

THE RECORDER

GREENFIELD, MASS. ESTABLISHED 1792 - N.E. NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2012.

Letter: Don't buy this whine

Bill Copeland

February 22, 2016

Do billionaires whine? The weepy rant by Anthony Kim of the Heritage Foundation in the Feb. 8 Recorder titled “Declining Economic Freedom,” says they do. Through solemn incantation of economic statistics, Kim conjures up a bogeyman on stilts to divert our attention from the greater danger we face from inadequate protections for the environment and attention to fair treatment of families and communities.

Each time the author repeats the phrase “economic freedom” (eight times in all) the meaning changes. First we have the cozy concept of uplifting people in poverty (as promoted by The Atlas Foundation) but by the last dread tolling of the bell, it is clear what he really means: we must protect the billionaire class.

Kim claims that “economic dynamism and innovative capacity have been measurably reduced” when in fact they have never been higher. He says “cronyism has gravely eroded the rule of law,” which is ridiculous. He claims that deforested “brown haze” Malaysia is a better place to start a business than America. We must not forget that Obama is to blame for our troubles. Whereas the rest of the world is on the edge of recession, America’s economy is growing slowly, so he quotes the brilliant Texas Rep Kevin Brady: “Why does America have to settle for this?”

Unfettered capitalism is a hard sell and it takes some sleight of hand to do it right. This election cycle be on the lookout for these economic magicians and soothsayers: The Heritage Foundation, The Cato Institute, The Heartland Institute and ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council), among others. These tax exempt “dark money” think tanks desperately want us to help their billionaire donors to stay rich.