of Social Security” by Peter Ferrara, reprinted from National Affairs magazine.
- Logged 1,614 personal and 68,798 group contacts for a total of 70,412 contacts with legislators on budget and tax issues.
- Testified three times in Georgia and Chicago, addressing welfare reform, vaping and e-cigarette taxes, and state tax reform.
- Generated at least three broadcast, 49 online, and 20 print media hits reaching more than 5.2 million people.
- Produced 14 new podcasts on budget and tax issues, attracting 43,405 listeners.
- Addressed seven events with audiences totaling at least 445 people.

Center on Environment and Climate

- Held an educational program in Paris during the United Nations’ COP-21 climate conference and the 11th International Conference on Climate Change in Essen, Germany.
- Published two issues of Environment & Climate News, 10 issues of Climate Change Weekly, and five Research & Commentaries on environment and energy issues.
- Released two books: The Neglected Sun and Why Scientists Disagree about Global Warming.
- Logged 1,813 personal and 65,229 group contacts for a total of 67,042 contacts with legislators on energy and environment issues.
- Testified about the Clean Power Plan at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Generated at least nine broadcast, 133 online, and 19 print media hits reaching nearly 2.2 million people on energy issues.
- Generated at least 31 broadcast, 513

Center on Budgets and Taxes

- Published three issues of Budget & Tax News and 14 Research & Commentaries on budget and tax issues.
online, and 61 print media hits reaching more than 10.2 million people on environment and climate issues.

- Produced 26 new podcasts on energy, environment, and climate issues, attracting 71,976 listeners.
- Addressed 13 events with audiences totaling at least 1,450 people.

**Consumers for Health Care Choices**
- Hired a new managing editor for *Health Care News*, which will resume publication in the first quarter of 2016.
- Published 12 issues of *Consumer Power Report* and seven *Research & Commentaries* on health care issues.
- Logged 980 personal and 38,745 group contacts for a total of 39,725 contacts with legislators on health care issues.
- Generated at least one broadcast, 29 online, and four print media hits reaching nearly 2.5 million people.
- Produced three new podcasts on health care issues, attracting 42,892 listeners.

**Center for Constitutional Reform**
- Produced a *Heartland Policy Brief* on the status of the Article V movement and a booklet on the Compact for a Balanced Budget.
- Made nearly 2,000 contacts with allies in the constitutional reform movement.
- Logged 229 personal and 12,597 group contacts for a total of 12,826 contacts with legislators on constitutional reform issues.
- Produced four podcasts and generated at least four broadcast, 16 online, and seven print media hits reaching nearly 700,000 people on constitutional reform.
- Issued more than 350 tweets from @usconstreform and wrote two posts for *Somewhat Reasonable*.

**Center for Education Transformation**
- Published two issues of *School Reform News*, 14 issues of *School Choice Weekly*, and four *Research & Commentaries* on education issues.
- Logged 770 personal and 42,476 group contacts for a total of 43,246 contacts with legislators on education issues.
- Generated at least six broadcast, 58 online, and 16 print media hits reaching nearly 3.4 million people on education issues.
- Produced seven new podcasts on education issues, attracting 34,781 listeners.
- Addressed three events reaching an estimated 126 people.

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**Never lose a debate with a global warming alarmist!**

The causes and consequences of global warming (aka, “climate change”) are complex and uncertain. Environmentalists and President Obama claim they need to destroy the world’s best energy system to “stop global warming.” Many scientists believe this is **nonsense**. But the liberal media won’t tell you this.

The authors of *Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming* demolish the claim that “97% of scientists” believe in man-made global warming.

Written by the editors of the *Climate Change Reconsidered* series, the world’s most authoritative assessment of climate science, this is a book you can read and share. Succinct, authoritative, with key findings highlighted for easy reference.

Buy it now! $14.95 on store.heartland.org, Amazon.com, or call 312/377-4000.
As 2015 came to a close, The Heartland Institute continued to work hard to educate state and national lawmakers about how improved business climates and lowered tax and regulatory burdens benefit states and their residents.

Heartland cosponsored its third and final Emerging Issues Forum of 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee on December 9. Seventy-five lawmakers attended the program featuring Research Fellow Bette Grande and Government Relations Director John Nothdurft; Jonathan Williams, director of the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Tax and Fiscal Task Force; and other speakers. Lawmakers from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia attended the forum.

The budget and tax panel included OCPA Impact CEO David Bond, Wisconsin state Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville), and Union Conservatives Executive Director Terry Bowman. They addressed how some states have successfully reformed pensions and other underfunded liabilities for public employee benefits.

Reforming Entitlements
Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara worked closely with prominent federal lawmakers to develop proposals for personal accounts for Social Security and block-granting all national welfare programs. Ferrara’s Social Security proposal will be examined by the chief actuary to produce an official economic analysis, an important step in a policy becoming law.

Ferrara gave a series of speeches about his book *Power to the People: The New Road to Freedom and Prosperity for the Poor, Seniors, and Those Most in Need of the World’s Best Health Care*. In November, he spoke to a class of college students at the University of Illinois–Chicago. The Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) cohosted an event with Heartland at which Ferrara and IPI policy analyst Michael Lucci spoke about the need for entitlement reform at the state and national levels.

We reprinted an article Ferrara wrote for *National Affairs*, “The Future of Social Security,” and distributed copies to more than...
8,000 elected officials, civic and business leaders, think tank allies, and Heartland donors.

On welfare reform, Heartland staff continued to help lawmakers understand how they can best empower their citizens and help them become more self-reliant. In an op-ed sent to 203 Maine lawmakers, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans praised them for requiring asset testing for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, encouraging other state lawmakers to do the same. In addition to the asset test, another Maine initiative, reported in a Budget & Tax News article, would place restrictions on cash assistance under the TANF program, food stamps, and other benefits.

Heartland’s 2015 Welfare Reform Report Card remained an influential tool for inspiring lawmakers across the nation to make needed reforms to state entitlement programs. On October 13, State Government Relations Manager Logan Pike testified before the Georgia Assembly’s Study Committee on Welfare Fraud. Pike and Government Relations Director John Nothdurft followed up on her testimony in more detail at the Georgia Legislative Policy Forum on October 15, explaining to the 200 lawmakers and policy allies in attendance why the state received its “F” grade and what Georgia can do to improve that grade.

Snuffing Out Sin Taxes
The Center on Budgets and Taxes also worked to educate lawmakers about the negative effects of so-called sin taxes and explain why those taxes often fail to achieve their stated goals.

On October 20, we sent a Research & Commentary to 139 West Virginia lawmakers on the issue of sin taxes and vaping. State Government Relations Manager Nathan Makla testified on October 20 before the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations of the Chicago City Council regarding two proposed taxes on e-cigarettes and other vapor products.

“Although reducing smoking rates is a noble goal, raising tobacco taxes rarely works as intended and frequently has many negative effects, including driving residents to buy untaxed or lower-taxed tobacco elsewhere, harming retailers,” Glans wrote in a November 5 Research & Commentary about sin tax proposals in Wyoming.

An op-ed by Research Fellow Jesse Hathaway about a tobacco tax proposal in California was published in several newspapers across the nation and at the website Inside Sources. The item was read by almost 500,000 people.

Encouraging Tax Reform and Competition
Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts announced his intention to launch a new push to bring tax relief to residents in 2016. In September 2015 press releases, Ricketts said property tax relief is among his top legislative priorities and stressed the need for competitive tax policies in order to attract business activity and residents to the state.

The Hill, the largest political newspaper in Washington, DC, published an op-ed by Hathaway titled “Taxpayers, states win when there’s tax competition.” “By reducing tax burdens and making the tax code more fair and balanced, lawmakers can encourage businesses and residents to come to live and work in their states, bringing their capital and tax revenue with them,” he wrote.
In the run-up to the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations’ Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21) held in Paris, France from November 30 through December 12, The Heartland Institute’s staff worked overtime to highlight the best scientific and economic research concerning the theory of human-caused catastrophic climate change and the effects of policies proposed to fight it.

We published Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming: The NIPCC Report on Consensus, releasing it on November 30, the first day of COP-21. The authors, distinguished climate scientists Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, dismantle claims most or even a majority of scientists believe climate change is manmade and dangerous.

Heartland also reprinted The Neglected Sun, by Professor Fritz Vahrenholt and Dr. Sebastian Lüning, first published in German as Die kalte Sonne in 2012. The authors demonstrate the critical cause of global temperature change has been, and continues to be, variations in the Sun’s output.

In Paris during COP-21, Heartland held a day-long event on December 7, “Day of Examining the Data,” delivering the scientific evidence that climate change is not a crisis. U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), chairman of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, addressed the conference via satellite. Other speakers included prominent scientists Robert M. Carter, Willie Soon, S. Fred Singer, and Christopher Essex, plus Greenpeace cofounder Patrick Moore and Lord Christopher Monckton. We closed our event with the world premiere of the movie Climate Hustle.

Heartland’s Paris event generated substantial broadcast media attention. From November 30 through December 4, several members of Heartland’s delegation to Paris – Senior Fellow James Taylor, Soon, Monckton, and Nick Loris – were featured on the Capitol Hill Show with host Tim Constantine on WILC-AM in New Jersey. Also discussing Heartland’s Paris event were Heartland Institute President Joseph Bast as a guest on Capitol City Recap on WILS-AM in Lansing, Michigan; Monckton on the nationally syndicated Alex Jones Show and the Mike Church Show on the Veritas Radio Network and on KT-VU-TV’s news broadcast in Oakland, California; and Policy Advisor Tom Harris on the Tommy Schnurmacher Show on CJAD-AM in Montreal.

Heartland’s COP-21 counter-event also garnered print and online coverage. CNS News published an op-ed by Carter, “Global Warming Alarmist Rhetoric, Propaganda and Dishonesty Heats Up in Paris.” He wrote, “Pity the world’s poor – partly at the mistaken
behest of the pope—because it is they who continue to carry the opportunity cost of these malignant and brutally expensive climate misadventures.” The Washington Times published an op-ed by Research Fellow H. Sterling Burnett titled “A Climate of Failure.” He wrote, “The goal of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 21st Conference of the Parties is to produce an international agreement that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an amount necessary to prevent a 2 degree Celsius rise in global average temperature in this century. The conference is likely to fail to meet this goal.”

The Huffington Post mentioned Heartland on December 7, reporting an activist “posted more than 1,000 wanted posters near some of the city’s top hotels on Monday morning to catch the eyes of influential conference attendees. ‘It is a shame that climate activists choose to resort to such vitriol and personal attack. … I guess this is what happens when some people don’t have science on their side and feel compelled to lash out,’ [Heartland Senior Fellow James] Taylor wrote in an email.” That same day, The New York Times published an op-ed, “The Road to a Paris Climate Deal,” noting, “The Heartland Institute is hosting a climate change conference of its own on Monday, at the Hotel California here.”

The final agreement vindicated Heartland’s skepticism about the effectiveness of international treaties to fight climate change. As Burnett noted in the lead essay of the December 18 Climate Change Weekly, the conference produced an aspirational document, not a binding treaty.

Immediately after the Paris event, Taylor spoke on December 12 before 200 climate scientists from the United States, Europe, and Australia about Heartland’s fight against the “green lobby” at the Eleventh International Conference on Climate Change in Essen, Germany, a joint event with the European Institute for Climate and Energy.

Heartland also was active on the climate front before COP-21. Science Director Jay Lehr was a guest on Your World with Neil Cavuto on the Fox News Channel, discussing the climate change agenda of Canada’s new governing party. Taylor had a big media month in October, discussing climate and President Barack Obama’s Clean Power Plan. In addition to radio appearances, Taylor was a featured guest on the Fox Business Network show Stossel, discussing the alarmism pervading the climate change debate. National Review published an op-ed by Burnett in which he wrote, “Without Senate ratification, any climate agreement coming out of Paris, just like Obama’s executive orders and climate regulations, can be undone by his successors.”

CNS News published a piece quoting Bast, “Questions Conservatives Want Asked in Tonight’s Debate.” Bast’s question, the story reported, was, “As president, would you sign legislation that reins in EPA, such as the REINS Act [Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny], or even a constitutional amendment requiring congressional approval of regulations that impose costs of more than $100 million?” Bast also contributed a Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel op-ed.

Much of Burnett’s fourth-quarter work on climate change focused on alarmists’ efforts to end the climate change debate by silencing
skeptics. CNS News published Burnett’s op-ed “Bill Nye, the Anti-Science Guy, Demeans Science, Hopes to Silence Climate ‘Deniers’” and took to the airwaves to discuss the latest climate science and attempts to silence skeptics on the Matt Patrick and Michael Berry Show on KTRH-AM in Houston, the Charles Butler Show, and the nationally syndicated Alan Nathan Show.

Fracking and Renewable Energy
Heartland provided information on efforts to limit fracking or mandate politically preferred energy choices. An October 29 Research & Commentary, “EPA and GWPC: Ohio Is Right, Anti-Frackers Wrong on Class II Injection Wells,” dispelled some of the myths surrounding fracking.

An October 27 Real Clear Policy op-ed by Research Fellow Isaac Orr addressed the benefits of fracking. He followed up with a Townhall op-ed, “I’m Thankful for Fracking,” noting, “The average American family may save more than $700 at the pump in 2015 compared to 2014 because of lower gas prices.” Orr stressed those themes in presentations to the American Exploration and Mining Association meeting in Spokane, Washington on December 2 and the Eleventh International Conference on Climate Change in Essen, Germany on December 12.

As part of its work to bring choice to energy consumers, Heartland addressed the conflict between casinos and local electric power monopolist NV Energy over whether Nevada casinos should be allowed to purchase electricity from third-party providers. Taylor published an op-ed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the government relations team followed up with a Research & Commentary, “Las Vegas Casinos Fight to Choose Electricity Suppliers.”

On December 2, Policy Analyst Tim Benson and Policy Advisor Steve Goreham met with a dozen Illinois state lawmakers at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce to provide them with information on renewable power mandates.

Heartland’s efforts to inform lawmakers of the damage done by net metering and renewable power mandates bore fruit in Hawaii, which became the first state to end its net metering program for new roof top solar power, and in Ohio, where the state legislature’s Energy Mandates Study Committee recommended extending indefinitely the state’s freeze on its renewable energy mandate.

Public Lands, WOTUS, and Beyond
Heartland has long reported on efforts by Western states to gain control over federal lands within their borders, highlighting arguments by legislators and policy analysts that returning lands to the states would be just and would improve the economic performance
“Although Congress has proven unwilling or unable to thwart the Obama administration’s regulatory onslaught, the president’s regulatory push suffered several setbacks in the federal courts.”

and environmental quality of these lands.

On October 1–3, State Government Relations Manager Nathan Makla attended the American Lands Council Transfer Public Lands National Strategy Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he spoke with dozens of lawmakers. In addition, the lead essay of the October 8 issue of the government relations team’s weekly e-newsletter, The Leaflet, highlighted state efforts to regain control over public lands.

On November 20, government relations staff and Burnett participated in a conference call with Utah state Rep. Ken Ivory (R-West Jordan) to talk about efforts there to gain greater control over the federal lands. Burnett interviewed Ivory, who is president of the American Lands Council, for the January issue of Environment & Climate News.

Although Congress has proven unwilling or unable to thwart the Obama administration’s regulatory onslaught, the president’s regulatory push suffered several setbacks in the federal courts. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati stayed the Waters of the United States rule nationwide. The October issue of Environment & Climate News reported on this ruling, and Real Clear Policy published an op-ed by Burnett on the subject. We sent a Research & Commentary on the rule to 664 federal elected officials and state allies.

Federal courts also ordered EPA to rewrite its 2011 Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and a U.S. District Court overturned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s plan to list the lesser prairie chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Environment & Climate News covered these stories and other events stemming from Obama’s regulatory interventions.

In an important case yet to be heard, nine states have filed lawsuits against the Obama administration’s new stricter standards for ozone emissions. EPA acknowledges the regulations could be the most costly it has ever issued. The Hill magazine published an op-ed by Burnett on the topic, and Burnett interviewed Dan Simmons, vice president for policy at the Institute for Energy Research, for a Heartland podcast discussing the high cost and minimal benefits of the new ozone regulations.

Testified about the Clean Power Plan at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Atlanta, Georgia.

Generated at least nine broadcast, 133 online, and 19 print media hits reaching nearly 2.2 million people on energy issues.

Generated at least 31 broadcast, 513 online, and 61 print media hits reaching more than 10.2 million people on environment and climate issues.

Produced 26 new podcasts on energy, environment, and climate issues, attracting 71,976 listeners.

Addressed 13 events with audiences totaling at least 1,450 people.
In 1932, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis described the states as laboratories of democracy, wherein citizens might “try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country.” Eighty-four years later, many states have taken on more risk than ever in dealing with the failed experiment known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

States face two decisions in implementing ACA. One is whether to host a state exchange where people can buy health insurance online, or to send buyers to the federal exchange, Healthcare.gov. Heartland was at the forefront of efforts to inform governors and state legislators of the fiscal dangers of implementing a state health insurance exchange under Obamacare. Many states listened, with 34 deciding not to create exchanges.

In 2016, some states that opted to create exchanges are rethinking their decision. By electing conservative Republican Matt Bevin governor in November 2015, Kentuckians effectively held a referendum on their state’s exchange, against which Bevin campaigned. Ironically, President Barack Obama had called Kentucky’s exchange a model for the nation.

In January 2016, newly elected Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) expanded Medicaid by executive order, breaking the proverbial levee with which predecessor Bobby Jindal had held welfare dependency in check. Health Care News is covering the fallout and will stick with this story in the year ahead.

Costs Rise as Obamacare Unravels
Six years after Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, proponents’ predictions that it would reduce the cost of health care have been shown false. Insurance providers are dropping out of the system as costs outstrip revenues.

In an op-ed for The Hill magazine titled “Obamacare’s death spiral has begun,”
Heartland Editor Justin Haskins wrote, “Many analysts believe other large health insurance companies, such as Aetna and Anthem, could also face tough times in the coming years due to the increasingly large number of sick people joining the Obamacare exchanges.”

Citizens purchasing insurance through the Obamacare exchange found premiums for “silver” and “bronze” plans are on pace to rise by up to 10 percent in 2016, Haskins noted in the November 4 Consumer Power Report, Heartland’s weekly e-newsletter on health care.

**Repealing CON Laws**

Heartland sent 12 issues of Consumer Power Report in the fourth quarter to more than 4,060 people each. The October 21 issue covered a legal battle in Florida that serves as a cautionary tale for the 36 states that have certificate of need (CON) laws. CON laws restrict the supply of health care providers, keep prices unnecessarily high by preventing competitors from entering the market, and limit innovation in a life-or-death field.

In October, we sent 187 Missouri elected officials a new Research & Commentary on transitional care facilities and CON laws in the state. We also sent Georgia lawmakers a Research & Commentary on CON laws and featured CON in a November issue of The Leaflet, the weekly e-newsletter of Heartland’s government relations department.

In stark contrast to CON laws’ denial of consumer empowerment and choice, Oklahoma implemented a new “right to try” law in November. The law gives terminally ill people the option of pursuing alternative pharmaceuticals and treatments.

**Welcome Michael Hamilton**


Hamilton’s efforts to reform public policy date to summers he spent working for The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions while a student at Hillsdale College. Upon graduating, he taught International Baccalaureate English and Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics.

In 2013, Hamilton co-founded the website Ohio Conservative Review and the freelance writing and editing company Good Comma Editing, LLC. He has written for PJ Media, WORLD, The Philos Project, Canon & Culture, and other sites and publications. He serves as vice chairman of the board of Forge Leadership Network.

**Performance Highlights**

- Hired a new managing editor for Health Care News, which will resume publication in the first quarter of 2016.
- Published 12 issues of Consumer Power Report and seven Research & Commentaries on health care issues.
- Logged 980 personal and 38,745 group contacts for a total of 39,725 contacts with legislators on health care issues.
- Generated at least one broadcast, 29 online, and four print media hits reaching nearly 2.5 million people.
- Produced three new podcasts on health care issues, attracting 42,892 listeners.

“... premiums for ‘silver’ and ‘bronze’ plans are on pace to rise by up to 10 percent in 2016.”
Efforts to Restore Constitutional Order Spring Up Nationwide

By Kyle Maichle
Project Manager
Center for Constitutional Reform

The Heartland Institute’s Center for Constitutional Reform highlights individuals and organizations working to find constitutional solutions to our nation’s most pressing problems. We support and seek constructive debate on all efforts to restore constitutional order. Kyle Maichle (mikely) is project manager for the center.

The Article V Movement
On November 16 we released a Policy Brief by attorney David Guldenschuh titled “The Article V Movement: A Comprehensive Assessment to Date and Suggested Approach for State Legislators and Advocacy Groups Moving Forward.” Guldenschuh describes the efforts of four Article V advocacy groups, reports on educational efforts undertaken by those organizations and others, and refutes fears of a “runaway convention.”

We mailed more than 10,000 copies of the Policy Brief; sent a digital press release to 18,491 media contacts; and sent the brief digitally to approximately 21,000 influential people in 15 states.

The brief was featured in the November issue of the State Legislators Article V Caucus Newsletter and cited in an op-ed published at Western Free Press. Maichle engaged in an exchange of several letters to the editor with readers of the Herald Journal, Beloit Daily News, and Deseret News.

Balanced Budget Amendment
A new booklet by Nick Dranias, president and executive director of Compact for America Educational Foundation, Inc., was mailed with the February issue of Budget & Tax News. Dranias describes the Compact for a Balanced Budget, which simplifies convoluted procedures for amending the U.S. Constitution under Article V.

In October, Guldenschuh, Maichle, and State Government Relations Director Nathan Makla met with 17 lawmakers in Madison, Wisconsin to discuss Article V and the Balanced Budget Amendment. Heartland’s government relations team prepared a new Policy Tip Sheet encouraging Wisconsin to join the 27 states that have called for a balanced budget amendment. Makla also testified before the Michigan House Committee on Financial Liability Reform regarding a potential agreement by the state to adopt the Compact for a Balanced Budget.

In November, we sent a Research & Commentary on constitutional reform and the balanced budget amendment to more than 2,160 elected officials in 14 states.

Free Speech
In December, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approved a resolution reaffirming freedom of speech rights on its campuses throughout the state. Heartland responded to the regents’ vote with a press release sent to 3,926 reporters and media contacts.

Also in December, Arizona community college student Brittany Mirelez filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging the free speech zone at Paradise Valley Community College violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Heartland sent a press release to 6,087 reporters and media contacts, and Maichle discussed the lawsuit on Tim Constantine’s Capitol Hill Show, Inside Tracks, and the Issues & Ideas radio show.
Government Accountability

In July 2015, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court deemed unconstitutional a three-years-long “John Doe” investigation by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (GAB) targeting free-market organizations that supported Gov. Scott Walker during the 2011 and 2012 recall elections. In early December, the court denied a motion to reconsider its July decision, effectively ending the investigation. Maichle, Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara, and Research Fellow Jesse Hathaway commented on the court’s decision in a December 2 press release.

Later in December, Walker signed into law Assembly Bill 388, shuttering GAB and transitioning its work into two separate agencies for elections and ethics. Maichle commented for a press release we sent to 2,419 media contacts.

Connecting with Allies

In phone calls, emails, and face-to-face meetings, Maichle made nearly 2,000 contacts with allies in the constitutional reform movement in the fourth quarter.

In November, Maichle represented Heartland at several events sponsored by allied organizations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin before a Republican presidential debate. He also attended the Freedom Summit in Itasca, Illinois, which drew 600 people, and participated in policy breakout panels there. He attended a debate on gun control hosted by the American Constitution Society, Federalist Society, and National Constitution Center at the Chicago Cultural Center.

On November 18, the Center for Constitutional Reform hosted an event in Heartland’s new offices in Arlington Heights. The “Women in Politics” event drew 55 people and featured, among other speakers, Amy Jacobson of AM 560 The Answer and Kathleen Murphy of The Illinois Opportunity Project.

In November, Neal Schuerer of Campaign Constitution visited The Heartland Institute’s offices to discuss a proposal to simulate an Article V convention. Later in the month, former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Thomas Brennan visited Heartland to discuss his own plans for an Article V convention simulation.

Social Media and Website

The center tweets from the handle @usconstreform. In the fourth quarter, Maichle issued more than 350 tweets, addressing among other topics the presidential debate in Milwaukee, Heartland’s “Women in Politics” event, campus free speech rights, constitutional reform in other nations, and nullification efforts against EPA regulations.

Maichle wrote two blog posts for Somewhat Reasonable, addressing the Tenth Amendment Center’s State of the Nullification Movement report and an attempt by a Democratic member of the Florida House of Representatives to rescind the state’s Article V applications.

Performance Highlights

- Produced a Heartland Policy Brief on the status of the Article V movement and a booklet on the Compact for a Balanced Budget.
- Made nearly 2,000 contacts with allies in the constitutional reform movement.
- Logged 229 personal and 12,597 group contacts for a total of 12,826 contacts with legislators on constitutional reform issues.
- Produced four podcasts and generated at least four broadcast, 16 online, and seven print media hits reaching nearly 700,000 people on constitutional reform.
- Issued more than 350 tweets from @usconstreform and wrote two posts for Somewhat Reasonable.
After several years of putting off reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, in December Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), further expanding national government control over education. Heartland had warned of that possibility. On November 27, for example, the Findlay, Ohio Courier and Somerville, New Jersey Home News Tribune published a letter to the editor by Senior Fellow Robert Holland, “Education revamp needs full vetting.” He wrote, “In a bill that reportedly will be several inches thick, there is no telling how much fine print will give openings for even more federal interventions in local school decision-making …”

Heartland experts responded to the December 2 passage of ESSA in a press release, and in Heartland’s School Choice Weekly e-newsletter, Research Fellow Joy Pullmann noted the rush to pass the bill “has been a foolish mistake (or a deliberate tactic to prevent organized resistance), even if the bill itself is truly the best conservatives can realistically hope to get in the near future.”

Rising Concerns Over School Quality

In early November the latest scores on the nation’s most trustworthy standardized test, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), showed a decline in fourth and eighth grade math scores for the first time since 1990. We responded with a press release sent to 6,586 media contacts, featuring comments by Holland, Pullmann, Senior Fellow Bruno Behrend, Project Manager Lennie Jarratt, and Policy Analyst Tim Benson. In School Choice Weekly, Pullmann discussed accusations Common Core contributed to the decline.

Jarratt discussed the NAEP results on Tim Constantine’s Capitol Hill Show on WMEX-AM in Boston, Politics on the Edge on WESR-FM in Virginia, and the Kevin Miller in the Morning radio show on KIDO-AM in Boise, Idaho.

As the national trend of declining scores on standardized tests continues, school choice is increasingly seen as the answer. In December, School Reform News reported some Washington, DC-area parents were risking jail time in order for their children to participate in the city’s flourishing school choice environment.

Common Core Commotion Continues

The swell of opposition to the national Common Core standards has become a tsunami, and Heartland continued to inform legislators and the public about the problems with the increasingly unpopular program. Holland, Jarratt, and Senior Fellow David Anderson were published on the topic in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania Patriot News, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Washington Times, and Townhall.

In School Choice Weekly, Pullmann noted Common Core is failing in one of its most important intended effects: standardization. “The New York Times reports states are labeling the same test scores in wildly varying ways despite using the same Common Core tests,” Pullmann wrote. “In other words, what counts as proficient in Ohio still doesn’t count...
as proficient in Massachusetts, despite federal officials having bribed both into using the same tests using that exact promise to justify their meddling.”

Jarratt provided Nebraska state Sen. Bill Kintner materials on Common Core-aligned and Common Core-free curriculum. The senator used the information for an article in the Fremont Tribune, crediting Heartland’s resources. On October 21, Jarratt spoke about Common Core at a meeting of the Huntley (Illinois) Tea Party.

On December 9, Illinois released its 2014–15 education test scores, the first under the Common Core-aligned Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers tests. The tests showed only one-third of the state’s students were leaving high school prepared for college or careers. We responded with a press statement quoting several Heartland experts.

On December 10, the New York Common Core Task Force released its report reviewing the Common Core standards, recommending Gov. Andrew Cuomo maintain “key instructional shifts” set forth in the standards while revising parts that do not fit the needs of New York schools, educators, and other stakeholders. Heartland issued a press release quoting several experts critical of the report.

Expanding Choice Options
Heartland continued to stress positive solutions to the problems in the nation’s K–12 education system. School choice made advances across the country, including these highlights:

► Matt Bevin, newly elected governor of Kentucky, said he plans to champion school choice in a state that currently has no choice programs.

► In Oregon, the Senate Interim Education Committee held an informal hearing on education savings accounts (ESAs), setting the stage for introduction of a bill in 2016.

► An Americans for Prosperity survey of Oklahoma residents found 79 percent of Oklahomans favor school choice and 55 percent favor ESAs.

► In Georgia, the state’s Education Reform Commission called for elimination of rules on classroom size and class time and more funding and support for charter schools.


► Four education groups filed an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to consider a Colorado voucher case that would require examining the scope of the state’s Blaine Amendment, which prevents the use of public money for any religious purpose.

Performance Highlights

► Published two issues of School Reform News, 14 issues of School Choice Weekly, and four Research & Commentaries on education issues.

► Logged 770 personal and 42,476 group contacts for a total of 43,246 contacts with legislators on education issues.

► Generated at least six broadcast, 58 online, and 16 print media hits reaching nearly 3.4 million people on education issues.

► Produced seven new podcasts on education issues, attracting 34,781 listeners.

► Addressed three events reaching an estimated 126 people.
On March 1, 2016, on the fourth anniversary of his death, The Heartland Institute dedicated the public meeting space in its new home in Arlington Heights in honor of Andrew Breitbart.

The Andrew Breitbart Freedom Center is a state-of-the-art meeting facility with seating for 75. Events are scheduled to take place every week in the space, featuring authors of new books, freedom activists and thinkers, and civic and business leaders.

“Andrew Breitbart was a genuine American hero,” said Joseph Bast, president of The Heartland Institute, in a video announcing the dedication. “He inspired millions of people to stand up and speak the truth about what is happening in America. We could not be more pleased to have his name forever affixed to The Heartland Institute. We are honored that his family and friends believe this is a suitable addition to his legacy.”

For more information about the Andrew Breitbart Freedom Center, please contact Nikki Comerford at ncomerford@heartland.org or 312/377-4000.

“Walk toward the fire. Don’t worry about what they call you.”
ANDREW BREITBART
The Heartland Institute is your neighborhood think tank!

Please join us for one or all of our spring quarter events. The complete schedule is below. Call 312/377-4000 to RSVP. We look forward to seeing you.

We’re located at 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004. Look for the Gadsden flag and faces of Thomas Jefferson, Ayn Rand, and other champions of freedom in the windows!

April

Wednesday 4/6 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Drilling Through the Core:
Peter Wood
Do Common Core State Standards make sense to you? Peter Wood of the National Association of Scholars gets to the core of the matter.

Thursday 4/14 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Restoring the Promise of America:
Frank Buckley
George Mason University law professor Frank Buckley describes how to restore America’s broken promise.

Wednesday 4/20 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
The Vaping Wars:
Brian Fojtik
E-cigarettes are becoming increasingly popular. How safe are they? Should they be regulated?

Thursday 4/27 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
The Republican Dream Team:
Cathy McBreen
What would a world run by Republicans look like? Cathy McBreen explores the candidates’ campaign platforms, providing a side-by-side comparison and an early voting guide.

May

Wednesday 5/4 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Library Grand Opening
Join us for the Grand Opening of the largest freedom library in Chicagoland. The Michael Parry Mazur Library holds nearly 10,000 books on economics, public policy, and more.

Wednesday 5/11 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Nature Unbound: Bureaucracy and the Environment:
Ryan Yonk
Together let’s rethink environmental objectives, align incentives with goals, and affirm the notion that human beings are an integral part of the natural order. Ryan Yonk, a research fellow at the Independent Institute, discusses his new book.

Wednesday 5/18, 5/25 and 6/1 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Movie night: Atlas Shrugged
Part 1, 2 and 3
In 1957, Ayn Rand introduced the world to a new kind of hero, a hero who exemplified the joy of individual achievement. Atlas Shrugged speaks to the hero in all of us.

June

Wednesday 6/8 6:30 8:30 p.m.
Funding Education Choice:
Jason Bedrick
Jason Bedrick of the Cato Institute explains how your tax dollars can be better used to educate your children and grandchildren. How does education freedom work … and how can it be funded?

Wednesday 6/15 5:30 8:30 p.m.
Know Your Second Amendment Rights
Have you lost enough control to government forces? Know your Second Amendment rights and learn to recognize who is trying to take away your weapons … and why.

Wednesday 6/29 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Genetically Modified Foods
Your dinner table is set with genetically modified foods. What exactly does that mean … and should you be concerned for your health?
Sign up a Friend

The Heartland Institute relies on the generosity of approximately 6,000 individuals, foundations, and corporations for financial support. You can help! Please use the space below to buy a one-year gift membership for a friend, coworker, or neighbor. We will send them a letter announcing your gift with their first QPR.

- **$50 PATRIOT** Heartland Patriots receive QPR, our quarterly newsletter, and invitations to Heartland events.
- **$100 FRIEND** Heartland Friends receive Patriot-level benefits and also receive free copies of Heartland Policy Studies.
- **$250 SUSTAINING** Sustaining donors also enjoy a 20 percent discount on all events and are included with our professional staff in monthly conference calls on the hottest issues of the day.

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