

**"Cut Through the Chase"**

**Connect the Dots**

**Garrett Hawkins | Guest Writer**  
MISSOURI FARM BUREAU

Many of us are blessed to have never experienced hunger—hunger in the sense of wondering where our next meal will come from. Sadly, the number of people who have, and continue to, is on the rise both in the United States and abroad according to new reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

U.S. households classified as "food insecure" climbed to the highest level recorded since 1995, the year Federal monitoring of food insecurity started. Just over 17 million or 14.6 percent of households fell into this category 2008. Globally, the FAO estimates 1.02 billion people are suffering from chronic hunger.

The startling statistics caught the attention of the Pope as he called hunger "the most cruel and concrete sign of poverty," and prompted world leaders at a recent food security summit to pledge greater investments in agriculture to help the starving and malnourished feed themselves. President Obama described the reports as "unsettling" and said his administration is committed to "reversing the trend of rising hunger."

Ending hunger is a goal we all should share and America's farmers and ranchers are doing their part by producing food for more than 300 million in the United States and millions more worldwide. It's not by accident that our nation is the best fed, but some in Washington fail to "connect the dots" between the policies they are pushing and the implications on farmers and U.S. food security.

Case in point-- H.R. 2454, the Cap and Trade bill approved by the US House of Representatives, will result in as much as 70 million acres of U.S. farmland currently used for food production being idled and planted in trees due to financial incentives for storing carbon dioxide. That is an area comparable to all land in crop production east of the Mississippi River, excluding Illinois and Wisconsin.

Connect the dots. Reduced food production will lead to higher food costs (\$33 billion annually by 2020) and higher food costs equates to more food insecurity in the US, not less.

Ironically, this grand plan to reduce greenhouse gases will ultimately result in more gases released worldwide because farmers in China, Brazil, Argentina, India and other countries who are less efficient than American farmers will have to ramp up food production to offset lost U.S. production.

If unilateral action by the United States won't make a meaningful difference in reducing greenhouse gases globally, why is Cap and Trade still pushed? It's time our lawmakers and elected officials "connect the dots."

(Garrett Hawkins, of Jefferson City, Mo., is the director of national legislative programs for the Missouri Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization.)

**Letter to the Editor**

I would like to inform your readers of what will happen to them if this Healthcare Mandate passes into law in our Country.

First most citizens are unaware that this Healthcare Mandate is unconstitutional. Many Attorneys have come forward and pointed out that the Federal Government cannot mandate a citizen to buy health insurance.

If this bill passes, your taxes will be raised. The bill has tax mandates that range from 8.5% per small business or individual, to 38% over all tax rises in selected income brackets. This means that if you currently are in a 25% income tax bracket, you could have additional taxes added, and raise your overall tax burden. Also Taxes will be collected for three years before the bill is implemented.

This bill does not really address or improve healthcare delivery. The bill allows the Government to raise taxes, limit coverage, and tax businesses. These new taxes will cost people jobs.

If you are on Medicare, your benefits will be cut by 50%. The Congress and the Senate bills all address the 50% Medicare cuts. This means a negative impact on the care of the neediest in our country.

Abortion is included in the Senate Bill and we all will be forced to pay for Abortion on Demand.

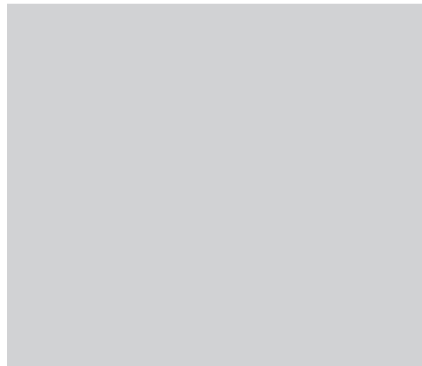
If the Public Option passes it will cause 119 million Americans to be forced out of their current insurance coverage and will be forced into the Public Option.

Care will be rationed. There will be fewer physicians, and there will be long lines to see your doctors.

To quote the Wall Street Journal, this is "the worst legislation in our lifetime."

Please call Senator Claire McCaskill and let her know you do not want her to support this health-care bill. Also call friends and relatives in other States and urge them to write and call their Senators and ask them not to support this terrible health bill.

Maggie Siegmund, MPA, MHA  
Senior Medicaid Implementation  
Manager  
St. Joseph



ask listen solve  
  
**Commerce Bank**  
Member FDIC  
4th & Felix 36th & Frederick  
Ashland & Karnes

**Libertarians opposed to new war plans for Afghanistan**

The Libertarian Party expressed its opposition to the Afghanistan war plans announced by President Barack Obama Tuesday night.

Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the LP, said, "Rush Limbaugh should buy Obama a nice cigar. The liberal president has done exactly what the conservative leader wanted: escalate the war."

William Redpath, Chairman of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), commented, "This is further evidence that the differences between Republicans and Democrats are, at most, rhetorical. This president, whose votes made him the most liberal member of the U.S. Senate, has just announced an escalation of a foreign war. His campaign promise of 'Change' now sounds a lot more hollow."

Redpath continued, "Some congressional Democrats may make a rhetorical show of opposing Obama's decision, but that is all it will be. Obama is guaranteed to get the additional troops and funding that he wants."

Redpath continued, "Instead, Congress should re-assert its authority in matters of war, by passing legislation that terminates the president's authorization to make war in Afghanistan, and that calls for an orderly withdrawal from Afghanistan. If the president vetoes it, Congress should override the veto."

In September 2008, the LNC adopted a resolution calling for a

military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Benedict commented further, "One problem with the president's strategy is that it demonstrates a hyperinflated fear of terrorists. When we act worried and threatened, we make the terrorists feel like they're having their intended effect, which encourages them to keep doing what they're doing."

Redpath continued, "According to the Cato Institute, 'the U.S. military's counterinsurgency doctrine says that stabilizing a country the size of Afghanistan would require far more troops than the most wild-eyed hawk has proposed: about 600,000 troops.' President Obama is proposing to put a total of about 100,000 troops in Afghanistan, which won't come close to accomplishing anything."

Redpath concluded, "The president's speech was surprisingly content-free. The speech was nearly all platitudes, which is typical for politicians, particularly presidents. Will someone please restore substance to American political discourse?"

The Libertarian Party is America's third-largest political party, founded in 1971 and stands for free markets and civil liberties. You can find more information on the Libertarian Party by visiting [www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org)

*You've Got Connections To*  
The City of  
**St. Joseph**  
Missouri  
**www.stjoemo.info • Channel 19 • (816) 279-4YOU**

In an effort to better communicate with our residents, the city of St. Joseph has developed several ways in which to interact with city government. Access City Council or staff using any of the listed methods. You will also find information on city programs and services, meeting schedules, and community events.

**City of St. Joseph Website**  
[www.stjoemo.info](http://www.stjoemo.info)

**City Newsletters**  
To view the *City Weekly*, visit:  
[www.stjoemo.info/manager/wir.cfm](http://www.stjoemo.info/manager/wir.cfm)  
To view the *Mayor/Council Update*, visit:  
[www.stjoemo.info/council/councilupdate.cfm](http://www.stjoemo.info/council/councilupdate.cfm)

**Government Access Channel**  
Cable Channel 19 in St. Joseph

**24-Hour Message Line**  
Residents can call the message line at any time. City staff will respond within the next business day.  
Call **279-4YOU** (279-4968)

*For more information, contact the office of Public Information & Communications at 271-4610*