

Koch believes in an independent Cato

By **Kevin Gentry**, Special to CNN
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Ben Bernanke speaks at a Cato Institute event. Kevin Gentry says the Koch brothers have always upheld libertarian ideals.

***Editor's note:** Kevin Gentry is a board member of the Cato Institute. This letter was written in response to an opinion article published on CNN.com earlier this week.*

(CNN) -- In 1974, Charles Koch started the Charles Koch Foundation. In 1976, the foundation was renamed Cato Institute, with Koch as one of the co-founders. His vision was to build a nonpartisan organization that would advance ideas that enable all people to prosper by promoting liberty, limited government, free markets and peace. That vision has remained a constant since the beginning. I currently serve on the board of Cato, and have worked with libertarian organizations for more than 20 years, including Mercatus Center and the Institute for Humane Studies. I have worked closely with Charles Koch and his brother David on numerous libertarian endeavors. In each instance, these two men have consistently championed libertarian principles, even in the face of unfair and inaccurate criticism.

The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of Kevin Gentry.