



## POWER STRUGGLES: the Energy War at Home

Before the invasion of Iraq began, protests around the country sported poster-slogans that asked, "What's our oil doing under their sand, anyway?". Today, citizens in Central New York might ask, just as facetiously, "What are those people doing under our powerlines, anyway?" Or gas pipelines, or electric generating stations.

But, while many, or most, think of the occupation of Iraq as a chapter in a long-running story about the appropriation of energy resources by western corporate power, few understand the parallels in our local landscape. Even when the generation, transmission, and final consumption of those resources does serious harm to those who live around nuclear power plants or on lands flooded for hydropower, to those displaced by transmission corridors, and to an environment whose integrity is challenged by global climate disruption.

And few have been prepared to accept the analysis that the power of the State—federal, state, and local—is structured to promote the maximum exploitation of energy resources by corporations.

But, the localities that have to respond to the Millennium gas line project, the NYRI powerline project,

and the Catalyst generating proposal are learning three related things about the political world. First is that their local, elected governments have nearly no power to defend the communities that elect them. Second, that real power is vested (by laws written long ago) in bureaucracies over which people have nearly no leverage. And third, that local and state governments are more interested in collecting fees, taxes, and connections to corporate power, than they are in dealing with environmental disruption, community disintegration, and economic dependency.

Facing these obstacles, citizens are pushed towards Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) solutions. Reduced to begging their permanently incumbent state legislators to exercise their personal influence to get THIS transmission path rejected, they lay the groundwork for another proposal fur-

ther east or west. Their legislators, uninterested in serious energy conservation legislation, adopt divide-and-conquer strategies that blame environmentalists or "downstaters" for the present impasse. And, seeing that the major party candidates for statewide office ALL support these projects, citizens fall prey to the apathy which, in central New York, is called The Done Deal, and ultimately adopt the strategy that says: It's gonna happen; I hope it happens to my neighbor, and not to me.

The Green Party argues that this situation is not the outcome of "natural" processes, but is, instead, the outcome of a particular history in which the major parties aligned themselves with the interests of the rich and powerful, wrote laws that gave the corporate form advantages over citizens, and now are happy to claim their hands are tied. The Green Party has a platform with specific planks to divest corporations of the legal tools they have been given to disenfranchise the public. And the Green Party has a slate of statewide candidates who are pledged to returning power to the people. Read on...

### Petitioning The Peace Slate Onto The Ballot - July 11 to August 22

Due to New York's undemocratic election laws, all candidates besides those supported by the Republican and Democrat parties, have to be petitioned onto the ballot. Our statewide candidates must get 15,000 signatures from New Yorkers (of any or no party affiliation) to be on the ballot. And since the two major parties challenge the signatures we collect, over trivial irregularities, we have to aim for 30,000.

By the rules of other states, we could earn a place on the ballot simply by virtue of the number of enrolled (or "registered") Greens. But, that doesn't work in New York. And New York's petitioning process is full of unnecessarily tricky ins and outs meant to trip up petition bearers.

So, the Central New York Petitioning Program has been established to help volunteer petitioners to do a perfect job, and to bring in the signatures we need. If you want to help, contact the petitioning coordinators below:

Mike Bernhard • 607. 967.8274 • mikebernhard@mkl.com | Sally Cass • 518.364.2698 • green\_sallyk@yahoo.com



The Central NY Green Voice is a newsletter of the NY State Green Party. It's purpose is to connect politically progressive people and keep them abreast of news, views and events not featured in the conventional media. It is dedicated to building a party of participants: please be encouraged to submit articles, letters, or information for our calendar.

If you prefer to receive mail from the Green Party electronically, please notify us by email at:

mail@chenangogreens.org

All emails will be kept strictly confidential. We won't ever share them in any way.

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7 pm at 27 West Main Street, Norwich, room 101, a conference room on the first floor of the Chenango Council of the Arts suite. You are invited to come, listen and talk about current local, state, national and international issues. There is no obligation. We welcome your presence.

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### CONTACT INFO

**Postal Mail:**

Chenango County Green Party  
P.O. Box # 702  
Greene, NY 13778

**Phone:**

(607) 895-6686

**Email:**

mail@chenangogreens.org

**Web Page:**

www.chenangogreens.org

**Email List Serve:**

To join our email list discussion group, send a blank email to:

chenango\_greens-subscribe  
@yahoogroups.com

(the above should all be on one line when you send your email)

**Newsletter Contact:**

Chris Amar  
2669 State Highway 220  
Oxford, NY 13830  
607-843-2474

# Eminent Domain And NYRI, The Republican Party Sells Us Out

by Mary Jo Long

Eminent Domain is the power to take private property for public use. The right of eminent domain belongs to the state and federal governments. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court made a controversial decision which upheld a Connecticut municipal government's decision to take private property which was then turned over to a private developer. The national Green Party and many others objected.

But, in New York, the state government long ago gave some private corporations the right of eminent domain. The Transportation Corporation Law (TCL) was amended in 1947 to allow electric transmission corporations to use eminent domain, once their project is permitted by the Public Service Commission. This is one of the laws the New York Regional Interconnect (NYRI) planned to exploit in setting up a high voltage direct current electric line through central New York.

When our local politicians were caught between people's anger over this gift to corporations, and the financial interests the Republican Party upholds, they passed a law that (purposefully) inadequately amends the TCL. The Amendment, without naming NYRI, exempts certain corporations from being able to use eminent domain. It says that eminent domain cannot be used if (1) the transmission line begins and ends in NYS, (2) the corporations testified that the project will raise rates for some in NYS and (3) the corporation has applied for and been denied early designation for an National Interest Energy Transmission Corridor (NIETC). There is only one corporation for whom this amendment will apply, NYRI.

As the sponsors of this law well know, NYRI will legally challenge this law as unconstitutional in that the U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 10 says the states are forbidden from passing *ex post facto* laws. (Laws passed after the occurrence of a fact or action which retrospectively changes

the legal consequences of such fact or action. Now we are hearing some commentators saying that, at least, this will slow down NYRI because they will have to bring a lawsuit to challenge the amendment to the TCL. But, slowing down a project only gets our representatives past the next election; it does not prevent the project.

Our Republican representatives have shown us that they do not oppose private electric transmission companies having eminent domain rights EXCEPT when it goes through their constituents' backyard. This Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) approach is wrong for several reasons. It is ineffective. Any future project will simply avoid applying for **early** designation as an NIETC. There wasn't even a category called "early designation" when NYRI applied for it. Or, they can say, "We don't know if our transmission line will result in upstate people paying more for electricity."

Private corporations should not have the power of eminent domain under any circumstance. If they really wanted to protect people against the depredations of energy transmission companies, the Republican Senate and Democratic Assembly would simply repeal the TCL provisions that gave eminent domain to private corporations.

The Green Party believes that energy policy is too important to be written to maximize corporate profit. The repeal of the eminent domain section of TCL should begin a process of broadening the scope of democratic decision-making. We should be able to decide what is a public use or purpose. We should be able to prevent and limit electric powerlines, gas pipelines, nuclear waste dumps, garbage incinerators, siphoning of underground water aquifers and all the other corporate profit opportunities that degrade our world.

*Mary Jo Long is an attorney in Afton and member of the Afton Town Council.*

**“Generally speaking, it is best to site a biomass plant as close as possible to the center of its fuel supply, and far from residential neighborhoods.” - John Irving, the superintendent of the McNeil Station biomass plant in Burlington. VT.**

A Texas consortium, Catalyst Renewables Corp., wants to build a wood-burning power plant in Oneonta’s West End, with Chestnut St. and River St. its immediate neighbors, and the entire city probably a zone closer to the plant than what Mr. Irving had in mind.

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## RENEWABLE BIOMASS or GARBAGE BURNING?

Catalyst has been assuring Oneonta residents that its plant will be a model of wood burning: no dust or odors, noise during daylight hours only, and stack emissions so low as to set a standard for the nation. The plant design will distinguish it from the McNeil Station: a covered-conveyor, automated fuel delivery to minimize dust and noise. A yard stocked with a maximum 30 days of fuel. Burning on a first in, first out basis to reduce the risk of fuel fermentation and associated odors. Aggressive emissions control technology and a low NOx boiler.

But, the citizens of Oneonta are asked to take Catalyst assurances at face value, and it is the citizens of Oneonta who will be impacted if things turn out differently.

### PROMISES BUT NO CONTRACTS

The plant’s yard will stockpile 35,000 tons of wood waste (a 30-day supply) generated by grinding trees, pallets and waste from furniture manufacturing. That’s 1,600 tractor trailer loads of wood in the open. A potential for dust and odor problems will exist.

The company has been pointing to low stack emissions, but the plant would still emit around 100 tons of Nitrogen Oxides annually and probably more than 100 tons of Carbon Monoxide. There will also be emissions of Particulate Matter, volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants in the tons per annum range. Catalyst points to pollution caused by wood stoves to contrast how clean burning the plant would be, but one could also do a comparison with automobiles. Using EPA’s light duty emissions standards for passenger cars, the

plant would emit NOx equal to 18,000 additional automobiles, each driving 10,000 miles per year around the Roundhouse power plant site. Those emissions will be vented through a 200-foot tall stack, but the plant site is in a valley and most of the city is located above 200 ft— on the hillside to the North of the site. On a day with Southwest winds, the stack emissions could waft down Main St., over the campuses and thru residential sections of the city. (Remember the warm weather we had this past January when wondering how often we get winds from the southwest.) Catalyst says the velocity of gases coming out of the stack will raise the height at which the emissions will begin to drift to about 600 ft., presenting no problem for area residents. Again, this is an assertion that will not be backed by contract sanction.

And regarding the monitoring of emissions: The CEMS (constant emissions monitoring system) only monitors five major pollutants. There is no technologically or economically feasible monitoring system available for any of the dozens of other hazardous chemicals that could wind up in the waste stream if an unscrupulous hauler contaminates a load of wood chips with a small amount of hazardous waste. With six tractor trailers per hour unloading, would small amounts of contaminants be noticed?

### COSTS AND BENEFITS

Oneonta residents are being asked to shoulder all the risk of hosting a Title V major facility, but get little in return. So far, the only “benefit” to the city of Oneonta will be in the increase in property tax revenue. This may amount to something around \$2 mil-

lion per year. But, what about the revenue loss due to lowered assessments on nearby homes? The net revenue still might be a benefit to the city government, but is that it?

In Burlington VT, city residents get reduced rates on their electricity. Catalyst electricity will be sold to the grid, and the electricity they produce will be more expensive: The company is seeking grant money from NYSERDA, a state program funded by surcharges on NY ratepayers electric bills. (The company’s Lyonsdale plant has been approved for sliding subsidies that can amount to 1.5 cents per Kwh.)

What about the cost to NY and Oneonta residents for those property tax breaks? State income taxpayers are already paying for it as we fund the “Empire Zone” program. The property tax breaks are related to the fact that the Oneonta site is a brownfield in an “Empire Zone” and Catalyst Renewables is expecting 10 years’ worth of property tax forgiveness at a cost to the state of about \$2 million a year. That’s a total cost to taxpayers of \$20 million!

It sounds as if the people of Oneonta will be accepting risk and paying extra for it. But, are there other benefits here? The company promises to hire 20 employees and pay them more than they would normally earn locally. That’s good...for the 20 that are hired, and if they are hired locally. The company says they will spend about \$9 million a year for fuel. But, this will be spent *regionally* as the company expects to shop for fuel in a 75-mile radius. City residents will not be seeing any of *that* \$9 million per year.

Catalyst talks about the possible

...continued on page 6

## 2006 GPNYS Peace Slate



Top row: Howie Hawkins, Julia Willebrand  
Bottom row: Alison Duncan, Malachy McCourt, Rachel Treichler

[www.malachyforgovernor.com](http://www.malachyforgovernor.com)

**G**reen Party State Gubernatorial Candidate Malachy McCourt has entered the race for Governor against Democratic candidate Elliot Spitzer and Republican challenger John Faso, both of whom he refers to as "Republicrats."

A longtime activist, McCourt's main platform consists of ending the war on Iraq and protecting our environment. "There is no such thing as a *just* war because in all wars, the majority of the people who are killed are innocent. We need to resolve our differences and difficulties by peaceful methods."

"The earth itself has a limited capacity to survive our degradation. And while Exxon executives can shepherd their children to little pieces of paradise or exclusive neighborhoods around the world, they too, one day, will suffer from our foul air and foul water."

But, McCourt offers state level environmental solutions. As for the National Guard: "I'd like our national guard to patrol, investigate all of the industrial and chemical plants in our state to make sure that they are not polluting our air and our water."

Also, he wants all government vehicles, public vehicles to use alternative fuel. "We begin at the government level where we can do something if good, moral and principled people are elected. We must enable all government transportation, whether cars, tractors, snowplows, dump trucks, school buses, to run on alternative fuels."

About our responsibility to the next generation: "Our children are suffering from the pollutants in our air and our water but they are also suffering from sugar and white flour and starch. We need to serve them only organic foods in our schools so that their minds and bodies can learn and grow healthy."

McCourt would require "anyone who does business with the state to offer healthy, organic alternatives. All those McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Junkie restaurants

along our Thruway rest-stops would be required to offer organic alternatives and vegetarian alternatives to those traveling with children who do not want to put that rubbish in their bodies or their off-springs bodies!"

On the Rockefeller Drug Laws: "These are sweeping, unjust laws that penalize someone who has sold a bit of marijuana the same as someone who has sold a ton of heroin. They are equal in the eyes of the law. Well, those laws must be repudiated and discretion returned to the judges to look at each individual case."

On Education: "How many times have you heard someone say that he or she is 'only a teacher' or 'only a librarian?' Do you ever hear people say, 'He is only a professional baseball player'? Why in God's name do we have such respect and adoration for someone that dresses up in pajamas and swings a bat? Because he makes \$80 million a year? Our teachers and our librarians and our social workers are what help to build an educated, just, and productive society. Those wonderful people who set out with a passion for educating and illuminating the minds of our young. They are heroes!"

As for his Democratic rival, New York State Attorney General Spitzer, he said this: "What makes a prosecutor, a man whose job it is to punish people, qualified to be governor of New York State? And someone who supports State-sanctioned murder. Murder is murder. If I'm elected, I'll appoint Spitzer to be State Executioner. Because if you believe that the state should be in the business of cold-blooded murder then you should be willing personally to give the injection!"

As for Republican Faso, who is anti-choice, McCourt says "When I'm elected Governor, I will appoint him to scout for loving homes and families that are willing to take in all those unwanted children."

The Green Party has already seen a steep rise in registration since McCourt has entered the race. They need 50,000 votes for McCourt to secure ballot status again in New York State. But, McCourt feels that his race will be victorious only "if the principals I subscribe to and the Green Party subscribes to are widely disseminated. I want you to know that I will listen to you and that your vote does count and that you should act on conscience and principles. If we don't win the race, we will still triumph!"

"We have these yahoos and wankers in the White House encouraging a culture of violence by their preemptive wars and their talk of 'Bring it on' and 'We're going to win this war' and 'We're going to 'smoke them out of their holes!' Well, if that's the message coming from our leaders—that it is somehow just and morale to bomb the women and children of Iraq, then why is it not okay for a man to beat up his wife or child? Our president says that he abides by the 10 Commandments. But he does not! Thou Shalt Not Kill is fairly succinct wouldn't you say? What part of it doesn't Mr. Bush understand?"

— Malachy McCourt

## Rachel Treichler for New York Attorney General • [www.voterachel.org](http://www.voterachel.org) •

ROCHESTER. Rachel Treichler, 54, a Hammondsport lawyer, formally announced her candidacy for the Green Party nomination for attorney general in Susan B. Anthony Park in Rochester.

"I am running for attorney general to address the ways our laws allow the short-term economic interests of a few to override the long-term life, liberty and happiness of all," Treichler said.

Treichler, who practiced law with two large New York City law firms for eight years, and then ran an environmental book store in Brooklyn, now has a part-time law practice in Hammondsport. She sells environmental books online at [www.ecobooks.com](http://www.ecobooks.com).

She ran as the Green Party candidate for Congress in the 29th Congressional District in 2002.

"I am announcing my candidacy at

this historic location," Treichler said, "to draw attention to the voting rights issues still faced by the people of this state."

Some Americans face major impediments in exercising their right to vote.

"What does it mean when many people can't vote, when we don't have candidates representing our views on the ballot, when candidates with money are allowed to dominate the forums of debate, when election districts are gerrymandered to favor incumbents, and when we have a winner-take-all voting system?" Treichler said.

"It means that important issues are never debated—that crucial decisions are made without input from and contrary to the interests of the majority of the people in this country," she said. "We need elected officials who are not beholden to the two major parties and

the interests they represent."

"Our presence in the Iraq War shows the failure of our democratic system. Polls show that we entered the war in Iraq and maintain troops there against the wishes of most voters. Our elected representatives are able to ignore the will of the people because illegal barriers to voting and ballot access make them unaccountable."

"As Attorney General, I will protect our rights to vote and our rights to free and fair elections. We can't continue to let the short-term economic interests of a few override the long-term life, liberty and happiness of all."



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## Howie Hawkins for U.S. Senate • [www.hawkinsforsenate.org](http://www.hawkinsforsenate.org) •

### Issues

Howie Hawkins' platform is what makes him better than Hillary Clinton. He's not associated with money; not influenced by money makes him the best candidate.

### End the War in Iraq

End the US commitment to decades of war trying to impose a military and corporate occupation of the Middle East and its oil. Stop all illegal US-led wars and covert action to overthrow governments (Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Venezuela, etc.).

### Universal Medicare

Quality health care for all with no out-of-pocket charges.

### Solar-Based Renewable Energy

Shut down nuclear power. Phase out fossil fuels.

### Full Employment at Living Wages

Public works to create millions of new jobs at living wages. Raise the Minimum Wage to a family-supporting Living Wage.

### Civil Rights

End racial profiling by police and the criminal justice system. End the death penalty. Advocate for women's rights and reproductive freedom.

### Fair Elections

Abolish the Electoral College-Direct election of the President by majority vote through Instant Run-Off Voting. Proportional Representation in Congress-Representation for each party in proportion to the vote it receives.

### Education

Guarantee a quality education to everyone, including equal access to resources such as books, school facilities that work, and great teachers who are paid enough to stay in the profession.

### Transportation

Traffic congestion cannot be dealt with without slowing population growth or long-term planning on organizing our cities better and establishing mass transportation, getting

the fuel cell going in cars and reducing the size of cars.

### Repeal the Patriot Act

End secret detentions and arrests without charges. Don't sacrifice our constitutional rights to militarism.

### End the "War on Drugs"

Drug abuse is a health problem, not a criminal problem. Drug prohibition increases crime by creating a violent underground drug economy. Legalize, regulate, and tax drugs.

### Fair Labor Laws

Repeal Taft-Hartley. Majority card-check union recognition. More

### Fair Taxes

Cut the property, sales, and payroll taxes that overburden working families. Shift the tax burden to simple, no-loopholes, progressively graduated income and wealth taxes. Make corporations and the rich pay their fair share.

## Renewable Biomass or Garbage Burning — continued from page 3

benefits to area farmers who might be interested in growing willow shrubs to meet some fuel requirements. This, too, is of no benefit to those who live within a mile or two of the proposed plant. Again, it is those who are closest to the Roundhouse project that are being asked to bear the costs of allowing it to be located there, not the farmer 5 miles from town, not the sawmill operator or furniture maker 100 miles away and not the logger or developer clearing land in the next county. Many of the folks who stand to benefit from fuel procurement will rarely see the plant. They certainly won't be living next door to it.

### CHANGING THE RULES

With regard to future changes in the plant's operations, Oneonta residents should consider this: the company's wood burner in Lyonsdale NY was granted one modification to its DEC permit and has applied for its 2nd modification. Initially, it was to burn 100% virgin wood chips. Then Catalyst asked for and received permission to mix in 30% chipped pallets. Lyonsdale's most recent permit review (11/14/05) seeks to burn "non-recyclable fibrous material such as wax cardboard in combination with other

fuels in quantities up to and equal to 30% by weight of the boiler's fuel feed." Evidently, there just aren't enough wood chips out there to supply the proposed plants need for fuel. Catalyst proposes to burn over 1,000 tons per day at the Roundhouse plant, but at Lyonsdale, on the edge of the Adirondack forests, they still are not burning their full allotment of just 700 tons per day. Down the road, they will be looking to burn whatever they can get their hands on. And to date, this is where biomass has been the most profitable: "opportunity fuels" that the plant can either get for zero cost or even charge a waste disposal fee for. With landfill tipping fees of about \$27 per ton in Painted Post and Seneca Falls, you can understand why the Lyonsdale plant wants to burn 30% non-recyclable fibrous material. They will be paying area loggers about \$20 a ton for low-grade wood chips, but they can probably *charge* that much in tipping fees for material that would normally go to a landfill. So, what happens if Catalyst decides it wants to burn creosoted railroad ties, construction and demolition debris, or even garbage? Of course, they will have to apply to the DEC to do so. Will they

be refused? And will Oneontans have a say in any proposed changes? Opposing changes will involve additional time, effort and even litigation costs borne by city residents.

### WHY NOT BUILD IT?

If Oneonta residents and property owners decide we do not mind having the power plant for a neighbor, we will be making an irrevocable decision. We won't be able to change our minds once it is built. If there are problems that result in nuisance or hazardous conditions, the most we could expect is a temporary shutdown while the plant corrects the conditions. If the \$70 million plant is built, it will be here to stay. But, it may not stay as presently proposed: Catalyst will be within its legal rights to apply to change its operations or its environmental permits. If it wants to burn something other than wood chips, it can apply to do so. If it wants to expand its operations, it can apply to do so. It can even apply to emit more pollutants than it is currently expecting to emit. In other words, what Catalyst Renewables is telling Oneonta's residents now is not written in stone. It is not offering Oneonta residents a legally binding contract. It is offering them promises.

### The Catalyst Proposal is available at:

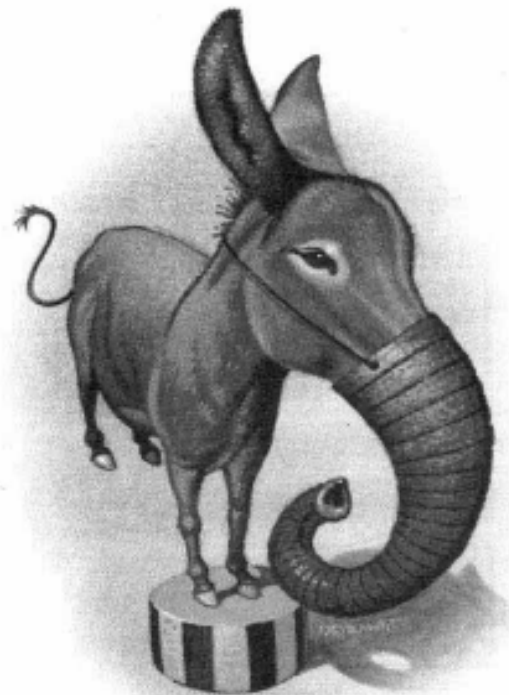
<http://oneonta.ny.us/government/biomassplant.asp>

(Hard copy at the Huntington Library)

City Planning Commission monthly meeting, Wednesday July 19, Common Council Chambers 7pm. Planners assess the Catalyst proposal. Public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

Catalyst makes its public presentation Wednesday, August 2, Hunt Union Building, SUCO 7pm.

If you have opinions or concerns that you want to be part of the "official" record, send them to the City Clerk and ask that they be included in the official record. His email is [jkoury@oneonta.ny.us](mailto:jkoury@oneonta.ny.us)



**Donkyphant**

# Why “Clean Money - Clean Elections” Won’t Work

by David J. Cyr

Clean Money - Clean Elections (CMCE)—as proposed by liberals—is an example of how reformers seek to alter the appearance of an impropriety, without actually fixing it. The CMCE legislation currently pending in the New York State Assembly (A05506) and Senate (S02401), if enacted, cannot and will not fulfill the promises of its sponsors.

For alternative parties, there are many problems with CMCE. It maintains the focus of elections on the cultivation of funds, rather than ideas. It entices emerging parties to channel their efforts toward meeting public fundraising donation thresholds, difficult to achieve by those small parties. The more an alternative party focuses upon fund raising, the less it becomes an alternative. And small nascent parties will likely spend much of the funds they raise just complying with CMCE’s detailed reporting requirements.

CMCE advocates have much heralded a few short term gains for alternative parties, in the early states that have adopted CMCE legislation. This will change after CMCE has become law in all or most states. The two majors (the Republican and Democratic parties)—which form one corporate party team—will suck up nearly all the public funding, using it to provide taxpayer subsidization for their sham campaigns, where, through districting, they have mutually agreed to predetermine the outcome of most elections. This will allow the majors to

conserve enormous private cash assets, for their more important campaigns of mass distraction, where they desire great media exposure; or to crush any alternative party campaign that poses a substantial threat to a major party incumbent.

The fundamental flaw with CMCE is that participation in its reduced spending is voluntary; which allows those with great financial assets to continue to purchase elections. The excuse liberals use to justify the voluntary aspect of CMCE is the Supreme Court case *Buckley v. Valeo*, that determined the limiting of campaign contributions, in certain provisions of the 1971 Federal Elections Campaign Act, to be unconstitutional; and in so doing, established the concept of money having a right, which should rightfully be reserved only for humans—free speech. The logic that follows from that court decision is that a person’s freedom of speech is determined by how much money they have, and are willing to spend. That concept is an egregious assault upon the ideal of democracy, and in its practice precludes the existence of democracy.

Before truly “clean” elections can be achieved, there must be an amendment to the United States Constitution, explicitly reserving its first amendment right of free speech for humans only, and not applicable to money, or any other property... like corporations (none of which are “persons”).

While the CMCE state legislation, promoted by Citizen Action liberals is not as vicious as the Democrat-sponsored federal legislation, it would still discriminate against small parties. If it were current NY law, to meet thresholds for public funding, the GPNYS’s Peace Slate would require:

McCourt (Governor): 15,000 \$5 contributions (\$75,000) with a minimum of 250 \$5 contributions (\$1,250), from at least 15 of the 29 congressional districts.

Duncan (Lt. Governor), Treichler (Atty. General), and Willebrand (Comptroller) each: 10,000 \$5 contributions (\$50,000) with a minimum of 150 \$5 contributions (\$750), from at least 15 of the 29 congressional districts.

Total amount of contributions (\$5 only—not more, and not less), required for our four state office candidates to qualify for NY CMCE public funding, would be 45,000 \$5 contributions (\$225,000).

We should keep in mind that generally people do not give money to a political party, unless they expect a favor in return... or at least expect the recipient candidates to win office.

Reps and Dems would collect threshold amounts in one evening of their monthly party meetings. Alternative parties... not so much.

Since the state party considers itself to be relatively flush with money when it has just \$10,000 worth of donations in the bank, the prospects of getting Greens to fork over \$225,000 seems remote.

That would still not change the deleterious effects outlined in my article...especially that it keeps elections focused on raising money rather than ideas.

-DJC

**The State Committee of the Green Party of New York approved a draft platform at their meeting on May 20, 2006, for future discussion and review as a work-in-progress. It is available as a PDF file download by going here:**

**[http://www.gpny.org/?page\\_id=274](http://www.gpny.org/?page_id=274)**

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**Howie Hawkins**  
Green Party candidate for US Senate  
***Out Now—End the Iraq War***  
***No War on Iran***  
***Repeal the Patriot Act***  
***Impeach Bush and Cheney***

**Malachy McCourt**  
Green Party candidate for  
Governor of New York State

The people of Central New York have not only the right but the obligation to maintain health and preserve continuity of community. As Governor, I will make sure the people have the power to approve of all matters relating to possession of their homes and businesses and not be subjected to the dictates of Albany bureaucrats. We must repeal the inhuman Transportation Corporation Law, which puts profits of corporations above the needs of our citizens...by the private invocation of eminent domain. My position is that people are eminent and their domains are where they live, and may do so as long as they desire...



***Don't Waste Your Vote. Give It To Me!***