

## Cato Policy Report

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# “To Be Governed...”

## POSSIBLY THE GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG

The Post did not survey every single agency or office of the federal bureaucracy — a list so long that even the government itself has trouble keeping track. Official estimates of the number of federal agencies range from 118 up to more than 600, depending on how “agency” is defined, according to a 2018 report by the Administrative Conference of the United States.

— *Washington Post*, July 30, 2021

## IF IT'S BIPARTISAN, YOU KNOW IT'S A TAXPAYER BOONDOGGLE

How has the Senate managed to find a rare area of bipartisan agreement and put together a major bill to finance technology and manufacturing? . . .

The current version would spend almost \$250 billion over five years.

— *David Leonhardt in the New York Times*, June 8, 2021

## SCANDAL: 25 PEOPLE PAID ONLY \$13.6 BILLION IN INCOME TAX

The results are stark. According to Forbes, those 25 people saw their worth rise a collective \$401 billion from 2014 to 2018. They paid a total of \$13.6 billion in federal income taxes in those five years.

— *ProPublica*, June 8, 2021

## TERRY MCAULIFFE UNDERSTANDS POLITICS

“He’s not Terry McAuliffe, the Clinton fundraiser anymore — he’s Terry McAuliffe, the former governor,” said Jessica Taylor. . . .

“Now let me tell you, it’s a lot easier to raise money for a governor,” McAuliffe says in the audio version of [his memoir]. . . . “They have all kinds of business to hand out — road contracts, construction jobs, you name it.”

— *Washington Post*, June 12, 2021

## BREAKING: BUSINESSES BELIEVE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUBSIDIZE THEM

Twenty industry associations and unions sent congressional leaders a letter last week urging action: “To be competitive and strengthen the resilience of critical supply chains, we believe the U.S. needs to incentivize the construction of new and modernized semiconductor manufacturing facilities and invest in research capabilities,” the groups wrote.

— *Wall Street Journal*, July 26, 2021

## L'ETAT, C'EST MOI

President Joe Biden signed a sweeping executive order on Friday to promote more competition in the U.S. economy, urging agencies to crack down on anti-competitive practices in sectors from agriculture to drugs and labor. . . .

Biden’s action goes after corporate monopolies across a broad swath of industries, and includes 72 initiatives he wants more than a dozen federal agencies to act on.

— *Reuters*, July 9, 2021

## PRESIDENTS COME AND GO, BUT LOBBYISTS REMAIN

The brother and former business partner of a top White House adviser. . . reported making \$820,000 from lobbying in the first three months of this year, nearly five times what he earned in the same period a year earlier.

— *Washington Post*, July 9, 2021

## SOLAR INDUSTRY'S BUSINESS PLAN

After years of decline, the fragile American solar industry is hoping for a turnaround bolstered by President Biden’s plans. . . .

[T]he Biden administration is initially focusing on four industries to bolster with tax breaks or other government support. . . .

Solar power isn’t named as an administration priority so far, but it is lobbying for tariff or tax-law support . . . tax credits for solar-panel purchases . . . tax credits that would give domestic panel makers a lift and disadvantage imports . . . require federal contractors to purchase many solar panels from U.S. suppliers.

— *Wall Street Journal*, June 21, 2021