

PalmBeachPost

Point of View: Kochs and the jobs they create deserve applause, not boos

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Allow me to respond to the scurrilous attack on the Koch brothers in the April 9 letter, “Koch brothers are menace to nation.” Almost all of the writer’s generalizations about the Kochs are false or misleading. Contrary to her characterizations, the Kochs are patriots who exercise their First Amendment rights as they should.

The brothers believe in the principles of a free society. Why should they be denied their right to support any and all efforts to maintain a free society? Koch companies employ 60,000 Americans in good-paying jobs. According to government figures, their employees and 143,000 additional jobs they support generate \$11.7 billion in compensation and benefits. America needs more outstanding employers like the Kochs to provide good-paying jobs for the unemployed.

The letter said the Cato Institute supports the elimination of Social Security. This is false. The institute, as well as millions of Americans, believes the Social Security system is on its way to bankruptcy. Cato has proposed solutions to save this important program. It should be applauded, not ridiculed. Corporate taxes in America are the second-highest in the world, leading to a sluggish economy. As successful businessmen, why should the Kochs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other pro-business organizations not have the right to lobby for lower corporate taxes in order to create more jobs?

The letter said the Kochs support numerous “innocuous-sounding” front groups like Americans for Prosperity, Freedom Works and other organizations who oppose the Affordable Care Act and other left-wing policies. As Americans, let us hope the Koch brothers will continue to support these and other organizations like them.

Is the writer oblivious of George Soros, President Barack Obama’s supporter and largest contributor to liberal Democratic politicians and causes? Since 2000, Soros, through his Open Society Institute, has contributed more than \$500 million to liberal Democrats and “innocuous-sounding” groups including America Coming Together, America Votes and America’s Voice.

Currently, multibillionaire Soros is co-chairman of a major fundraising campaign for (2016 Democratic presidential front-runner) Hillary Clinton.

Finally, the letter took exception to a column written by Kathleen Parker in which she said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid ought to apologize to the Kochs for calling them “un-American.” This from whom I believe is the most unprincipled politician in Washington.

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