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I am here today as a business owner concerned about the warped conservative ideology of capitalism, the environment, and the treatment of middle class families and the disadvantaged.

What I speak about is what you may be hearing from Pope Francis when the encyclical is released this summer that will be addressing man made climate change, the environment, the excesses of capitalism, and social justice.

I am a Catholic and Catholic educated, with a strong emphasis in social justice.

Science is not an art, history, or literary document. Science is observation based on empirical data and subjected to peer review.

Man made climate change is caused by particle carbon emissions and ozone. This is substantiated by scientists from NASA, NOAA, and the military.

It is documented that particle matter and ozone are contributing to increased asthma, other lung ailments, breast cancer, etc.

Our military is concerned about our future fighting capability due to asthma and lung capacity. They believe the current fighting in Syria is due to climate change as well as the refugees fleeing Africa to Europe. The military is actually planning for other conflicts due to man made climate change.

Instead of taking preemptive action to slow and stop man made climate change and protecting our citizens, conservative legislators are more concerned with protecting business.

It is the purpose and responsibility of government only to provide infrastructure, open markets for business, and regulations against the excesses of capitalism to grow civilization.

There is a cost to businesses spewing carbon into the air, damaging the ozone, dirtying our water reducing potable water, or leaving chemicals in our earth. But they do not pay that cost.

Everyone here pays to have their trash picked up and treated, why not business?

When government protects business and the wealthy in a way that is detrimental to civilization, it is damaging to capitalism and communities.

The major threat to capitalism and communities is the practice of businesses socializing their cost of doing business onto taxpayers, the health care industry, consumers, those in poverty, and other classes.

Conservatives and republicans are not helping capitalism, their communities, and growing civilization when legislation is passed protecting business from man made climate change and environmental regulations.

Legislators and all of us must know that those businesses with bad practices and inefficiencies must not be protected and be allowed to die.

A true capitalist will have the belief and educated understanding that through good and positive legislation new companies will rejuvenate and grow.

The wealthy have done great in this economy. They have done great in both the stock market and executive compensation.

Hourly wage has fallen in relation to inflation.

The ratio of executive compensation to hourly wage is excessive. In one case it is over 2000%. There are many issues affecting the decompression of hourly wage.

The greatest is work to welfare and the working poor, and attacks on unions that in the past have provided a living wage that kept our economy strong.

Work to welfare has become no more than indentured slavery, it is a subsidy for business to keep wages low.

The Low Income Tax Credit and other such programs also depress wages.

The greatest threat of these subsidies for business is that they do not provide the disposable income for middle class families to consume, the basis of a capitalistic economy.

To be clear, job creators are not employers or the wealthy. It is the purpose of business to create wealth only through those good practices and efficiencies that reduce labor.

It is the consumer who is the job creator!

The regressive flat tax also contributes to this depression of disposable income for middle class families.

A 3.7% income tax means much more to a family whose income is \$60,000 than to a family whose income is \$2M and has equity income too.

It is the wealthy who have done very well in this economy, a flat tax may appear fair, but it is not equitable. Yes, the wealthy have paid more in dollars in taxes, but it is not the amount that is equitable.

A progressive income tax will allow Pennsylvania to invest and grow its economy year after year with only limited budget issues each year.

There are those who say a progressive tax is a transfer of wealth. That may be. What we need to focus on is that we are one community, one state, and one nation. That being accepted we take care of each

other, take care of those with less, and we create a better civilization. Obstruction to a progressive tax, business and the wealthy do not have the same goal to create a better civilization, and will realize a diminishing return on their wealth.

Poverty is an issue people avoid. They say we had the "War On Poverty" and poverty is still around. Allow me to say that we as a nation never spent any amount on poverty near the amount we have spent on any war.

Poverty will always exist.

Poverty is not a result of purposeful laziness. Poverty is a disease. Poverty is a result many times of mental deficiencies, mental illness, disabilities.

I read so many times people blaming others for their laziness and choices in spending money and funds. We are not all educated, have the same mental capacities, possess the same reason and logic. Some people are mechanics, others are professionals, others are rocket scientists, and still others cannot manage life!

When we cut back funding for poverty programs in mental illness, personal care, health, education, job training civilization suffers.

It is time we renounce the destructive ideology of self interest promoted by Ayn Rand who conservatives have glorified.

We must first take responsibility for our environment, and enact legislation that provides a sustainable habitat.

We must start by providing low wage earners and those in poverty a livable wage, and reduce the tax credits. Doing so will increase consumption to drive the economy, and promote self esteem.

We must end subsidies for mature and fossil fuel industries. Tax subsidies should only be meant for new markets or new industries.

We must be paid a fair price for Pennsylvania mineral and other resources.

We must have an equitable progressive tax so that the burden of taxation is not on middle class families alone.

The focus of government needs to return to the needs of the people of this nation and not business. It is people, the consumer that drives our economy, not business, and business will be rewarded.

We must take care of those with less to grow civilization.