



# CASSE

Center for the Advancement of the  
Steady State Economy

***The Steady Stater***

**volume 15 number 1**

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

We hope your 2024 is off to a splendid start. Ours is, and 2024 promises to be an especially productive year for advancing the steady state economy!

Even the director of a nonprofit can emerge from the administrative depths and carry out some direct, mission-oriented projects and activities. That's been the case this quarter, where I've had several projects come together in synergistic fashion.

First, my latest book is finally out and about. [\*Gag-Ordered No More: The 800-Pound Gorilla in the U.S. Government\*](#) is my story of censorship in civil service. Serving in the headquarters of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for almost two decades, I was prohibited from speaking truth to power about the conflict between economic growth and environmental protection. It's not a happy-go-lucky tale—more like ardent, intense, and somewhat sordid—but it does put a real-life story and a cast of characters around the familiar concepts of limits to growth.

Second, I proudly brought the CASSE banner to the [Western Section conference](#) of The Wildlife Society in Santa Rosa, California. In fact, CASSE was a co-sponsor of this thousand-plus attendee event. Rob Harding (CASSE's North Idaho Chapter Director) joined me, and we

found the Western Section a clear-thinking crowd in congruence with the CASSE mission. With nearly zero exceptions, every visitor to the CASSE booth was a prompt signatory to the CASSE position on economic growth.

[You can see](#) the twelve pages of CASSE signatures from the TWS event stretched out along the wall behind me at an Airbnb, the venue from which I addressed the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (CACOR). CACOR is quite an accomplished ally of steady staters and degrowthers, so we make this presentation our featured video this quarter.

We also kick off a new feature in this issue. Policy Specialist Daniel Wortel-London will be producing 10-12 steady-state bills in 2024. He's getting on a roll, so we're rolling out our Featured Bill segment.

Stay tuned for news of our Keep Our Counties Great campaign next quarter, enjoy what's left of winter, and please renew your CASSE membership (or join for the first time).

Sincerely,



Brian Czech

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**Top Articles this Quarter**

**Steady State Herald**

Original Journalism, Real Sustainability

[It's Time to Ban Earth-Damaging Ads](#) by Daniel Wortel-London

[Approaching the Energy Cliff](#) by Dave Rollo

## [How to Avoid the Scarcity Scare?](#) by Gary Gardner

Blog articles never die. Feel free to comment on these or any other *Steady State Herald* articles.

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### Featured Video

On February 14, Brian Czech addressed the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome. "GDP as a Proxy for Ecological Footprint" lays out a new use for the troubled metric of GDP with a compelling causal hypothesis supported by a powerful statistical model.



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### Featured Event

The 2024 meeting of The Wildlife Society—Western Section took place in Sonoma County, California, February 5-9. CASSE's Brian Czech and Rob Harding enjoyed the company and advice of Don Yasuda, TWS Past President. Seen below are the three at the

CASSE booth (behind a growing list of signatures to the CASSE position on economic growth).



## Chapter News

Paris Chapter Director Mark Cramer was interviewed by Parisian magazine [STOP: Le Paris Débranché](#) about his views on simple living and on the relevance of Henry David Thoreau for life today.

The interview was helpful in staking out Mark's place in the Paris degrowth community. It also promoted Mark's [If](#)



[Thoreau Had a Bicycle](#), published by Steady State Press last May.

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## Featured Bill

This quarter we feature the Luxury Cap Act, amending the Tax Code to ensure that consumers of luxury goods pay appropriately for the privilege.

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## AN ACT

To tax consumption of luxury goods and services.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*

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## Signatory Spotlight



Dr. Abhijit Banerjee, co-winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at MIT, and co-author of *Good Economics for Hard Times*.

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## Quotable

Keep it up! Amazing, well-researched articles every week!

*--Jacob Okleberry*

Thanks for your great work and congrats on the TWS position statement!

*--Angela Kantola*

I've been personally advocating for a steady state economy for 40 years and I'm happy to know there is now some momentum for this initiative.

--Christopher Connolly

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## Steady State Futurists?

Brian Czech was invited to elaborate on limits to growth and the steady state economy in a panel discussion at the Dubai Future Forum in December. The session was titled "The Future of Progress: How Will Nations Define Success in the Future?"



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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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