



Katherine Smalkin
2007 Summer Intern

Foundation for Research on
FREE
Economics & the Environment

July 24, 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

Had you asked earlier this year whether I would be fortunate enough to spend my first summer as a college alumna researching environmental economics in breathtaking Bozeman, MT, my answer would most likely have been “No, but that sounds great!” One application later, here I am working for the wonderful folks at FREE: engaging in critical discussions of “free market environmentalism” (with the brilliant scholar in residence Steven J. Eagle) and reading the classics of political economy at the foot of the Rockies.

Coming from a literature and foreign language background, the term “economics” automatically induced in me a certain amount of fear and skepticism. My fears were quieted upon reading the first chapter of Paul Heyne’s *The Economic Way of Thinking*, where he challenges “textbook” economics and presents a more humanities-friendly theoretical framework: *economics as a way of thinking*. Armed with my new way of seeing and a plethora of texts, I dove into the works of greats such as Friedrich Hayek and Tom Schelling. This is simply a small example of the new academic doors that have been opened to me thus far at FREE.

Thank you for your support of our program, as we know it would not be possible without your help. The FREE Summer Internship Program is unique and strong, and it is crucial that the young people of today be exposed to the wisdom of economists past and present in order to make a societal impact in the future. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
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