





[Hyperlink Legend](#) · [E-mail story](#) · [Comments](#) · [iPod friendly version](#) · [Print friendly version](#)

[Home](#) » [Opinion](#) » [Your letters Oct. 15, 2009](#)

Your letters Oct. 15, 2009

Thursday, October 15, 2009

 **SHARE**   

Comments
This story has 6 comments. [Click here to join in on the discussion.](#)

Story Tools
[Hyperlink Legend](#)
[E-mail story](#)
[Print friendly version](#)
[iPod friendly version](#)

Today's Top Headlines
[Dogfighting case: St. Joseph man enters guilty plea](#)
[Boy's light shines as his dream church emerges](#)
[Infant death case causes analysis](#)
[Economy creates new landlords](#)
[Veterans call for energy independence](#)

Hopefully audience

had open mind

Perhaps Lawrence Pilgram missed Dan Bouleware's introduction and the beginning of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s speech at Missouri Western's Convocation. Mr. Kennedy's "chief qualification as spokesman for the green movement" is clearly not his name or his [family's](#) past, "checkered," tweed or plaid! He speaks from his [education](#) and years of experience as a successful and respected environmental attorney as well as his success with Riverkeeper, an organization that helped revitalize the Hudson River and surrounding areas, and Waterkeeper Alliance, an organization he founded. Mr. Pilgram seems to have missed other important points in Mr. Kennedy's presentation.

He is correct in stating that the speech focused on economics vs. [environment](#). But his efforts to examine

"some other factors that require exposure" clearly expose him as one who has been indoctrinated by the \$150 million propaganda campaign Mr. Kennedy described — a campaign paid for by the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute, among other organizations funded by energy corporations.

In his support of the status quo Mr. Kennedy urged us to reconsider, Mr. Pilgram comments that "oil is clearly the driving force of our nation's economy." Has he not noticed where we've been driven? Perhaps he didn't hear Mr. Kennedy's statement that oil and coal companies receive billions of dollars in government subsidies every year (taxpayer dollars). Some of these companies are already earning record profits without the subsidies. Mr. Pilgram may not realize that these dollars could instead be spent to support things that would build the nation rather than to support privately owned, wealthy corporations.


He also cites a failed energy policy in Spain as an example our nation should not follow. Maybe he didn't hear Mr. Kennedy when he described the astounding economic success experienced by Iceland, Sweden, Brazil and Costa Rica when they implemented sweeping changes in their energy policies.

Mr. Pilgram comments, "Our nation has vast energy resources, the retrieval of which would create thousands of jobs." Mr. Kennedy agrees, but again, Mr. Pilgram seems not to have listened. Rather than doggedly pursuing the same path that has led to many of our current economic and environmental problems, as Mr. Pilgram advocates, Mr. Kennedy suggested we develop other resources. He believes that we can have free energy forever with resources that are much more economically sound. He reminded us that "photons hit the earth every day for free" and that the Great Plains are "the Saudi Arabia of wind." Mr. Kennedy recognizes that it is part of our heritage as Americans to be innovative and self-reliant. This is what he encouraged us to think [about](#).

I was in the "crowd of educated people (who sat) quietly and listened" at the recent Missouri Western Convocation. Many smart young people were there, too. I hope that, unlike Mr. Pilgram, they listened to Mr. Kennedy with open minds, with an unselfish sense of possibility for changing the direction of this nation's energy policy, and with hope for their future.

Marcia Chapman

St. Joseph

 **COMMENT**

These comments are a means for our readers to voice their opinion on local issues in and around the St. Joseph area.

The following comments are the sole responsibility of the person posting them. We do not review every post or respond to every suggestion for a comment to be removed.

Before posting, please read the following rules:

- Comments that threaten someone or degrade them on the basis of gender, race, class, national origin, religion or disability will be removed.
- Comments containing abusive, vulgar or sexually-oriented language will be removed.