

Help us “Liberate the Future”



This seems a good time and place to share a few thoughts about Cato’s role in combating the big government juggernaut—and how you can help.

Not since the New Deal have we experienced such a national crisis. Practically every day the headlines bring news of taxpayer-funded bailouts and government takeovers. If you think back over the last year or so, you will bring to mind the bailout of Freddie and Fannie, the stimulus bill, the takeover of the auto industry, and the seizure of one-sixth of the American economy in the name of health care reform. And then think of the bad ideas waiting in the wings—cap and trade, card check, and maybe another so-called stimulus.

As the debate swirls, Cato stands at the vortex. When folks want thoughtful analysis, not sound bites, they turn to Cato. While statisticians argue that the solution for every problem is more government, Cato’s scholars make the case for limited government and free markets. It should come as no surprise that Cato was ranked number 5 in the world out of 1,500 organizations in the 2009 edition of *Global Go-To Think Tank Ratings*, compiled by the University of Pennsylvania.

Cato’s vitality goes beyond the stream of books, articles, white papers, journals, and blog postings produced by its scholars—we are in the process of expanding our physical footprint as well. During 2010, we will undertake building renovations that will double the size of our beautiful Massachusetts

Avenue facility. Needless to say, a certain synergy is involved: that bigger building will house more scholars covering more policy areas.

At the awards ceremony for the 2010 Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty, George Will’s keynote address succinctly summed up Cato’s role: “*Given freedom, the American people will flourish. Given the Cato Institute, the American people will, in time, secure freedom.*”

So, we gratefully acknowledge that Cato could never have achieved such prominence



without your generous contributions. And we ask you to bear in mind that we will continue to need your help if we are to maintain our ability to shape the national debate. There are many ways to help: certainly, your annual contributions are critical. Perhaps you might consider making a bequest to

Cato or making us the beneficiary of a retirement plan. You might also get involved by attending Cato events or Cato University, Cato’s wonderful weeklong intensive seminar in libertarian thought. And over the next few months, you will hear much more about our building expansion plans and our capital campaign. We named those plans “Liberating the Future.” Perhaps you will wish to join us in this historic undertaking.

If you would like to discuss estate planning or gifting ideas, please feel free to contact [Gayllis Ward](#), our director of planned giving, at (202) 218-4631 or at gward@cato.org.