



# CASSE

Center for the Advancement of the  
Steady State Economy

***The Steady Stater***

**volume 14 number 4**

Dear \*{{Informal Name}}\*,

There is so much happening at CASSE—so many good projects, promising alliances, and results of projects past—it is hard to know where to start. Writing this from the road, having driven to The Wildlife Society annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky, I can report that CASSE's efforts to raise awareness of the conflict between economic growth and environmental protection have taken firm root in TWS. Members are no longer debating about such a conflict. Instead, the [TWS position](#) we developed and fought for has borne copious fruit and will continue to do so for decades to come.

Speaking of the truth on limits to growth—and the rights of government employees to express it—my book on the topic is finally out. With a foreword by Tim Whitehouse, the Executive Director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, [Gag-Ordered No More](#) was well-received at the TWS conference. Check out the cover below (“Hot Off the Press” section) and you’ll intuit why the book is exceptionally relevant to the natural resources professions. That said, it is also of interest to all those concerned about First Amendment protections and about truth-telling by our tax-paid civil servants.

The CASSE policy program is well on its way to the synergistic effects of national and local efforts we had envisioned for years. This

is a long story—too much for a newsletter intro—but keep your eyes peeled for deeper coverage in the weeks to come at some new CASSE web pages and via the [Steady State Herald](#). For now, steady staters can start imagining the nexus among:

- Steady State Economy Act
- *Keep Our Counties Great* campaign
- CASSE chapters in the American West
- Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (with its 20 surrounding counties)
- Amending the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to distinguish “economic development” from GDP growth

Intrigued? You should be! Maybe now is finally the time for you to [join CASSE as a dues-paying member](#), and claim one of [six books from the Steady State Press](#) as your membership gift.

If you are already a member, or want to support CASSE without formally joining, a [donation](#) is one of the most efficient ways to help advance the steady state economy.

Finally, with Thanksgiving only one week away, I’d like to express my deepest appreciation for CASSE staff, board, members, donors, and allies. No one has a better answer to the 21st century sustainability conundrum than our tight-knit steady-state community. You can be proud of that, keep your hopes up, and get ready for the wonderlands of winter!

Sincerely,



Brian Czech

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## Meet Our New Staff

### Dave Rollo

Dave joins CASSE as a Policy Specialist focused on the *Keep Our Counties Great* program. With degrees in biology and plant sciences, Dave conducted lab research in molecular biology for 20 years and translated his vocational experience into wide-ranging civic involvement. He has served in the Bloomington, Indiana city government for nearly 30 years, first on the Environmental Commission (1995-2003), then as an elected representative on the City Council (2003-present). As a councilperson, Dave spearheaded several sustainability initiatives, including the creation of a City Sustainability Commission, a biking task force, and a task force to report on global energy depletion and its effect on the local community. Dave has long been an advocate for a steady state economy at the local level and has worked to include principles of an SSE in the city's guiding documents, including Bloomington's 2018 Comprehensive Plan. He left laboratory science in 2011 to work on a joint organic farming venture that he co-owned and operated as farm manager.



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#### Top Articles this Quarter

## Steady State Herald

Original Journalism, Real Sustainability

[Putin the Heinous Strikes at Global Wellbeing](#)

[Which Future?](#)

## [Work Less, Study More, and Forget about GDP](#)

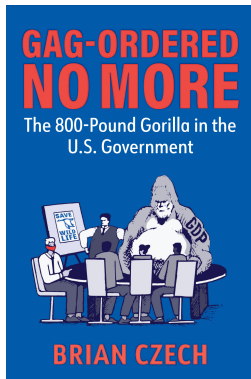
## [What Makes a County Great?](#)

## [Preface to Gag-Ordered No More \(by Brian Czech\)](#)

Blog articles don't die. It's never too late to comment.

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### Hot Off the Press



As the first Conservation Biologist in the history of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Brian Czech brought to headquarters an unusual expertise: deep knowledge about the conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation.

Czech's insights were welcomed—until they threatened the win-win rhetoric that “there is no conflict between growing the economy and protecting the environment.” Before long, Czech received his first gag order, prohibiting him from talking about the growth-conservation conundrum. Economic growth became the “800-pound gorilla” on the conservation policy table.

[Gag-Ordered No More](#) is a fascinating account of one man's efforts to speak truth to power, advance the principles of ecological economics, and lead the U.S. government to embrace limits to growth.

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### Supporter News

**Dave Gardner**, host of the [GrowthBusters](#) podcast, is running for President! Central to his campaign is the promise to contract the USA economy and population until the country has exited its current state of ecological overshoot.

Dave has put his *GrowthBusters* podcast on hiatus during the campaign. In its place he has started the new [Dave the Planet](#) podcast to chronicle his campaign and examine the issues that prompted him to run. A recent guest: Brian Czech.



## Chapter News

Paris Chapter Director **Mark Cramer** was interviewed by the publisher-editor of [STOP: Le Paris Débranché](#) about degrowth in the Paris region. During the 2.5-hour interview, Mark stressed his enthusiasm for the steady state economy and for CASSE, and shared a copy of the French-language version of the CASSE position on growth. The feature profile will run in January 2024.



Mark also continues to promote his [If Thoreau Had a Bicycle](#), which was published by Steady State Press in May.



**Craig Parker**, Chapter Director in Brisbane, Australia, gave a talk last week to several dozen citizens on the key changes required to shift economies off the growth track. Sponsored by Sustainable Population Australia, the talk was well-received.

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## Signatory Spotlight

**David Donoghue**, Political Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Republic of Ireland (2009–present).



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## Quotable

The reading material offered here is a treasure trove. I can never explore it all, and prioritizing my reading list is overwhelming. Thank you for all your offerings!

*--Robin Schaufler*

Many NGOs deal with individual parts of our overall problem, such as climate, biodiversity loss, population, etc., but only CASSE tackles the total problem at its root of generalized overshoot by the human economy in its takeover and drawdown of nature's capacity to support life. CASSE deserves support!

*--Herman Daly*



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## In Memoriam



We mark the first anniversary of the passing of Herman Daly, the father of steady-state economics, CASSE's economist emeritus, and a gifted teacher. We remember Herman with great fondness.

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## CASSE is Hiring!

We're looking for a Communications Specialist with skills in podcast production, shooting and editing videos, maintaining social media accounts, and issuing press releases. Interested? Please send resumes to [info@steadystate.org](mailto:info@steadystate.org) with "Communications Specialist application" in the subject line.



### Our Contact Information

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