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## THE MADISON POLICY DIGEST

Friday, 15 January 2010

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### NEWS BRIEFS

\* The James Madison Institute has just released its most recent Backgrounder, "The Economic Effects of Proposed Cap-and-Trade Legislation on the State of Florida." The study was written by Adjunct Scholar Paul Bachman of the Beacon Hill Institute. To read the study, [click here](#).

### FEATURED TOPICS

- Commuter Rail
- Property Insurance Bill
- DC Opportunity Scholarships
- Climate Change

### ARTICLES

#### Fla. Legislature clears way for rail systems

*Associated Press*

By Bill Kaczor

December 8, 2009

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) -- A bill that would clear the way for commuter and transit rail systems, which may in turn attract federal stimulus money to also build a high-speed line, sped to Gov. Charlie Crist's desk Tuesday.

The measure was the sole subject of a six-day special session called by leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature. Crist pushed for the bill's passage and he is expected to sign it into law.

For complete article, click here: [Commuter Rail](#)

#### Bennett proposing change to homeowners' insurance

*Bradenton Herald*

By Sara Kennedy

December 08, 2009

MANATEE — Sen. Mike Bennett, R-Bradenton, is again proposing what he calls the "Consumer Choice" bill, which he asserts would allow consumers to decide for themselves if they prefer a private home insurer offering market-based rates.

Bennett's bill is slated for consideration during the spring session of the Florida Legislature.

For complete article, click here: [Property Insurance Bill](#)

#### Ominous Omnibus: Spending Bill Jeopardizes Opportunity Scholarships

*The Heritage Foundation*

December 10, 2009

Yesterday, members of Congress released the text of their \$446.8 billion spending

Yesterday, members of Congress released the text of their \$446.8 billion spending measure – the Omnibus Appropriations bill – which will likely be enacted before December 18. To the dismay of low-income parents in the District of Columbia, the omnibus also contains language seriously jeopardizing the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program – despite the wishes of the D.C. City Council and other leaders, District residents, and most importantly, District families.

The omnibus language blocks new entrants to the Opportunity Scholarship program, stating explicitly that the funding can be used “only for scholarships to students who received scholarships in the 2009-2010 school year.” Prohibiting any new children from receiving scholarships means the program will necessarily be phased out in the next few years. This was certainly not the Christmas present D.C. families were hoping for.

For complete article, click here: [DC Opportunity Scholarships](#)

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## OPINION

### The new socialism

*Washington Post*

By Charles Krauthammer

December 11, 2009

In the 1970s and early '80s, having seized control of the U.N. apparatus (by power of numbers), Third World countries decided to cash in. OPEC was pulling off the greatest wealth transfer from rich to poor in history. Why not them? So in grand U.N. declarations and conferences, they began calling for a "New International Economic Order." The NIEO's essential demand was simple: to transfer fantastic chunks of wealth from the industrialized West to the Third World.

For complete article, click here: [Climate Change](#)

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## CARTOON OF THE WEEK



Andy Marlette *The Pensacola News-Journal*



Andy Marlette, *The Pensacola News-Journal*

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

***"One of the sad signs of our times is that we have demonized those who produce, subsidized those who refuse to produce, and canonized those who complain"***

**- Thomas Sowell**

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