

## *Americans for Prosperity Hot Air Tour*

Dear Joseph,

This morning we held our 3rd Americans for Prosperity Hot Air Tour event of this tour in rainy Toledo, Ohio. The weather was dreary but the fire and energy from the 58 activists braving the weather there – and the hundreds of folks who have participated over the last few days (as you can see from the attached pictures) – was exciting and energizing:

- During the rally against this job-killing, tax-increasing Cap-and-Trade scheme, we asked everyone to pull out their cell phones and call Senator Sherrod Brown's offices to tell him to vote NO! It was great to see folks throughout the crowd who were giving a "thumbs up" sign as they got through to his office with our message.
- Yesterday morning, in South Bend, Indiana (where Senator Evan Bayh is a target) a couple (Don and Kathy) walked up to me and Don said, "Tim, we got your email invite and drove 3 hours from Anderson to be here to send a message to these politicians."
- At the packed Detroit area event attended by over 200 fired-up folks, a tool maker who had just been laid off from his job of 30 years told me that "we've got to beat Cap-and-Trade because it's going to cause a lot more people to lose their jobs."

Tonight, we're rallying in Erie, Pennsylvania and then tomorrow are events in Pittsburgh and Charleston, West Virginia. You can see pictures and the full schedule at [www.CostofHotAir.com](http://www.CostofHotAir.com).

These events are hard work. And, frankly, they cost a good bit of money.

But, this Cap-and-Trade fight is a huge one. It's being debated in Congress right now. Even liberal Democrat Congressman John Dingell said last week: "Cap-and-Trade is a tax and it's a great big one." President Obama himself explained last year: "Under my plan of a Cap-and-Trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

You can learn more about Cap-and-Trade by visiting [www.americansforprosperity.org/issues/energy](http://www.americansforprosperity.org/issues/energy), and join our effort to stop Global Warming from being used to raise taxes at [www.NoClimateTax.com](http://www.NoClimateTax.com).

If we're going to preserve our economic freedoms and make sure the American Dream is there for our children and grand-children, we have to be willing to out-work and out-fight our opponents.

You see, our opponents want something from government – more spending, more taxes, more handouts, more power over individual Americans. They really believe that government – not citizens – knows best. They really believe in a big-government

ideology that has bureaucrats making more and more decisions for average people. They're willing to work and lobby and pressure elected officials to get their way.

On our side, we just want government to leave us alone. We simply want government to protect our individual freedoms. We know that average Americans – NOT government bureaucrats or politicians – know best how to create jobs, handle our health care, spend our money, and live our lives.

*But, here's the paradox. If we want to be left alone then we must get involved . You've proven that.*

We must call and email our elected officials, convince our friends and family to get involved, attend rallies, write letters to the editor.

That's what you are doing through Americans for Prosperity, and I'm grateful to you.

One last thing. Yesterday, I asked you to [consider contributing](#) financially to Americans for Prosperity's efforts to protect our freedoms. In less than 24 hours, hundreds upon hundreds of you have done so (and continue to do so), and we're halfway to our goal of \$100,000 to underwrite the radio ads, grassroots rallies with our Hot Air Balloon, and targeted citizen pressure against these key swing Senators in this phase of our effort.

**Thank you!** You are making a difference – as a member of the House GOP leadership team told me yesterday, the calls, emails and letters pouring into these Senators' offices are causing them to step back and listen to their constituents. They're starting to hear our message: It's a Tax!

If you have not contributed, but would be willing to do so please [CLICK HERE](#). It's your support that's underwriting these efforts, and for that I'm truly appreciative.

We'll be traveling all across the nation this year with our balloon so keep your eye out for a stop near you! Thanks again for all that you do.

Tim Phillips

P.S. I thought you might enjoy these pictures from the tour:



*More than 200 fired up AFP activists rallied in Sterling Heights, Michigan, just outside of Detroit, to make sure Senator Carl Levin knows his constituents oppose job-killing Cap-and-Trade legislation*



*AFP President Tim Phillips joins activists in Toledo, Ohio as they call Senator Sherrod Brown to urge him to vote against dangerous Cap-and-Trade legislation*



*Braving the cold and rain, AFP activists gather in front of our hot air balloon in South Bend, Indiana*



*AFP President Tim Phillips joins a few of our young free-market warriors before they enjoy a ride in the balloon*