

The Real Playbook - Faith, Family, and the Fight for Rural America

A Battle Not Chosen, But Answered

No one wakes up one morning thinking, “You know what sounds like a good time? Taking on billion-dollar energy corporations, local government bureaucracies, and state policymakers, all while trying to tend to the farm, raise a family, and keep the lights on.” Yet here we are. Not because we wanted to be, but because we had to be.



Opposing utility-scale renewable energy developments—be it solar, wind, or whatever they decide to slap a greenwashed label on next—isn’t easy, fun, or particularly rewarding. But it is necessary. Because when our land, our heritage, and our communities are threatened, we don’t back down. We step up.

And here’s the truth - Winning this fight isn’t about having all the power or money. Lord knows we don’t have either. It’s about having the right mindset—one of persistence, resilience, and faith.

An open mindset teaches us that no battle is lost unless we stop fighting. That learning, adapting, and pushing forward—even after setbacks—is the key to success. And that’s where we’re headed.

And here’s the thing—most folks in rural communities already have this open mindset. We have to. Farming, ranching, and working the land require us to adapt every single day.

- Drought? We adapt.
- Too much rain? We adapt.
- Market prices crash? We adapt.
- Politicians meddling where they shouldn’t? Unfortunately, we adapt to that too.

We’ve never been a people who sit still and hope for the best. We work. We adjust. We press forward.

Which brings me to something Jesus said about faith and perseverance:

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” —Matthew 17:20

That’s the beauty of faith, just like the beauty of an open mindset. You don’t have to see the victory today to know it’s coming. You just have to believe it, act on it, and never quit.

Opposition is Not for the Weak-Willed

Ever notice how the developers roll into town with big promises, slick presentations, and a friendly “we’re here to help” attitude? It’s almost cute—until you realize they’re not here to help you.

They’re here to help themselves—**to our tax money**.

They aren’t investing in these projects because they care about the environment, rural prosperity, or energy independence. They’re in it for the subsidies.

They take from us—our land, our tax dollars, our peace of mind—and leave behind rusting panels, abandoned wind turbines, broken promises, and a divided community.

But standing against them requires something most people don’t have: grit.

Opposing these developments means attending endless public meetings where they pretend to “listen.” It means wading through 1,000-page legal documents that somehow all boil down to “trust us.” It means being called every name in the book—“anti-progress,” “fear-mongers,” “anti-science,” and, my personal favorite, “selfish.” As if protecting your land, your home, and your family is selfish.

But here’s where the open mindset comes in. We don’t see these challenges as roadblocks. We see them as stepping stones.

And of course, whenever we push back, the developers like to claim that we’re just part of some nationally organized opposition, that we’re all using the same playbook.

Well, after all this time, I think I’ve finally figured out what “playbook” they’re talking about.

It’s the one our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles used to teach us the lessons that actually matter.

- Faith.
- Hard work.
- Diligence.
- Patience.
- Respect.
- Loving thy neighbor.
- And, yes... who could forget... not doing anything that would embarrass ourselves or our family.

If standing up for our land, our community, and our values makes us “organized,” then yes—we are. Because we were raised this way.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” - James 1:2-4

Perseverance. That’s the key. Not quitting when the road gets rough. Not giving in when people mock or doubt you. Faith isn’t about knowing the path will be easy; it’s about trusting that the fight is worth it.

Control, Lost and Found

One of the biggest lies told about these projects is that they bring local benefits. Except—funny thing—the decisions about these projects aren't made locally. They're made in offices far, far away, by people who have never stepped foot on our land.

So, what happens? The state, not the township, gets the final say. The corporations, not the landowners, dictate the terms. And our voices? Well, they'd rather we stay quiet.

But we weren't raised to stay quiet when something's wrong. We were raised to speak up, to take responsibility, and to protect what we've been given.

The Power of Community

The developers and their allies like to think we're just a handful of "angry locals." But they underestimate something fundamental: the strength of a rural community.

See, in the city, most folks don't even know their neighbors' names. But out here? We know who planted what in which field. We know whose grandpa built that barn. We show up for funerals, fundraisers, and Sunday service. And when our community is threatened? We fight together.

Because the real "playbook" we're following isn't one written by some national organization—it's the one written on our hearts, passed down through generations.

Faith, Growth, and Victory

A closed mindset says: *"This is too big, too hard. We can't win."*

An open mindset says: *"Every loss is a lesson. Every lesson makes us stronger. And strong people win."*

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13

Not some things. Not easy things. **All things.**

And when the day comes that the contracts are canceled, the permits are denied, and the developers pack up their snake oil and move on, we will have won. Not just for ourselves, but for the generations to come.

A Fight Worth Fighting

Because at the end of the day, we're not just opposing something. We're fighting for something: our land, our families, our future.

And we will not be moved.

So stand tall. Keep going. And remember—victory belongs to those who refuse to quit.

Now, let's get to work.