

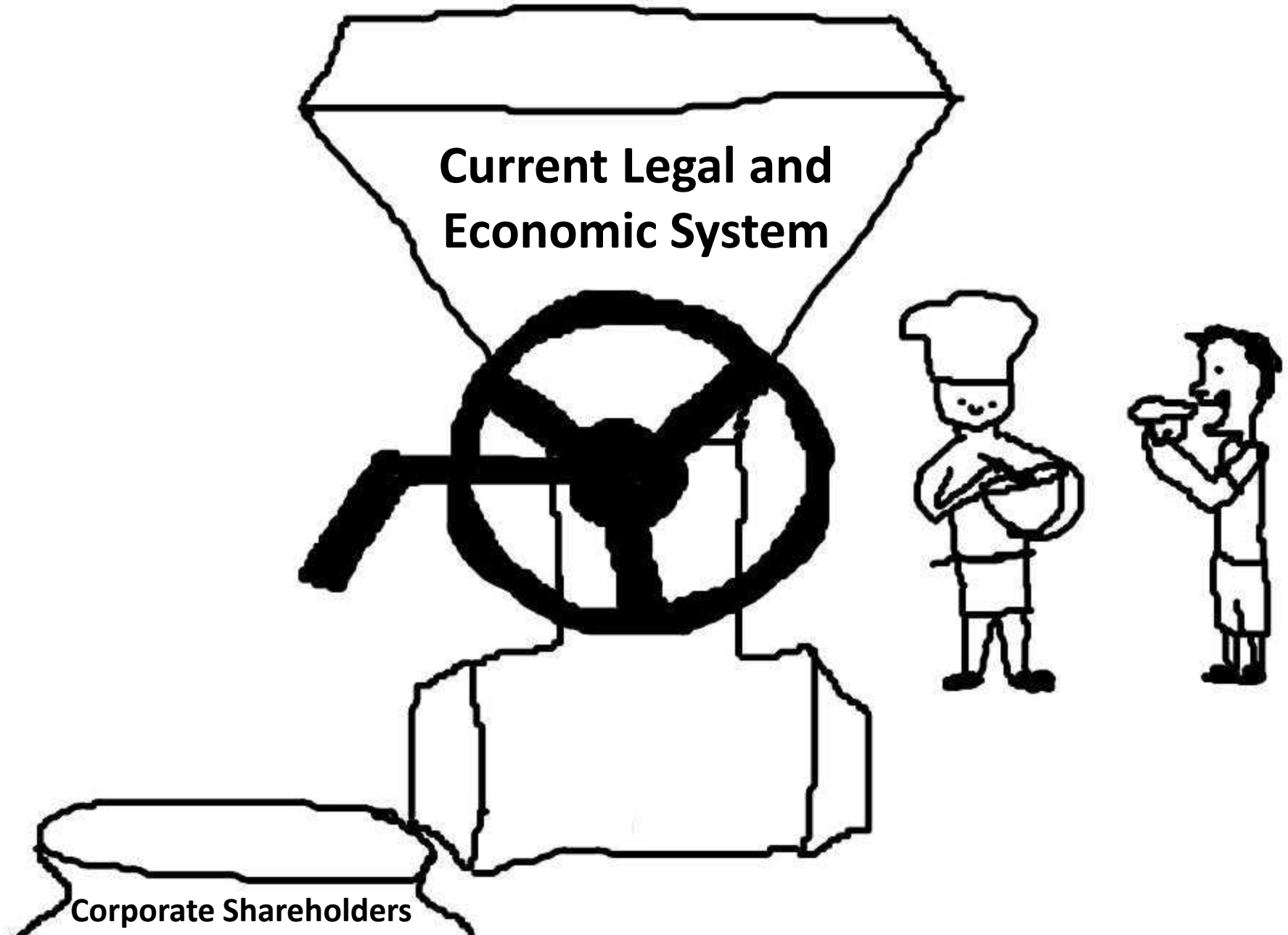
# Law and the Next Economy

Janelle Orsi, Sustainable Economies Law Center

[www.theSELC.org](http://www.theSELC.org)



# How to Make Bread in the



Seeds™

Current Legal and  
Economic System

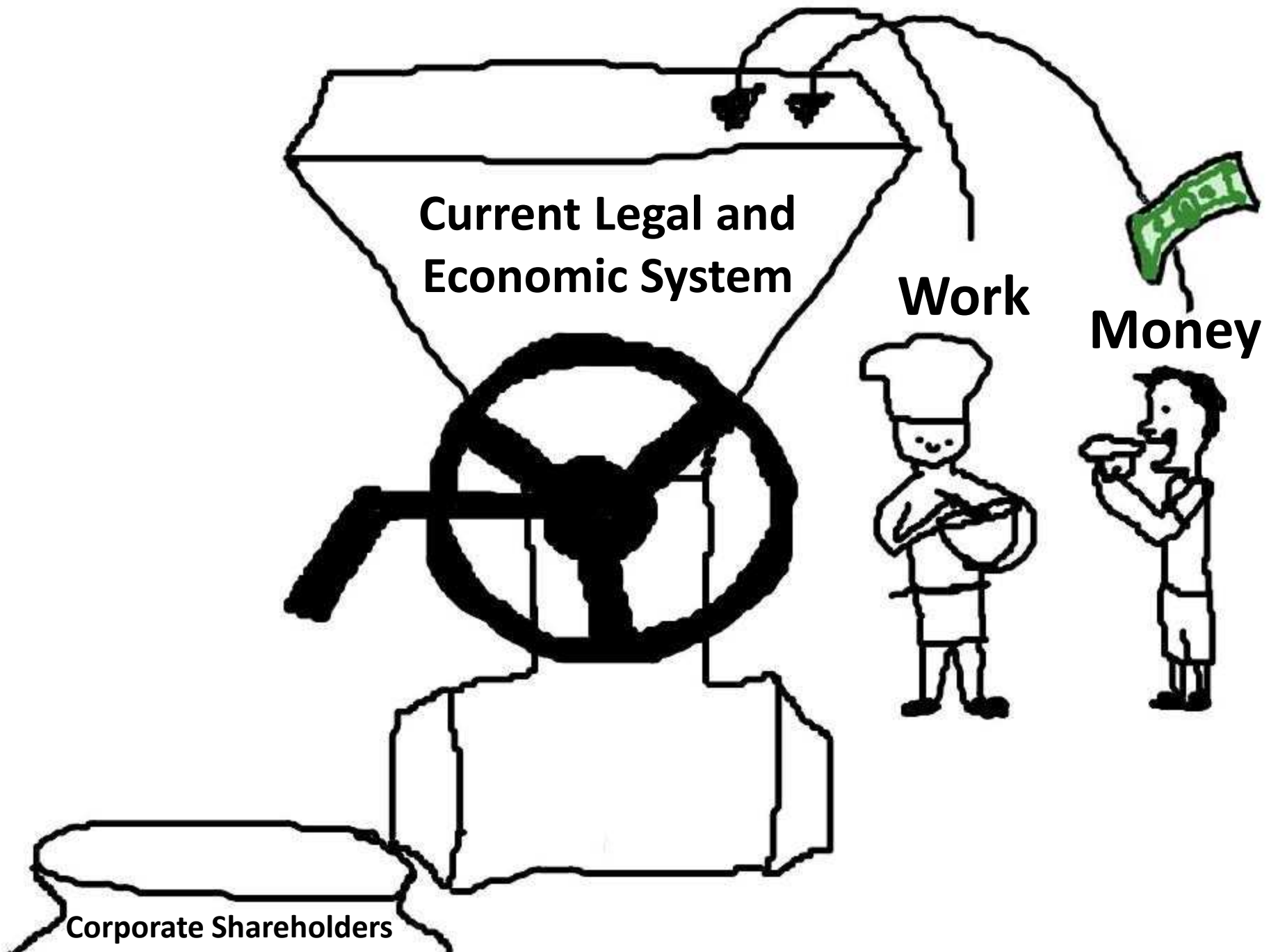


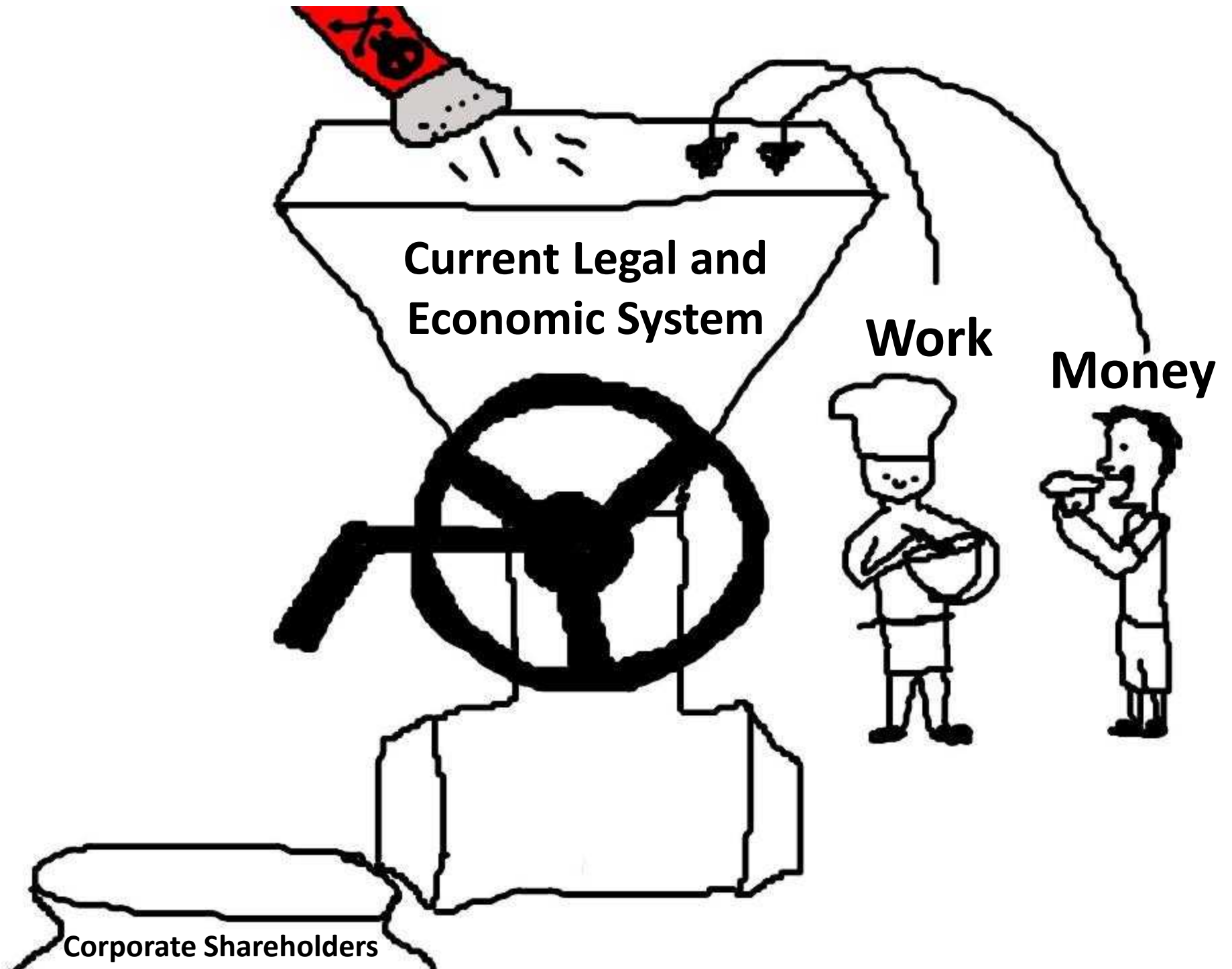
Water

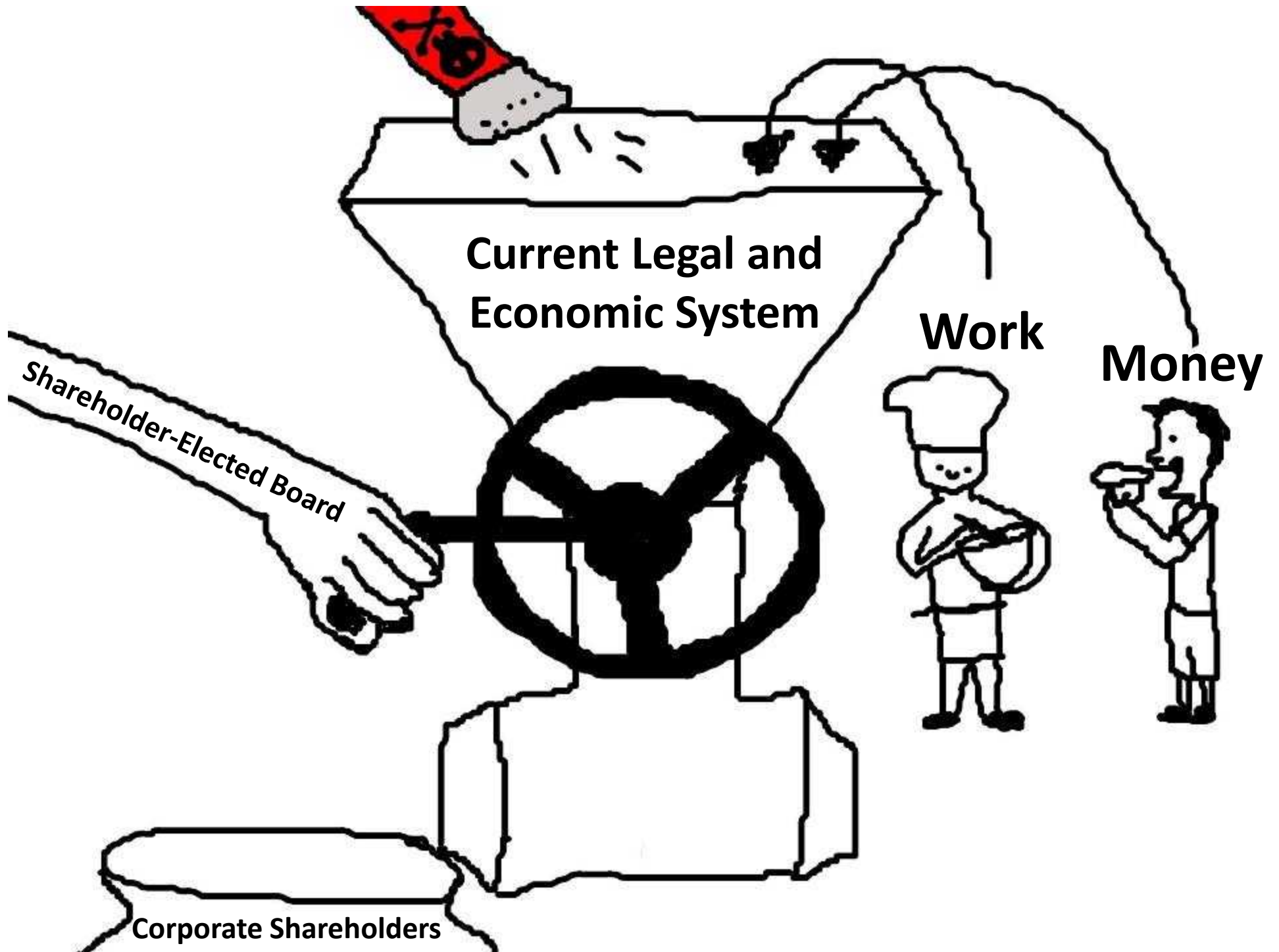


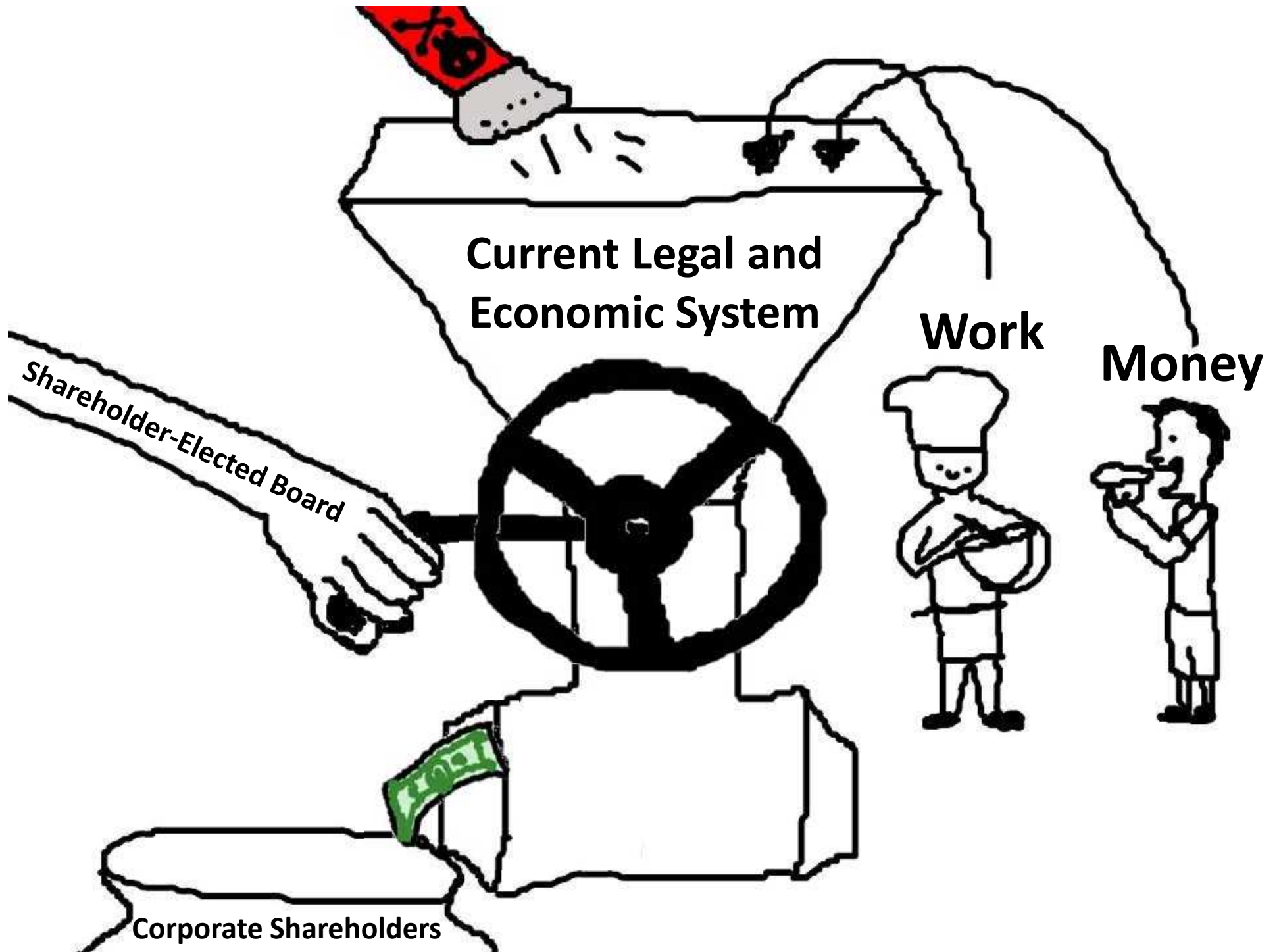
Land

Corporate Shareholders

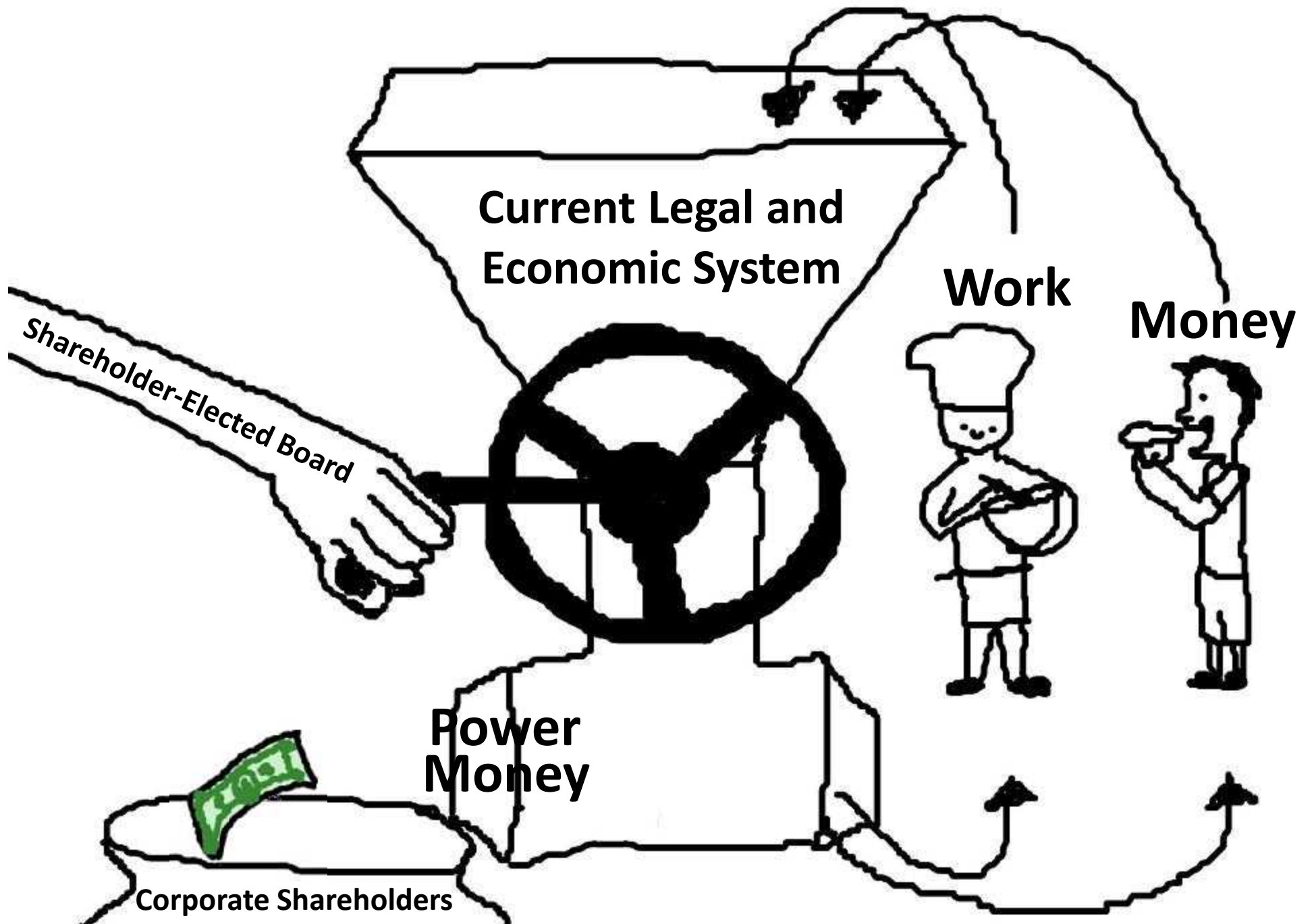




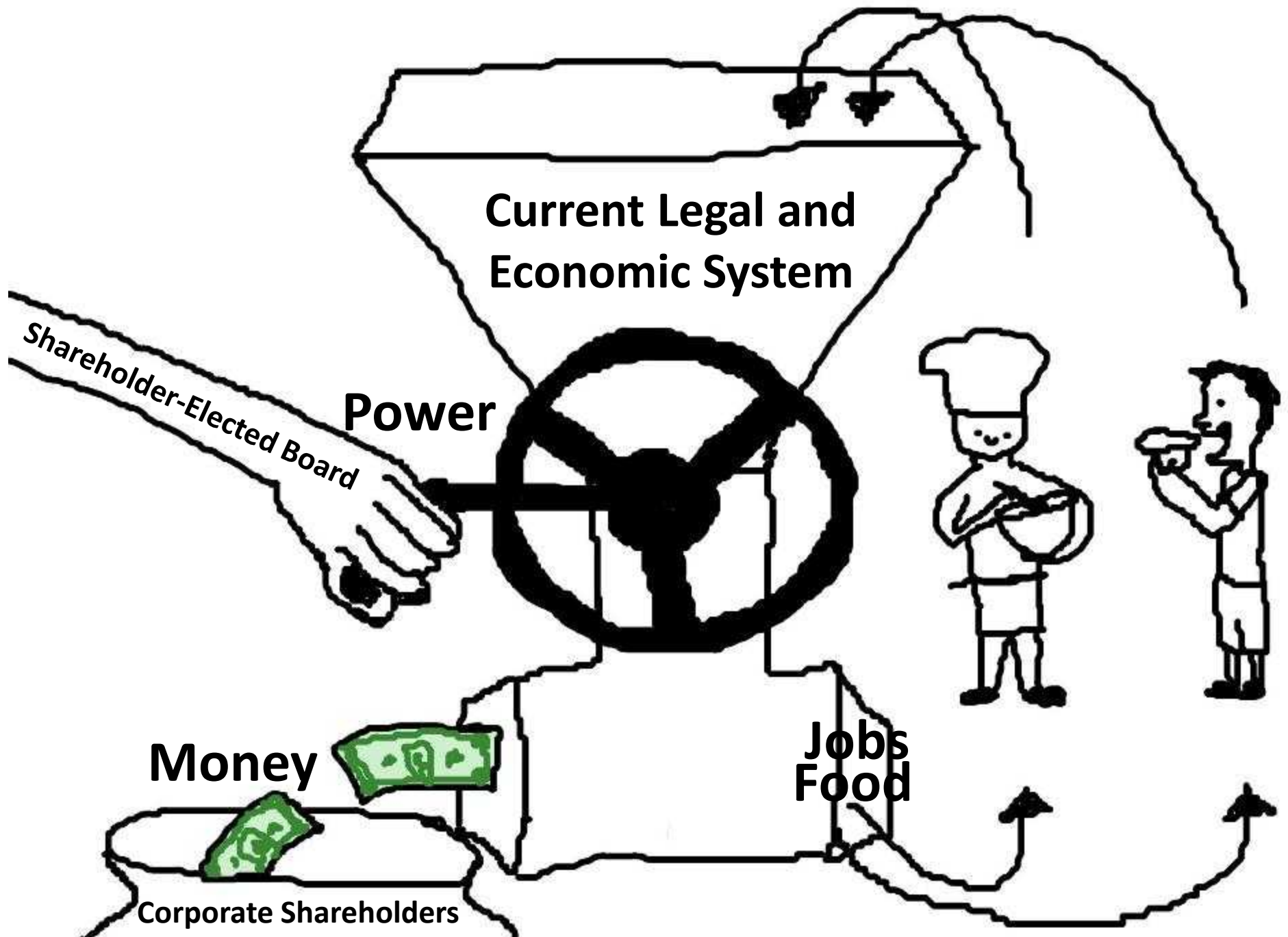












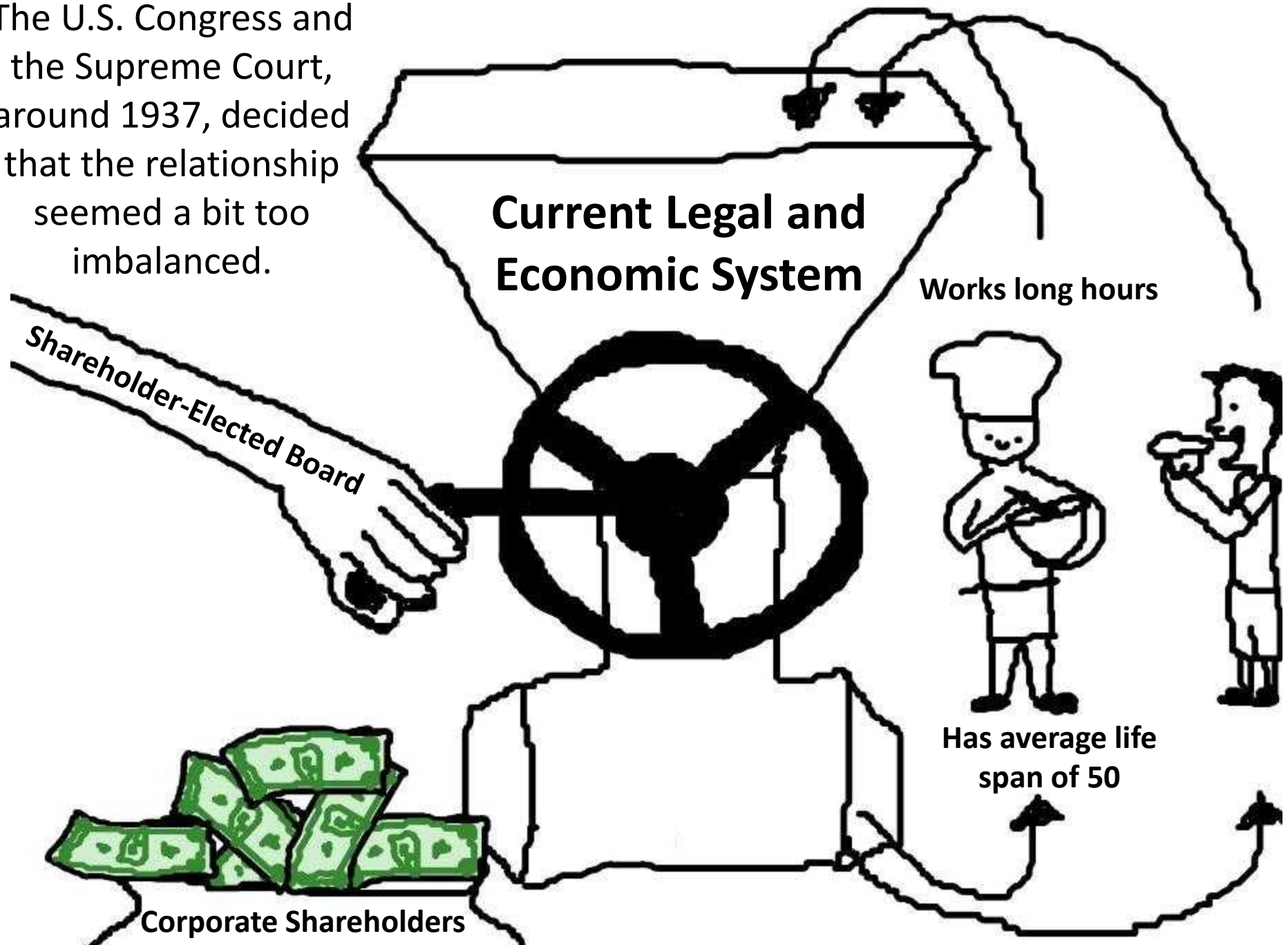


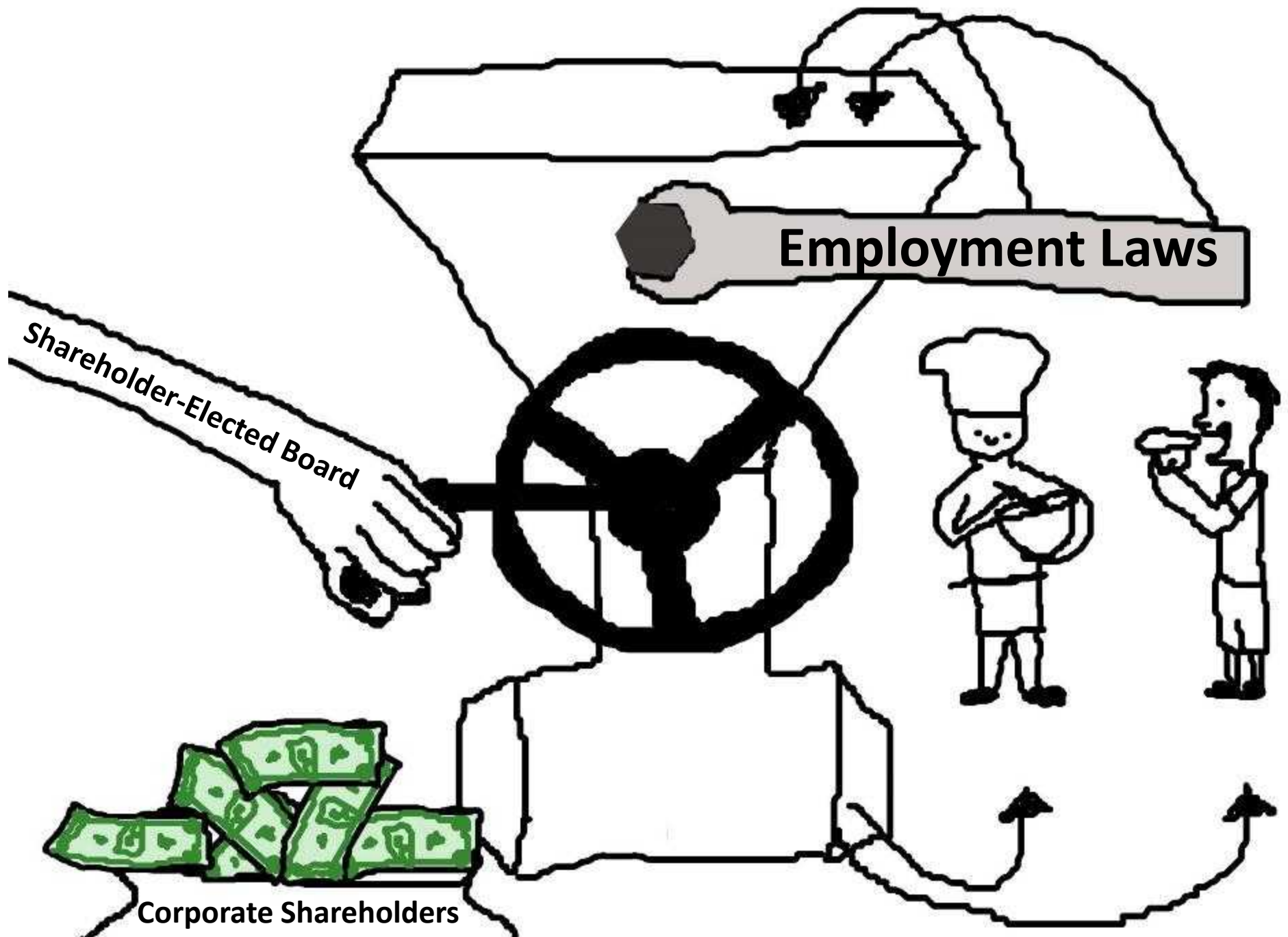
# The Constitution

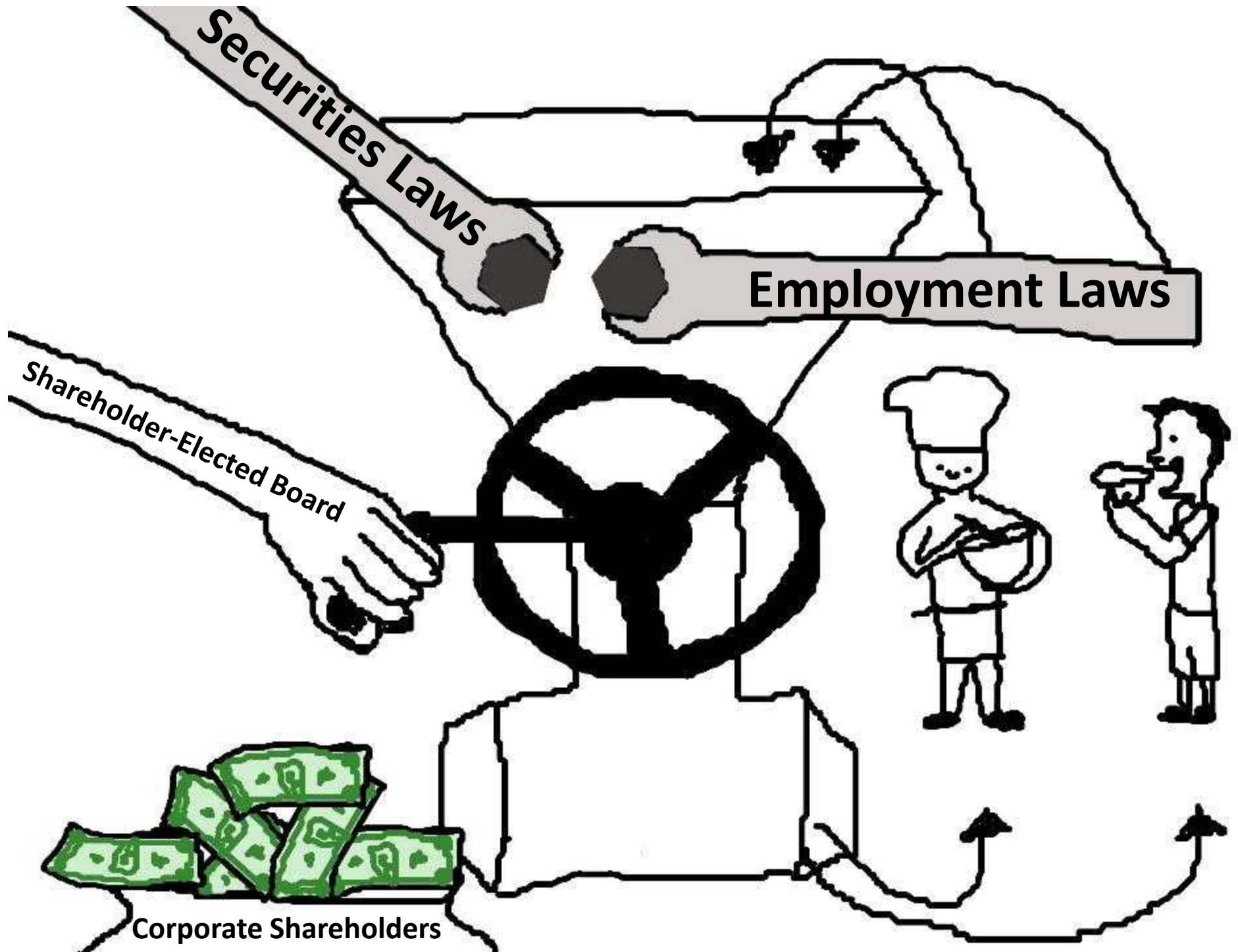
- freedom  
of contract,  
etc...

-  
-  
-

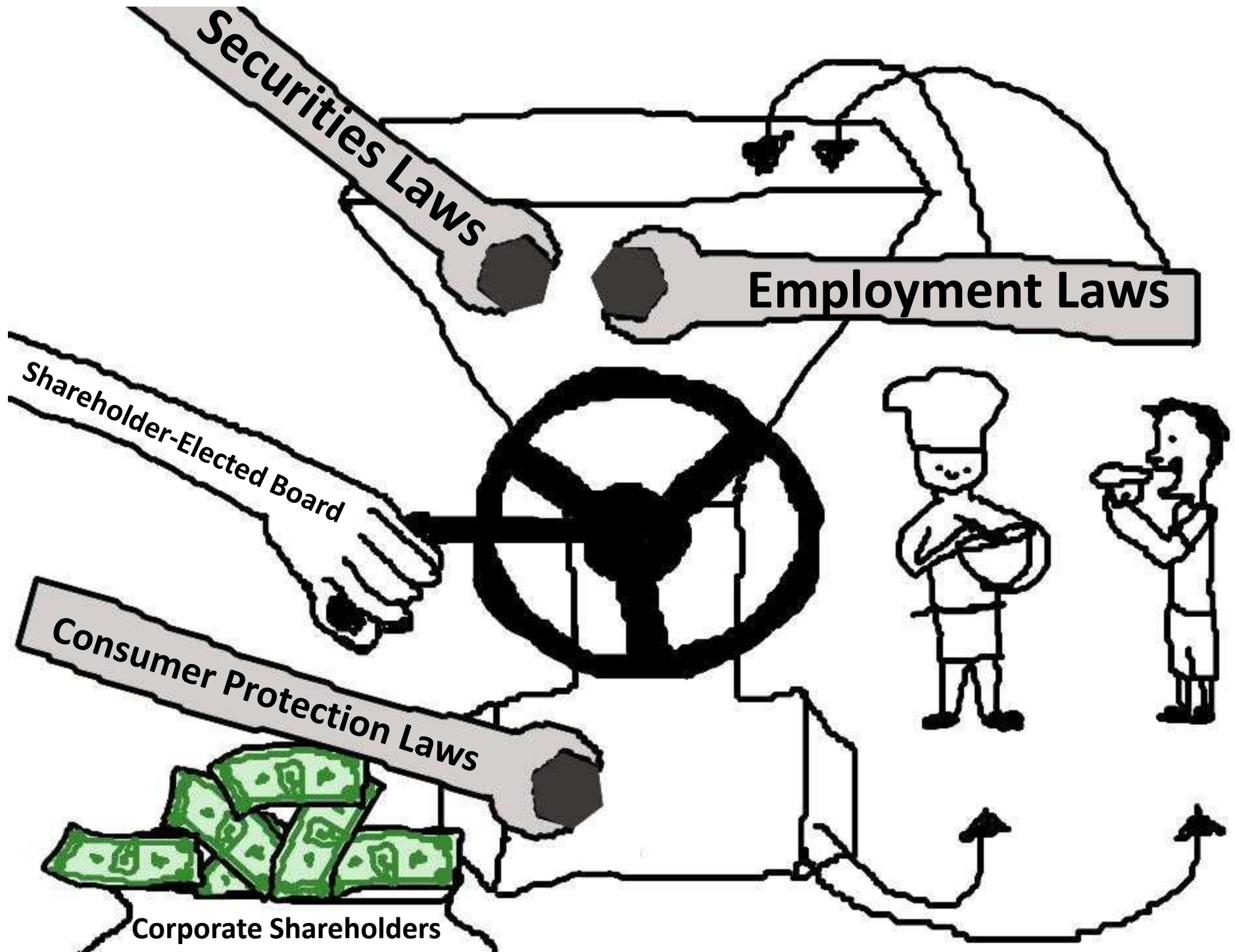
The U.S. Congress and the Supreme Court, around 1937, decided that the relationship seemed a bit too imbalanced.



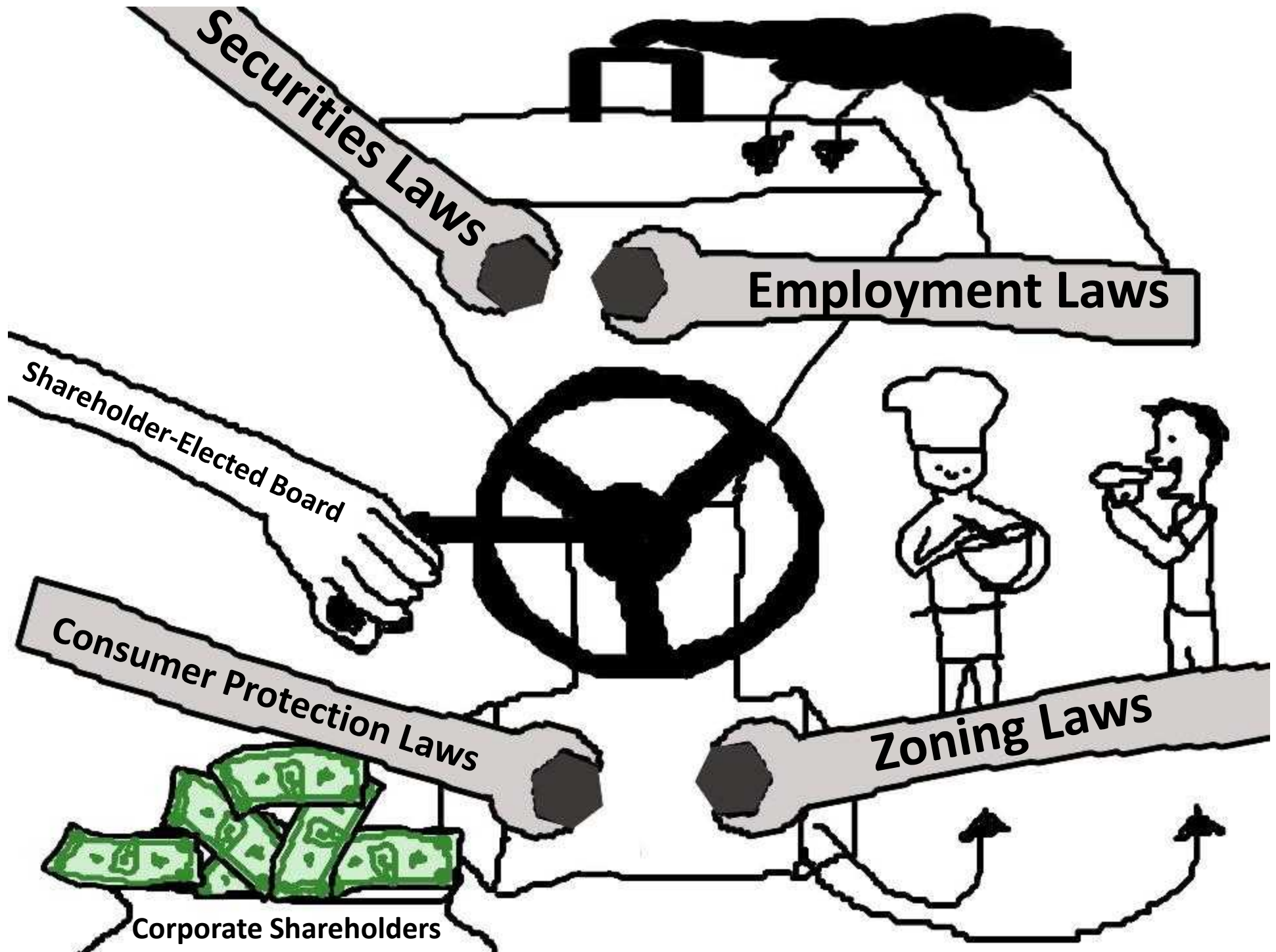














The logo for Hostess Brands is a stylized line drawing of a Hostess Twinkie. It features a wide, trapezoidal top section representing the cake, a circular middle section representing the filling with a three-spoke wheel design, and a rectangular base representing the bottom of the cake.

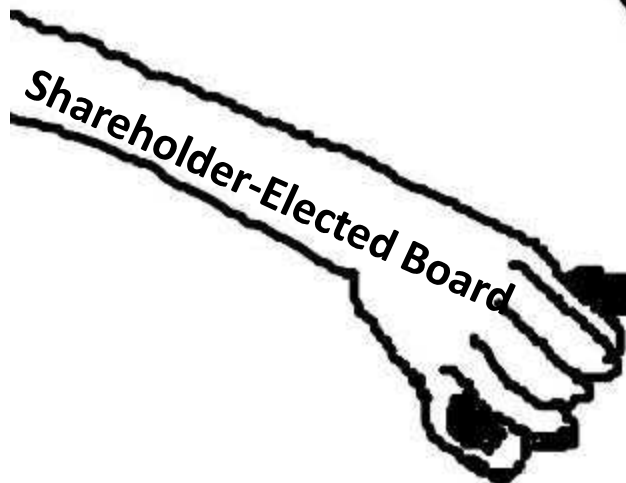
**Hostess  
Brands**

The logo for Bimbo Bakeries is a stylized line drawing of a Bimbo roll. It features a wide, trapezoidal top section representing the roll, a circular middle section representing the filling with a three-spoke wheel design, and a rectangular base representing the bottom of the roll.

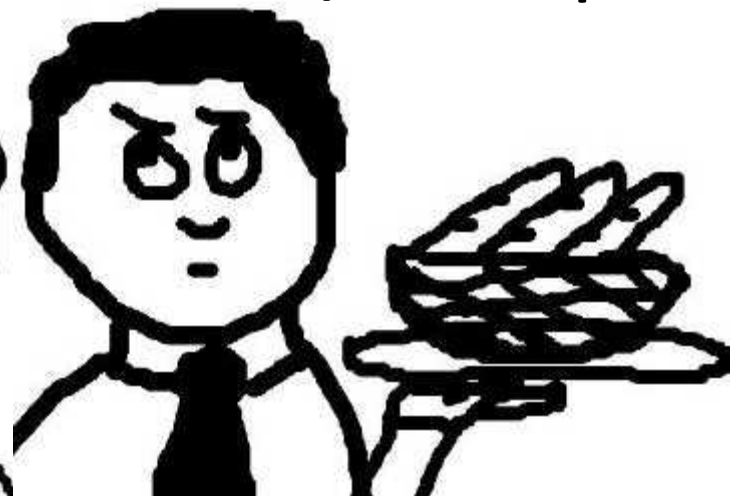
**Bimbo  
Bakeries**

The laws  
haven't really  
protected us  
very well....

## Darden Restaurants



\$2.13/hour + tips

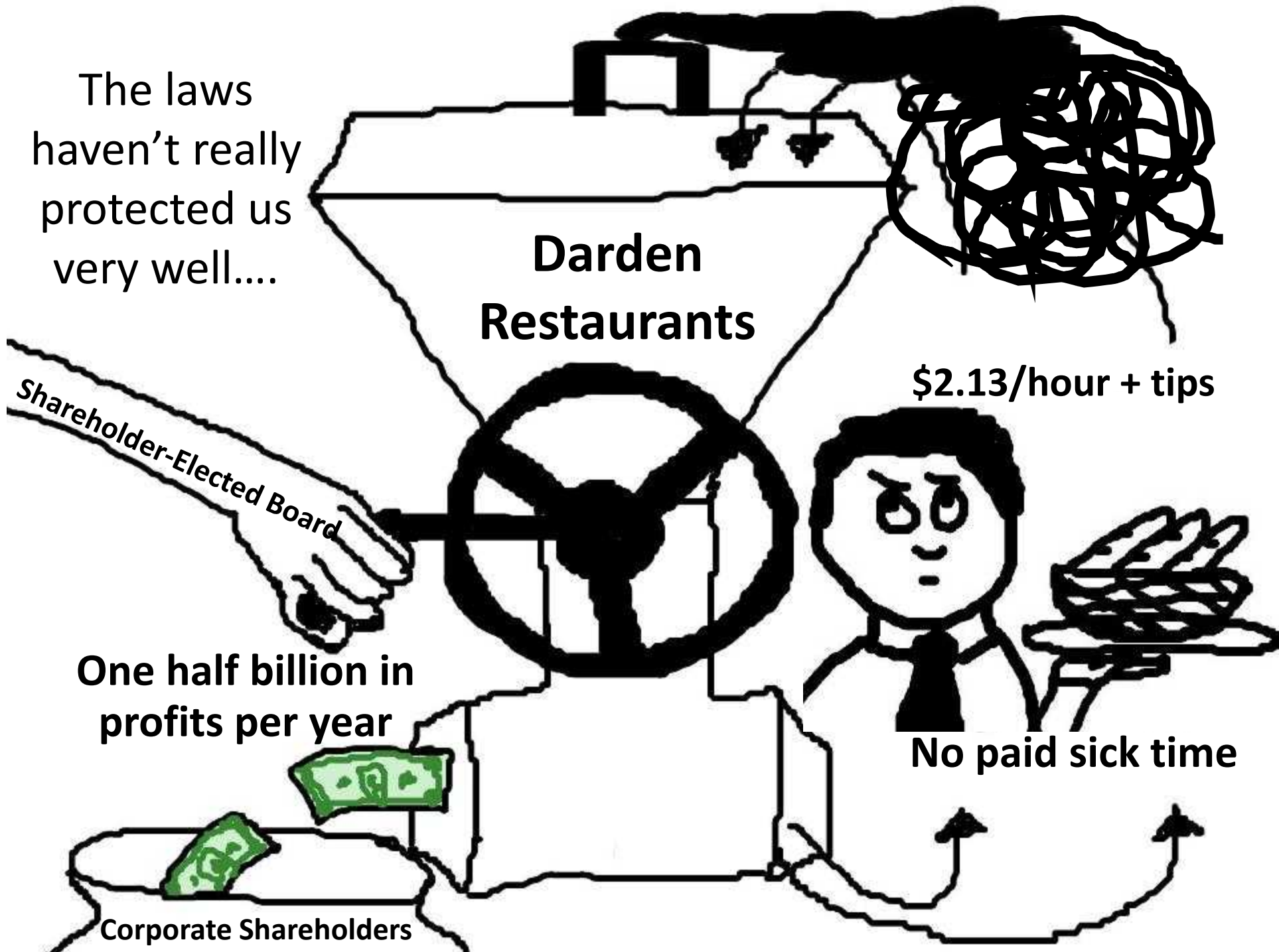


No paid sick time

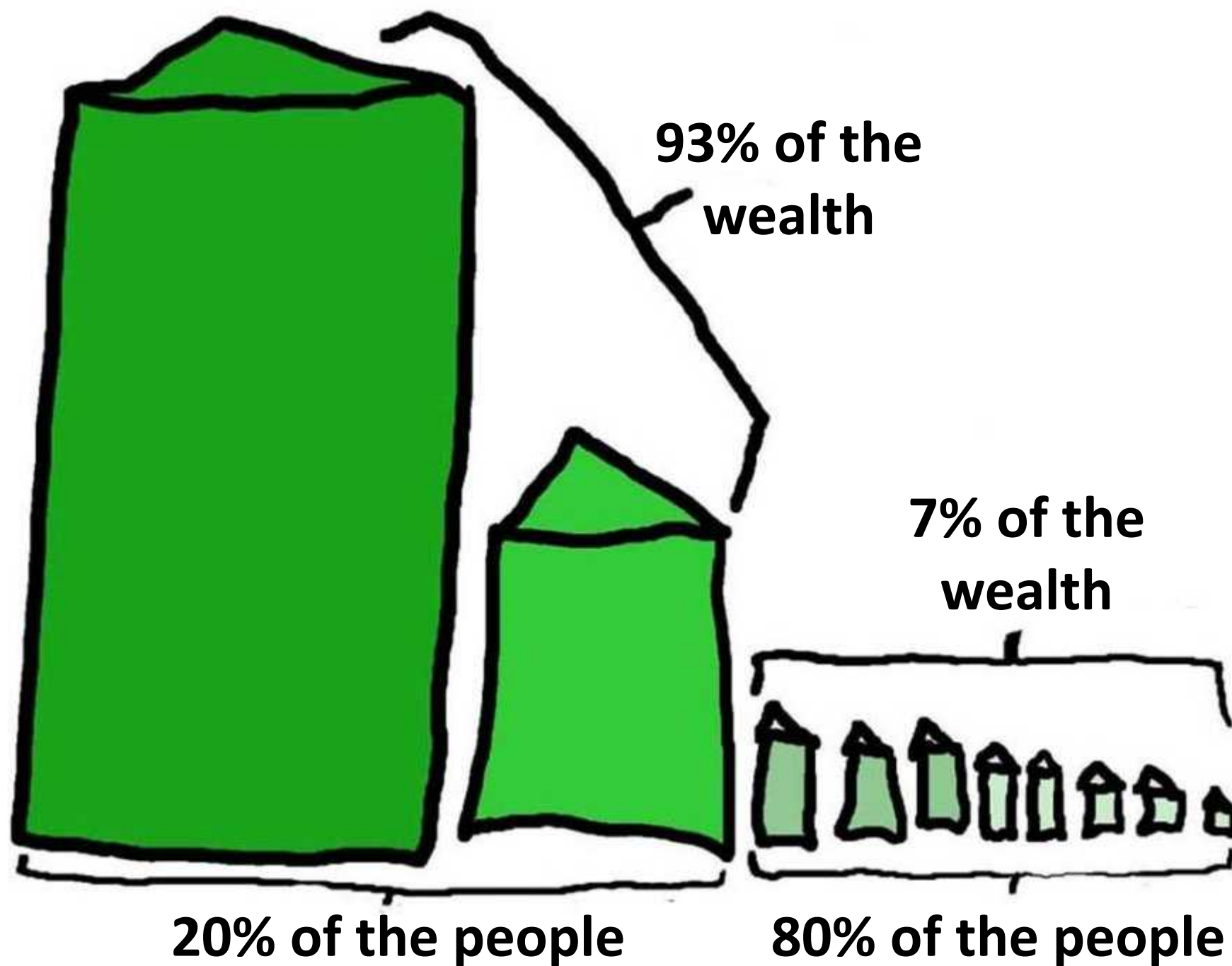
One half billion in  
profits per year



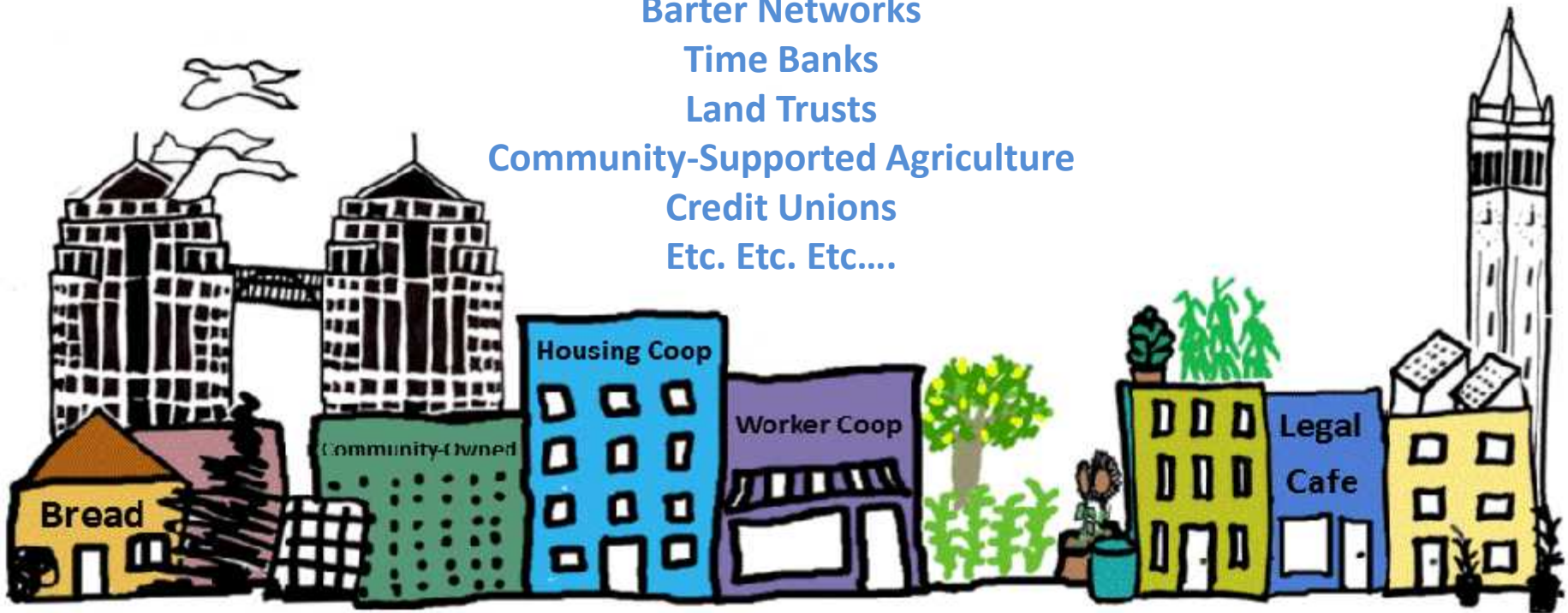
Corporate Shareholders







Grocery Cooperatives  
Worker Cooperatives  
Urban Farms  
Cohousing Communities  
Community Gardens  
Social Enterprise  
Shared Commercial Kitchens  
Carsharing Groups  
Ecovillages  
Local Currencies  
Barter Networks  
Time Banks  
Land Trusts  
Community-Supported Agriculture  
Credit Unions  
Etc. Etc. Etc....

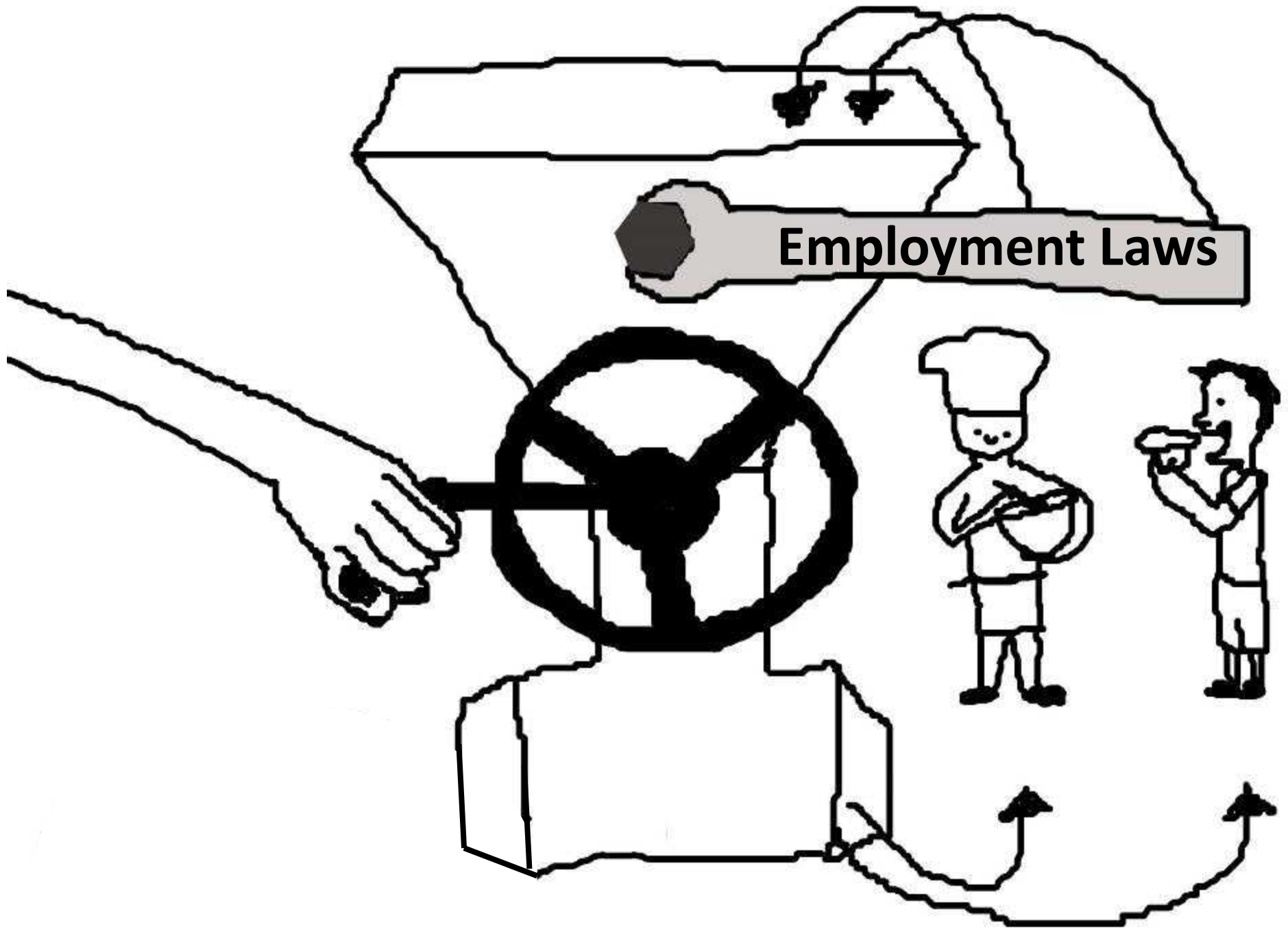




# Food Oasis Cooperative

400 residents of a food desert neighborhood form a cooperative to purchase locally-grown and healthy food.





**Personal**



**Grocery  
shopper**

**Commer**

**Personal**



**Grocery  
shopper**

**Commercial**



**Grocery  
Store**



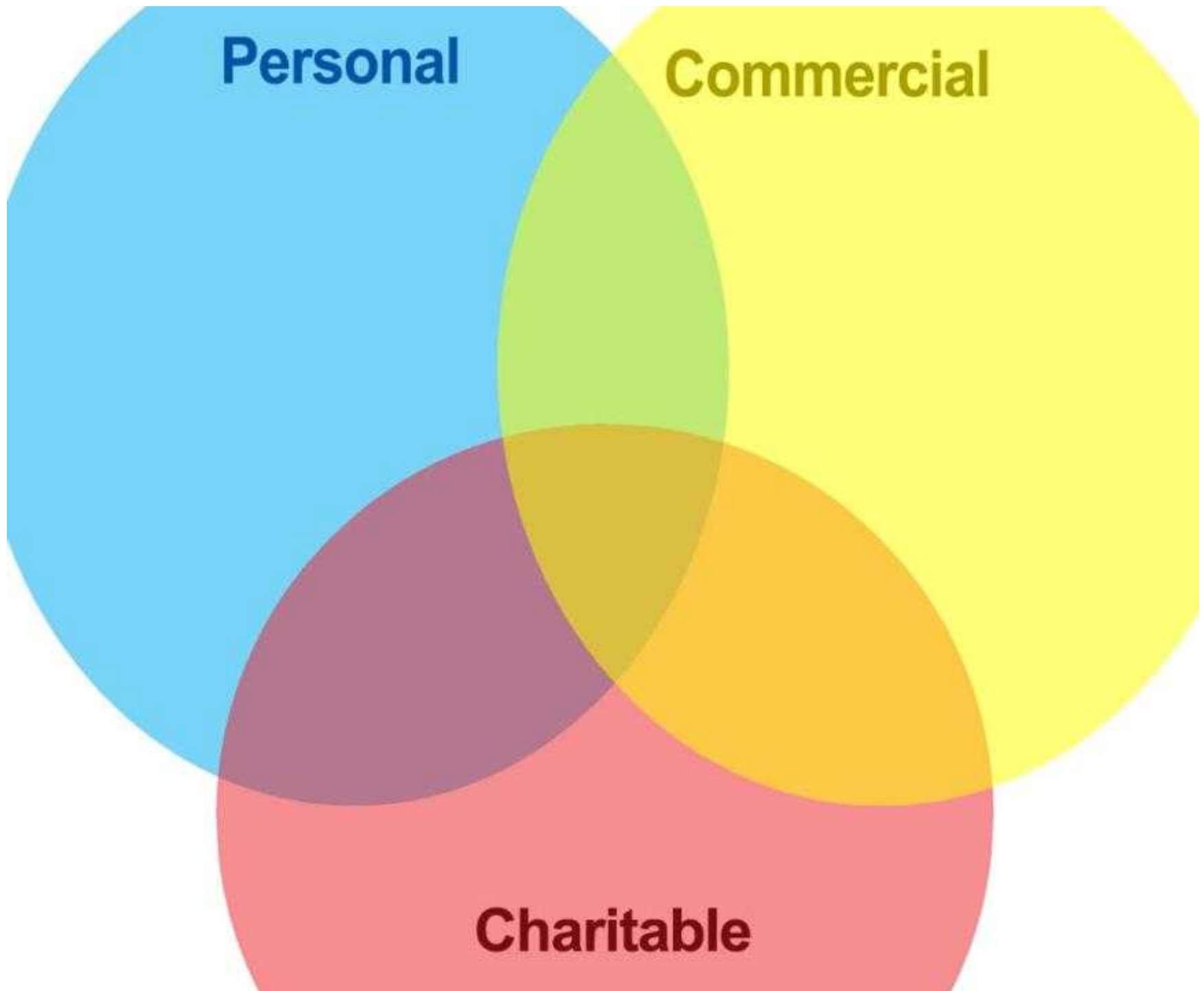
# Employment Laws

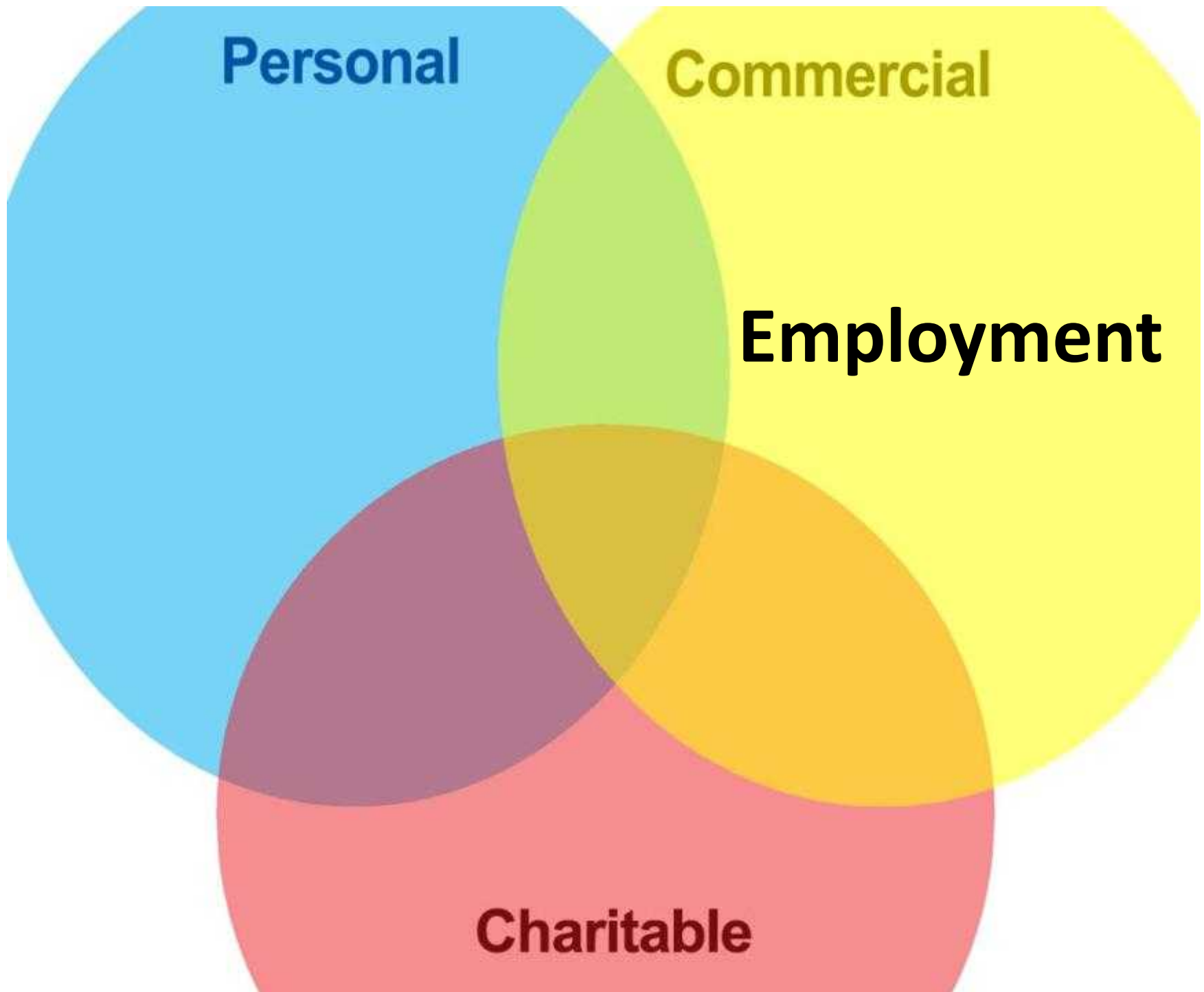


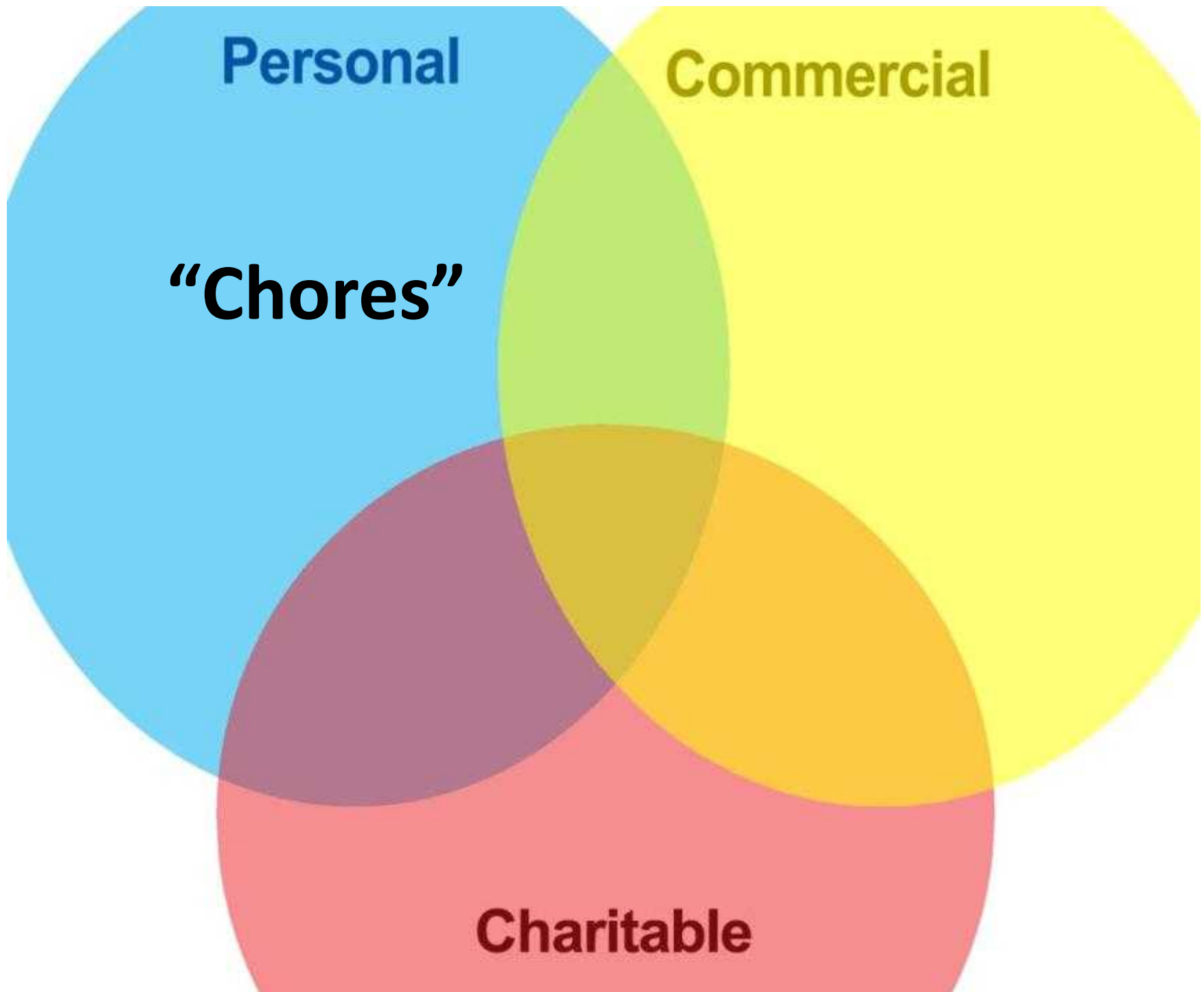
# Are They Employees of Their Own Buying Club ??

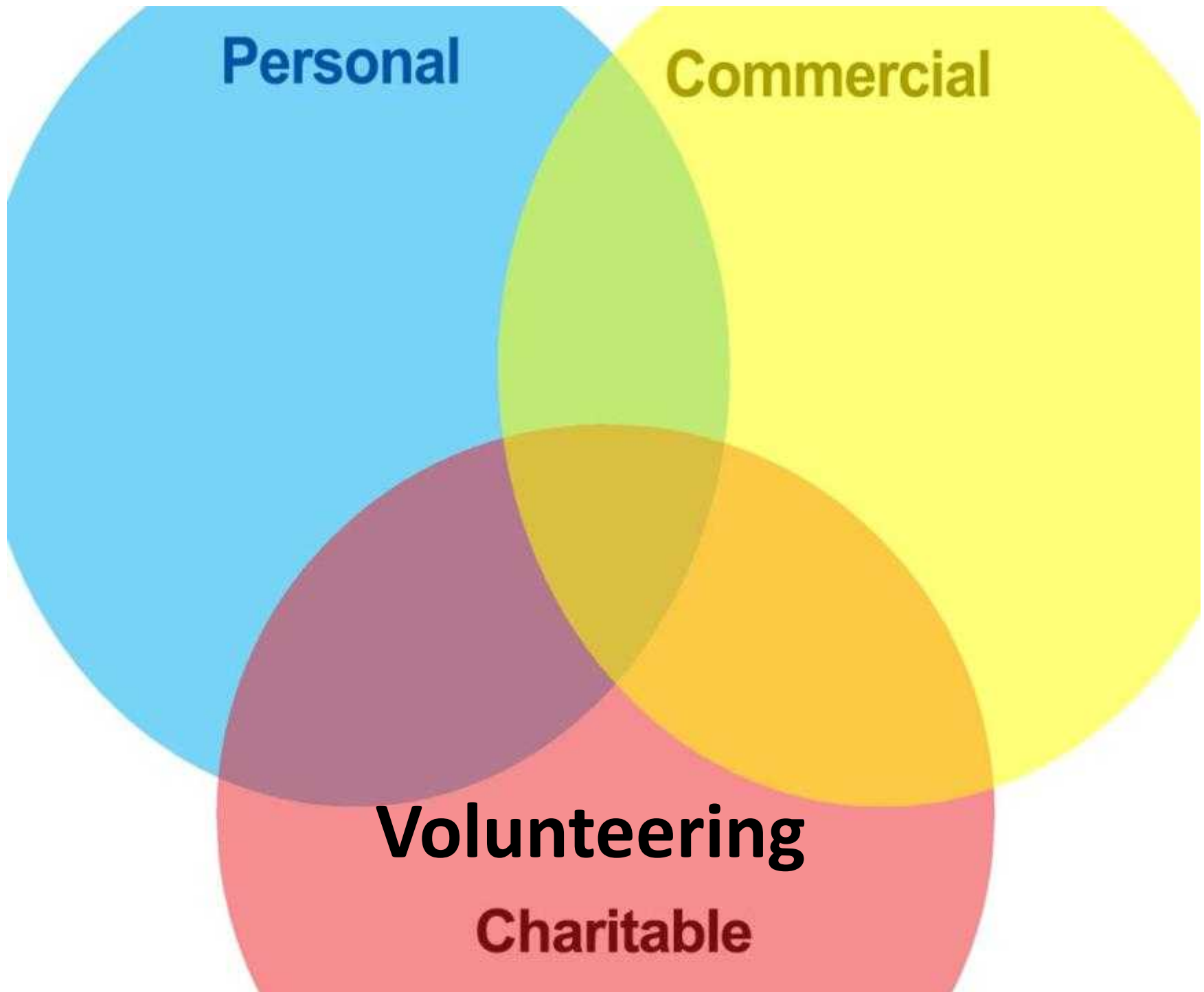












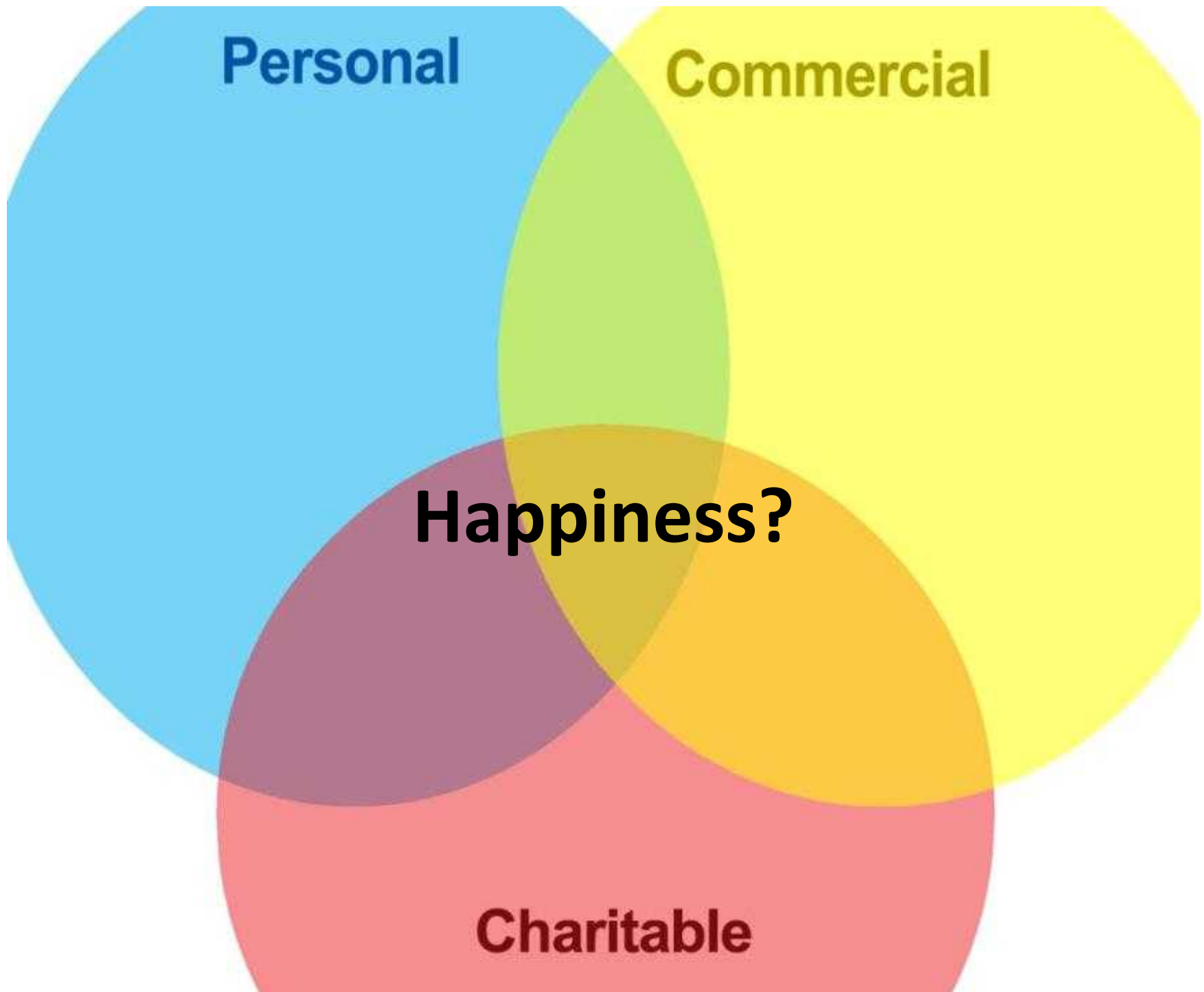


**Personal**

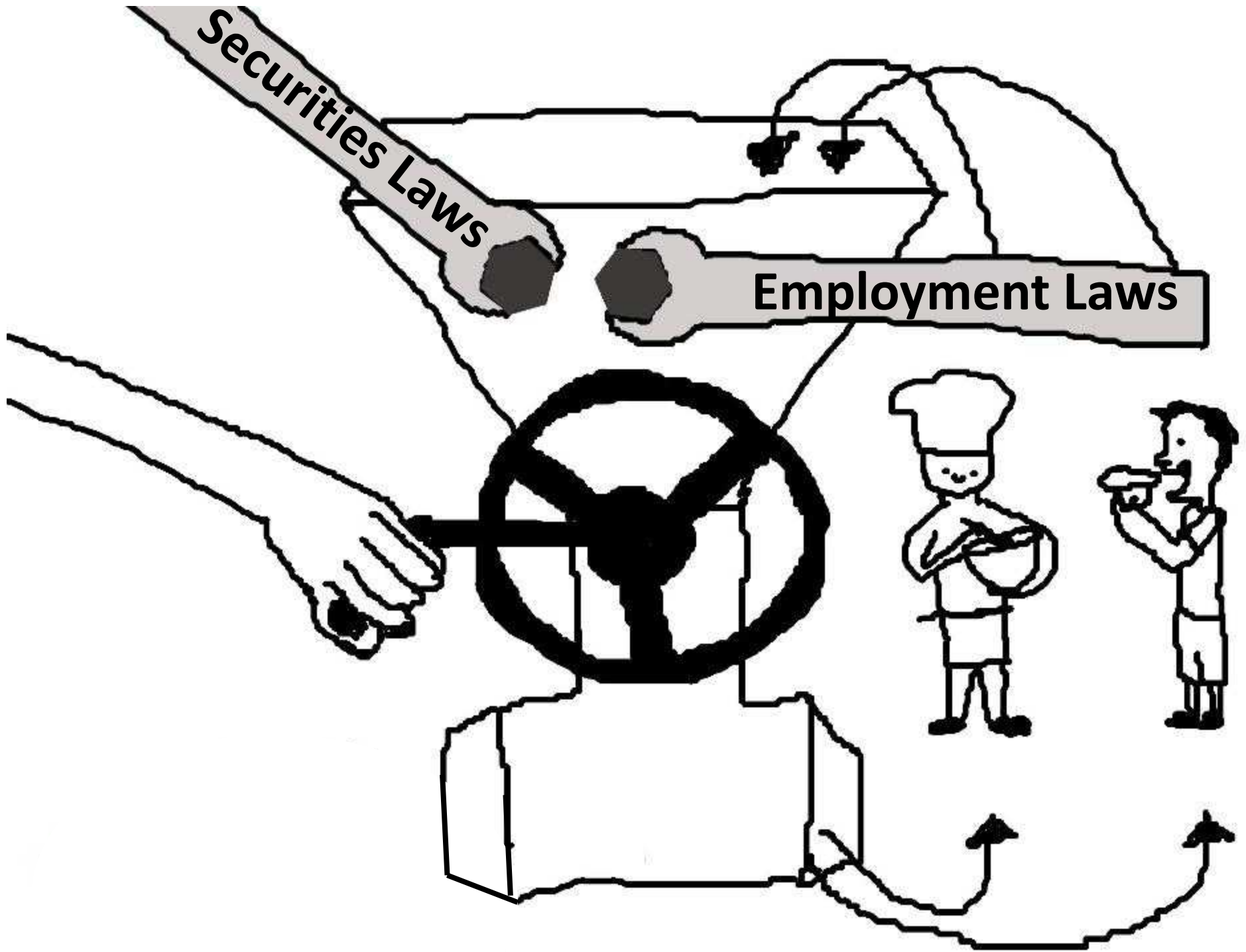
**Commercial**

- **Community Food Co-op**
- **Farm Internships**
- **CSA Volunteers**
- **Worker Cooperatives**
- **Mutual Aid**

**Charitable**









**Buy catfood**

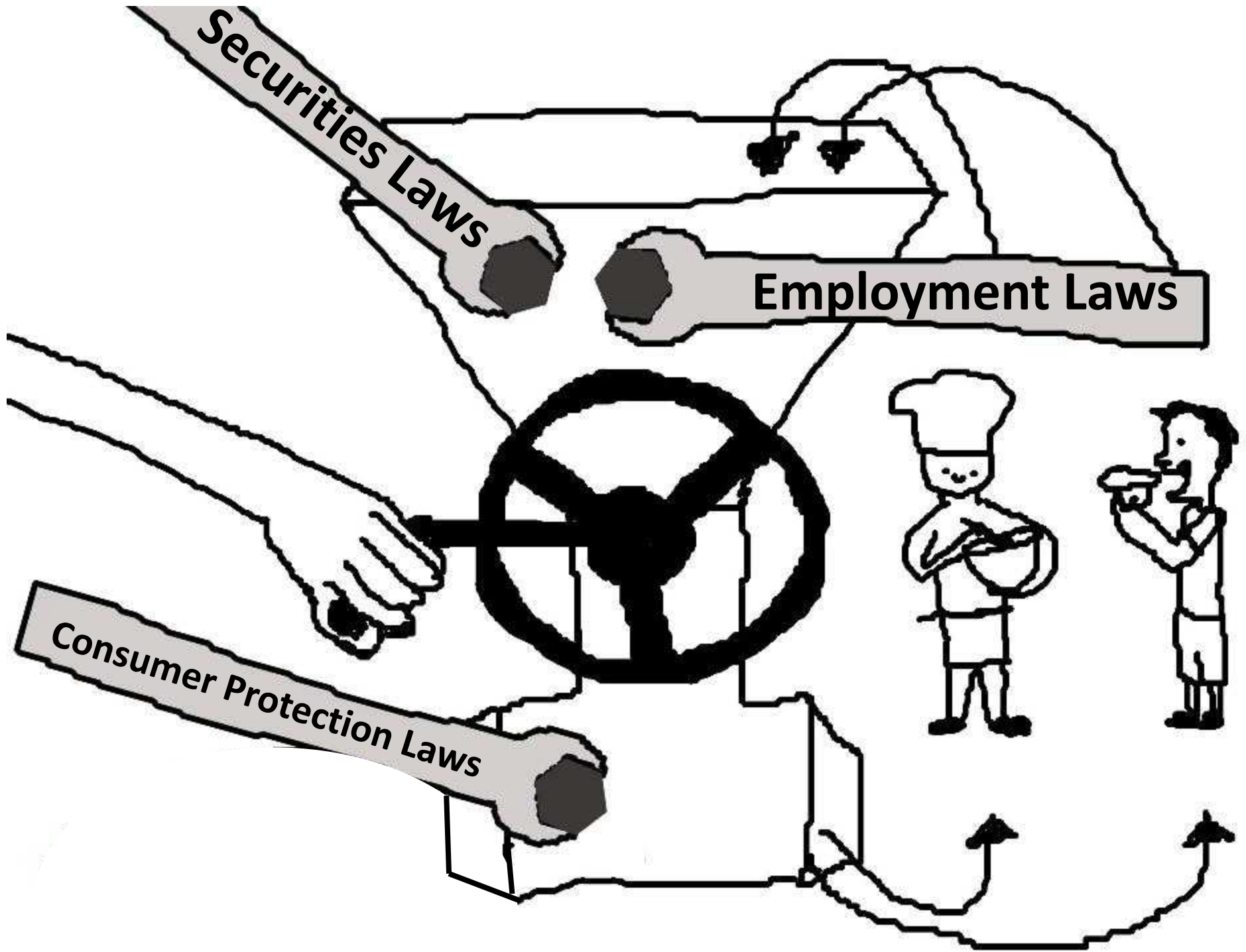


**Buy stock in  
huge company**

**Put in \$1000 to start a  
natural catfood coop with  
30 other cat people**









**Personal**



**Grocery  
shopper**

**Commercial**



**Grocery  
Store**

# Buying Club



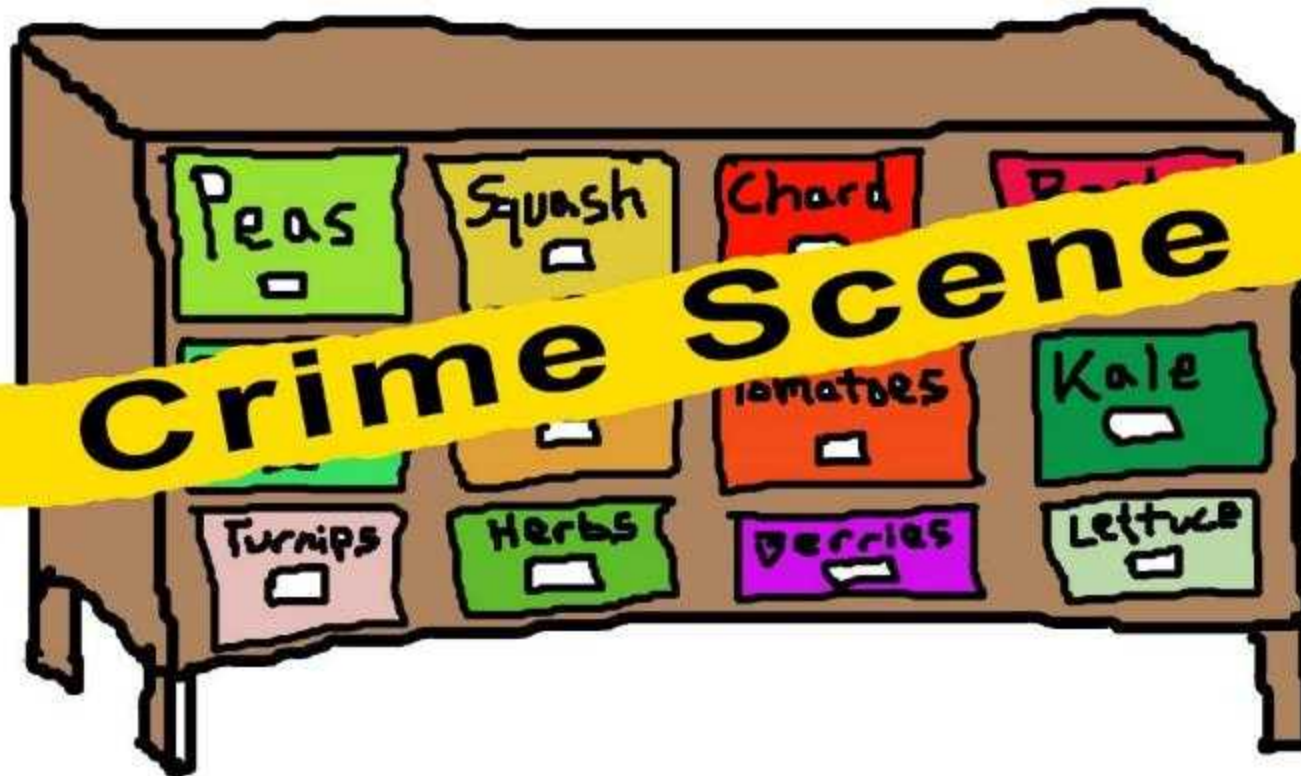
# Seed Library

Free Seeds  
for  
Everyone!





# Seed Library



# SaveSeedSharing.org

## Protect Seed Libraries

To: Directors of all 50 U.S. State Departments of Agriculture



Over 300 nonprofit seed libraries in the U.S. might be regulated out of existence due to misapplication of seed laws by several state departments of agriculture.

I believe seed libraries are key to a more secure and resilient food system. Seed libraries provide free access to seeds, protect the diversity of our food sources, and educate community members about growing food and saving seed.

I support citizens' freedom to share locally saved seed with their neighbors. Laws designed to regulate commercial sales of seed should not be applied to noncommercial donations of seed or to seed libraries.

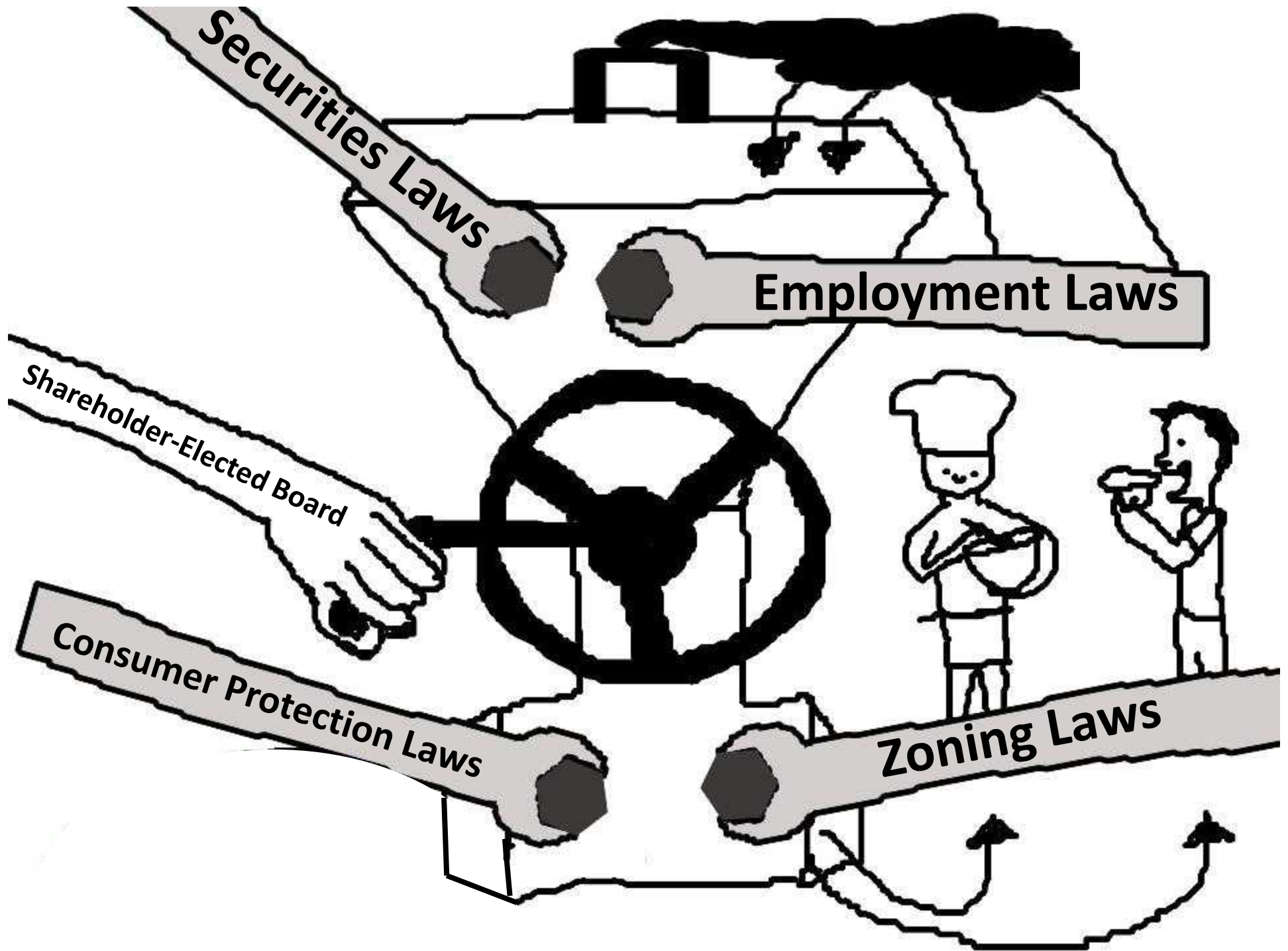
**Sign Now!**

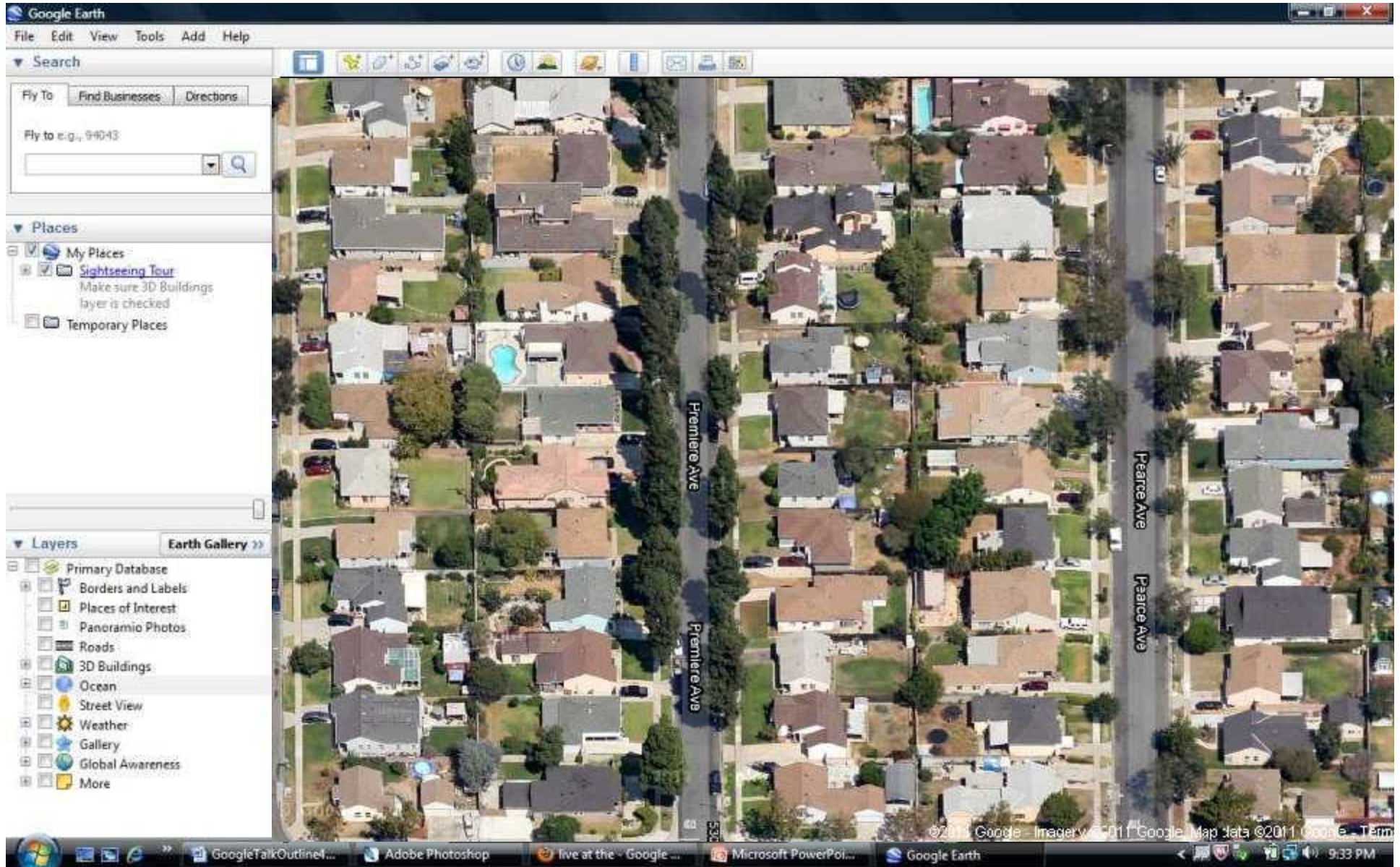
7,710 signatures

### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

After Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture adopted a policy restricting the Simpson Seed Library in Mechanicsburg, PA from sharing locally saved seed, several states have followed suit, threatening the continued existence of seed libraries. Seed laws exist to regulate entities that sell or commercially exchange seeds. A seed library is a noncommercial nonprofit, cooperative, or governmental organization that donates seed and receives donations of seed, especially by encouraging members to learn about seed saving and donate seeds to the library. Donation of seed is not required in a seed library, so the sharing of seeds does not even rise to the level of barter or exchange, let alone sell. Seed libraries are far different in nature and scale than commercial seed companies and need to be appropriately recognized under the law to protect their ability to continue freely sharing seeds in communities across the country.













**Personal**



**Backyard  
Gardener**

**Commercial**

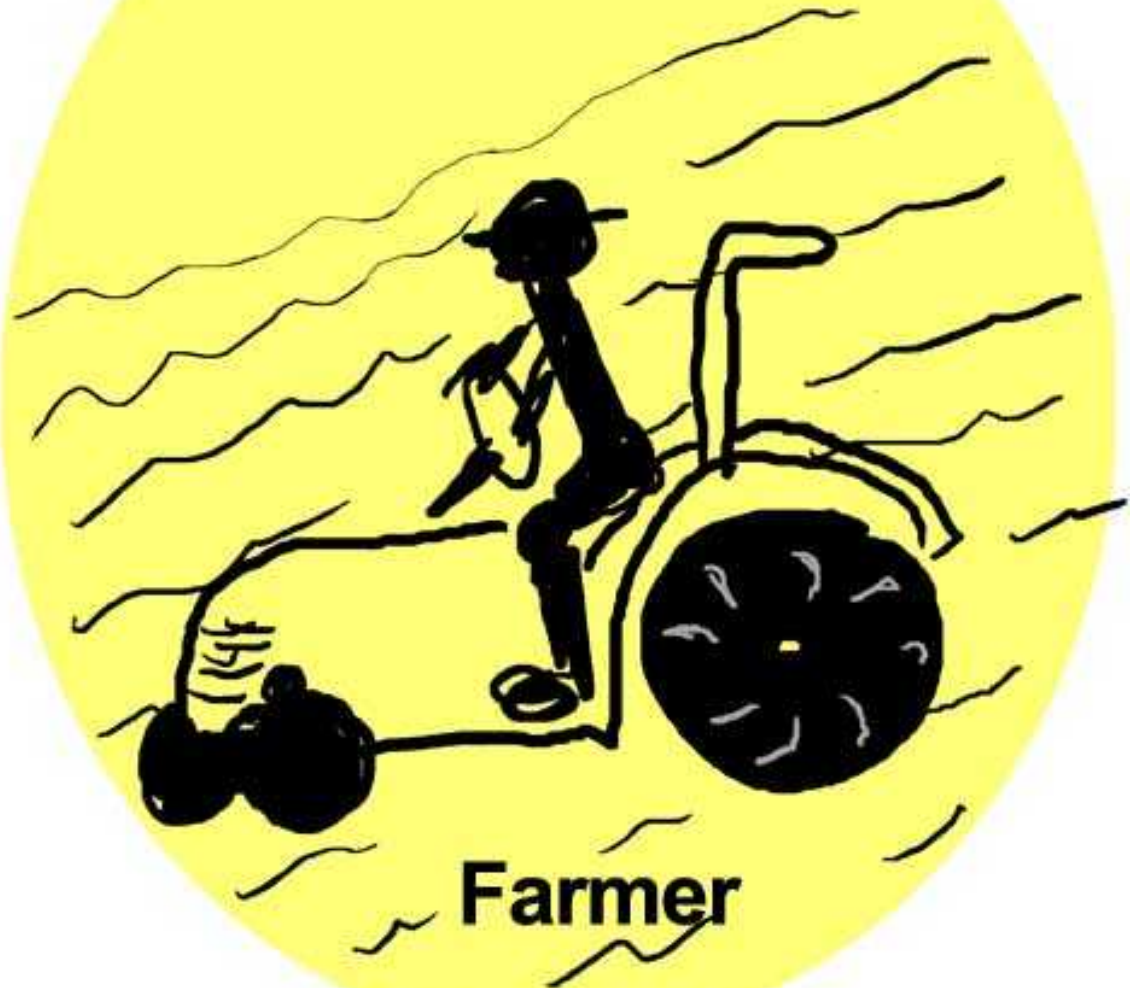


**Personal**



**Backyard  
Gardener**

**Commercial**



**Farmer**

# Someone who grows a LOT of food and shares/sells it





**Food &  
Agriculture  
Laws**



**Zoning  
Laws**



**Employment  
Laws**



**Health &  
Safety Laws**



**Securities  
Laws**





**Food &  
Agriculture  
Laws**



**Zoning  
Laws**



**Employment  
Laws**



**Health &  
Safety Laws**



**Securities  
Laws**





**Food &  
Agriculture  
Laws**



**Zoning  
Laws**



**Employment  
Laws**



**Health &  
Safety Laws**



**Securities  
Laws**

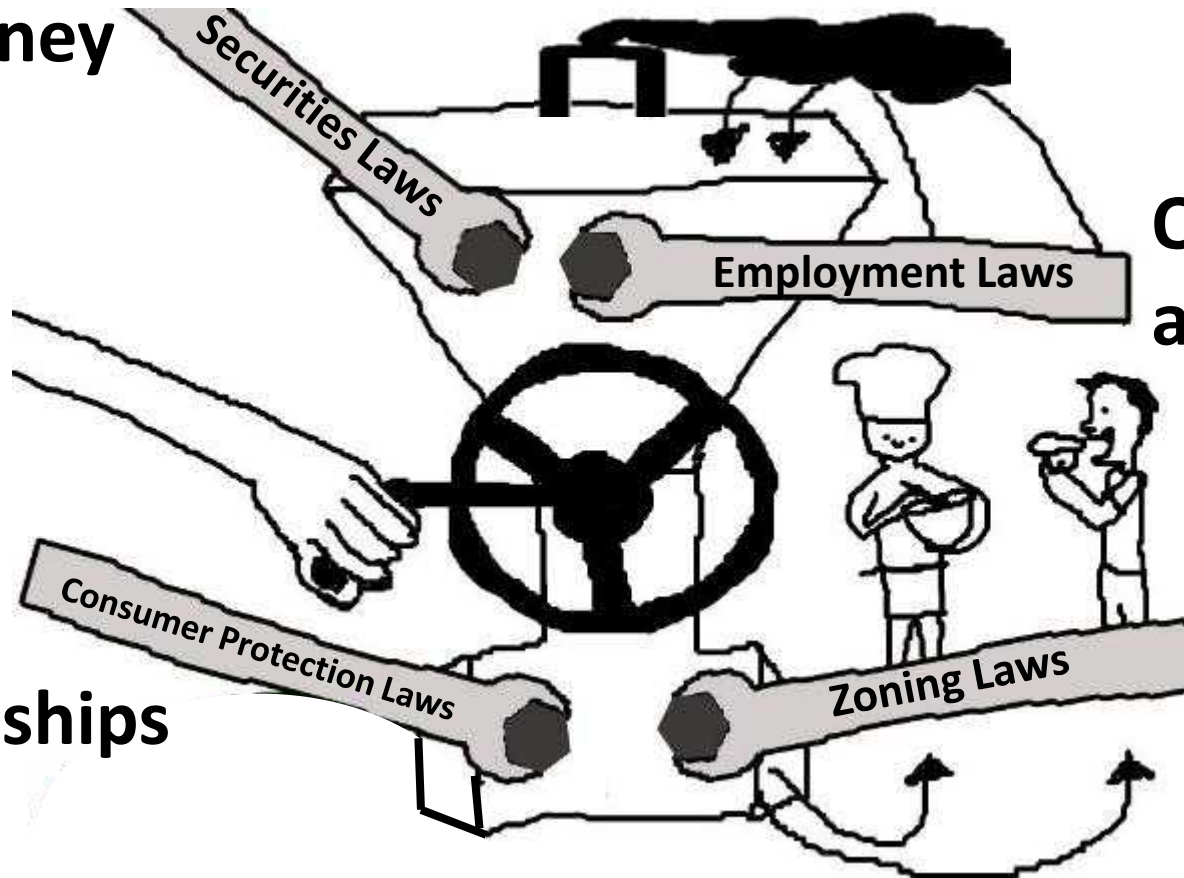




# Regulations have limited how we use:

**Our money**

**Our  
relationships**

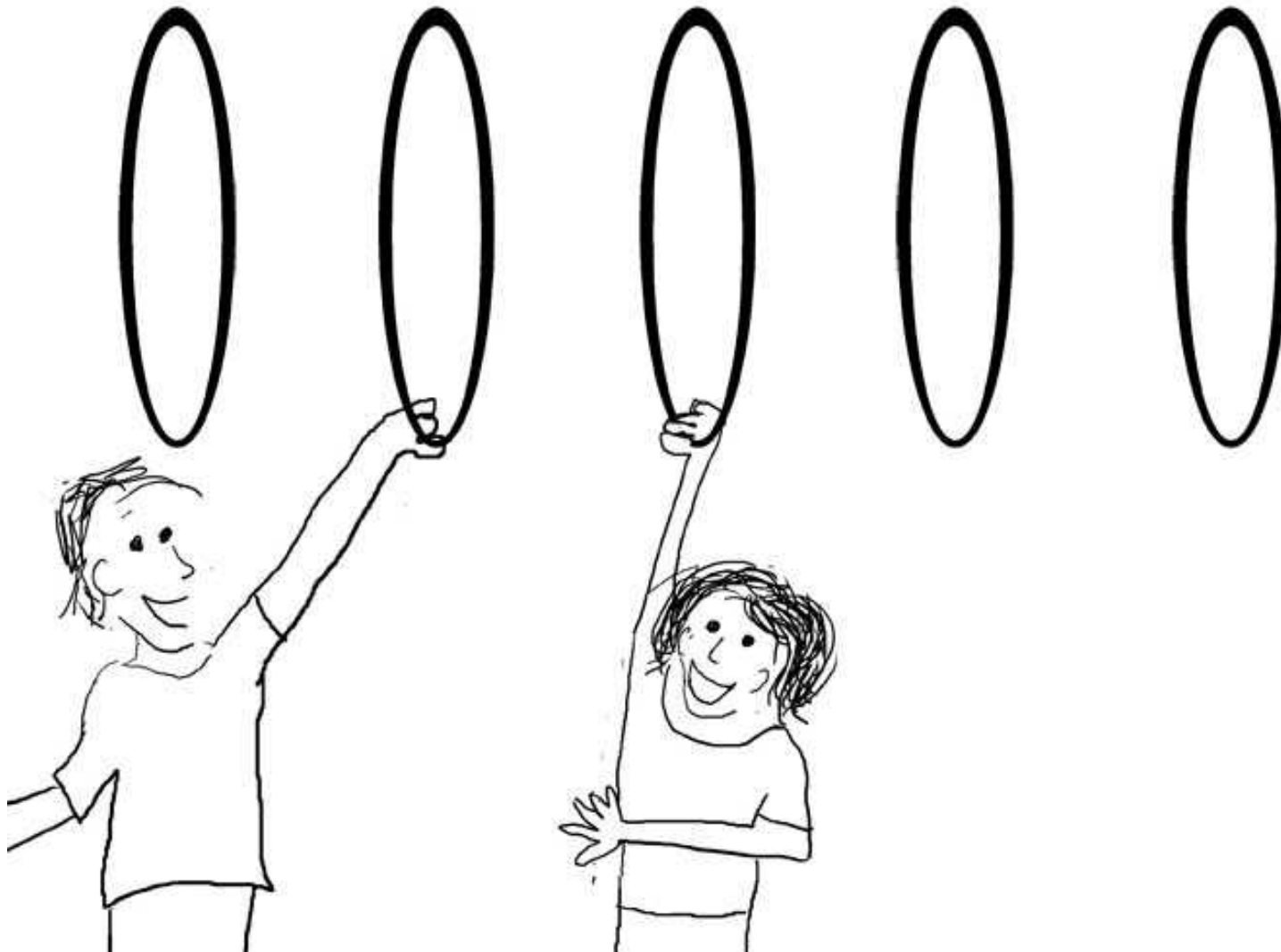


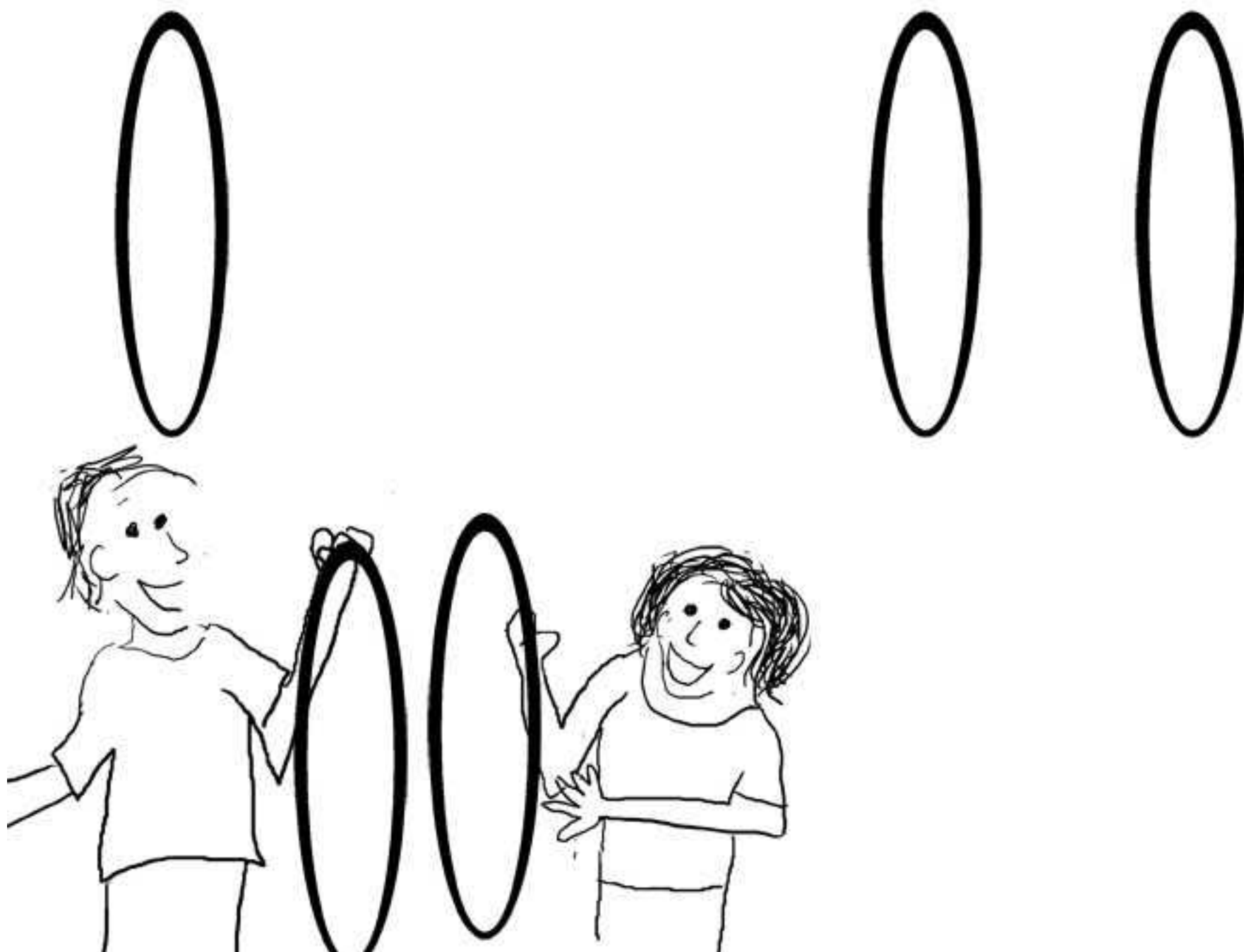
**Our time  
and labor**

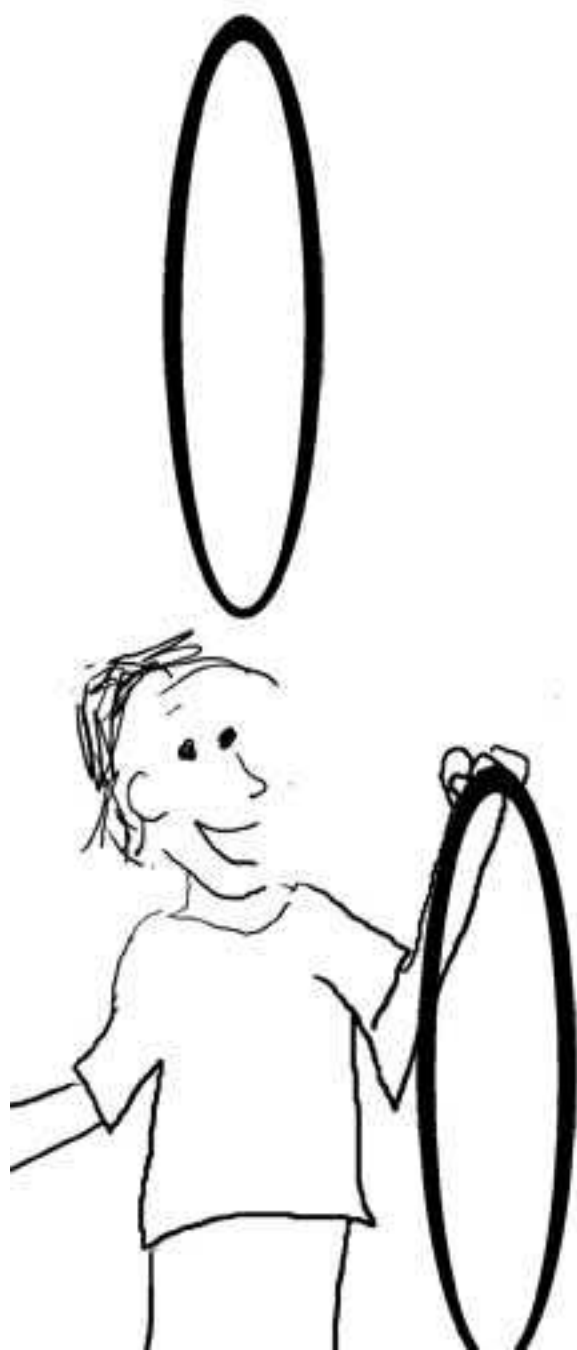
**Our homes and  
neighborhoods**



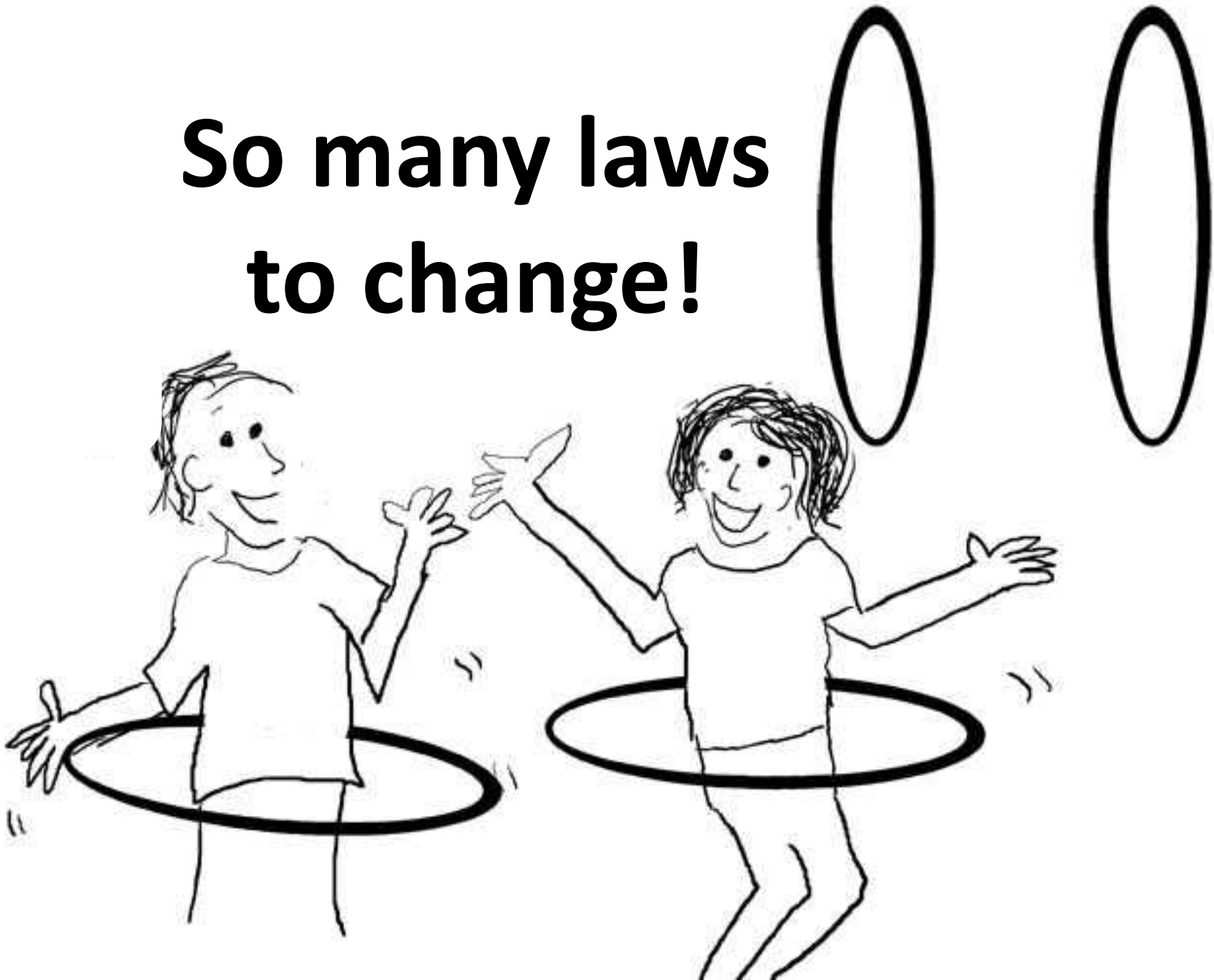
# Sustainable Economies Law Center







**So many laws  
to change!**







Seeking Itsy  
Bitsy Loans





**Sustainable  
Economies  
Law Center**



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Support

## Programs

-  Resilient Communities  
Legal Cafe
-  Food
-  Cooperatives
-  Community Enterprise
-  City Policies
-  Community Currencies
-  Community  
Renewable Energy
-  Rethinking Home
-  Work in the New  
Economy
-  Legal Profession in the  
New Economy

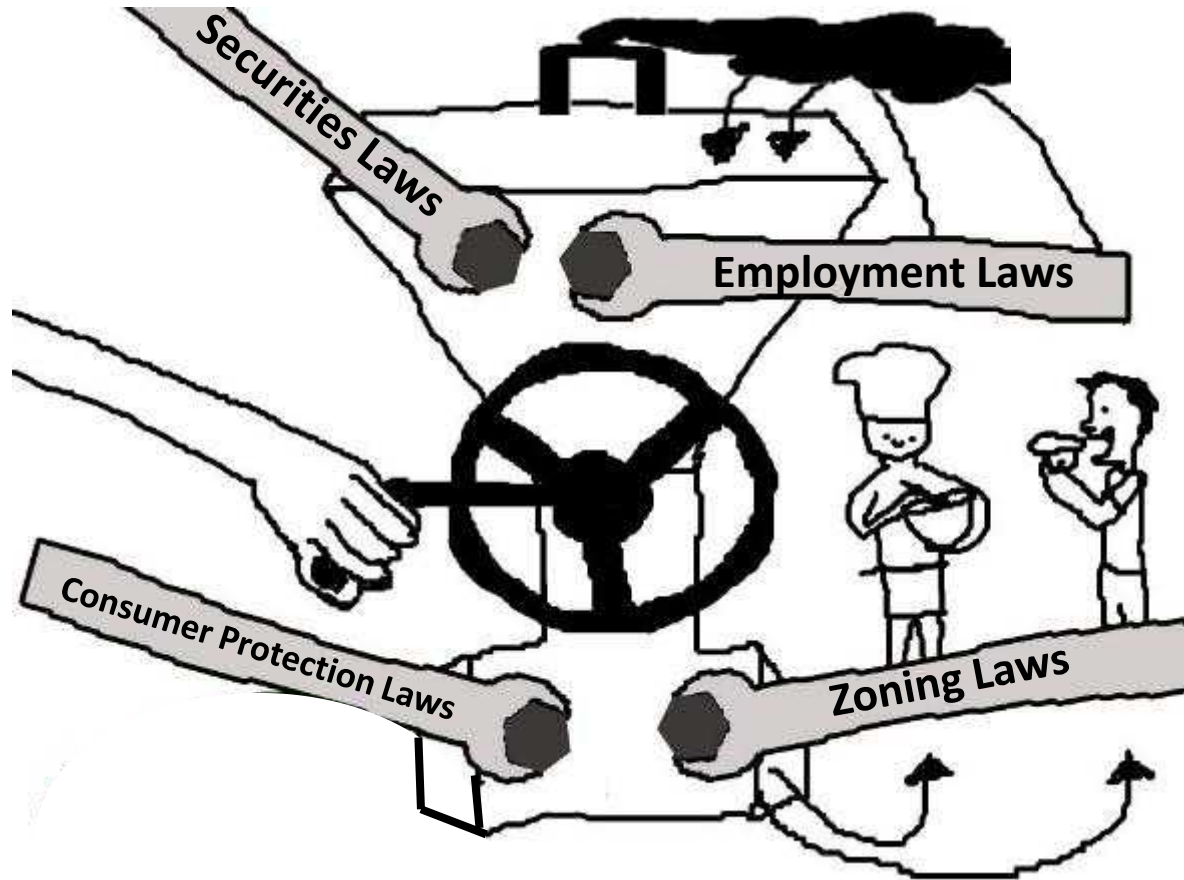


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**At the same time, how can we loosen these bolts without opening the floodgates to extraction?**





This is a **flawed system** and it's dangerous to  
loosen many of the laws.  
Let's try a **new system**.







Board elected by workers, consumers, or both.

Profits distributed to workers on the basis of the value or quantity of their work.

Or to consumers based on value or quantity of purchases.

Or both.

**Some people think  
all cooperatives are this:**





# The 2 things to know about cooperatives:

1. Board elected on a one-member, one-vote basis.

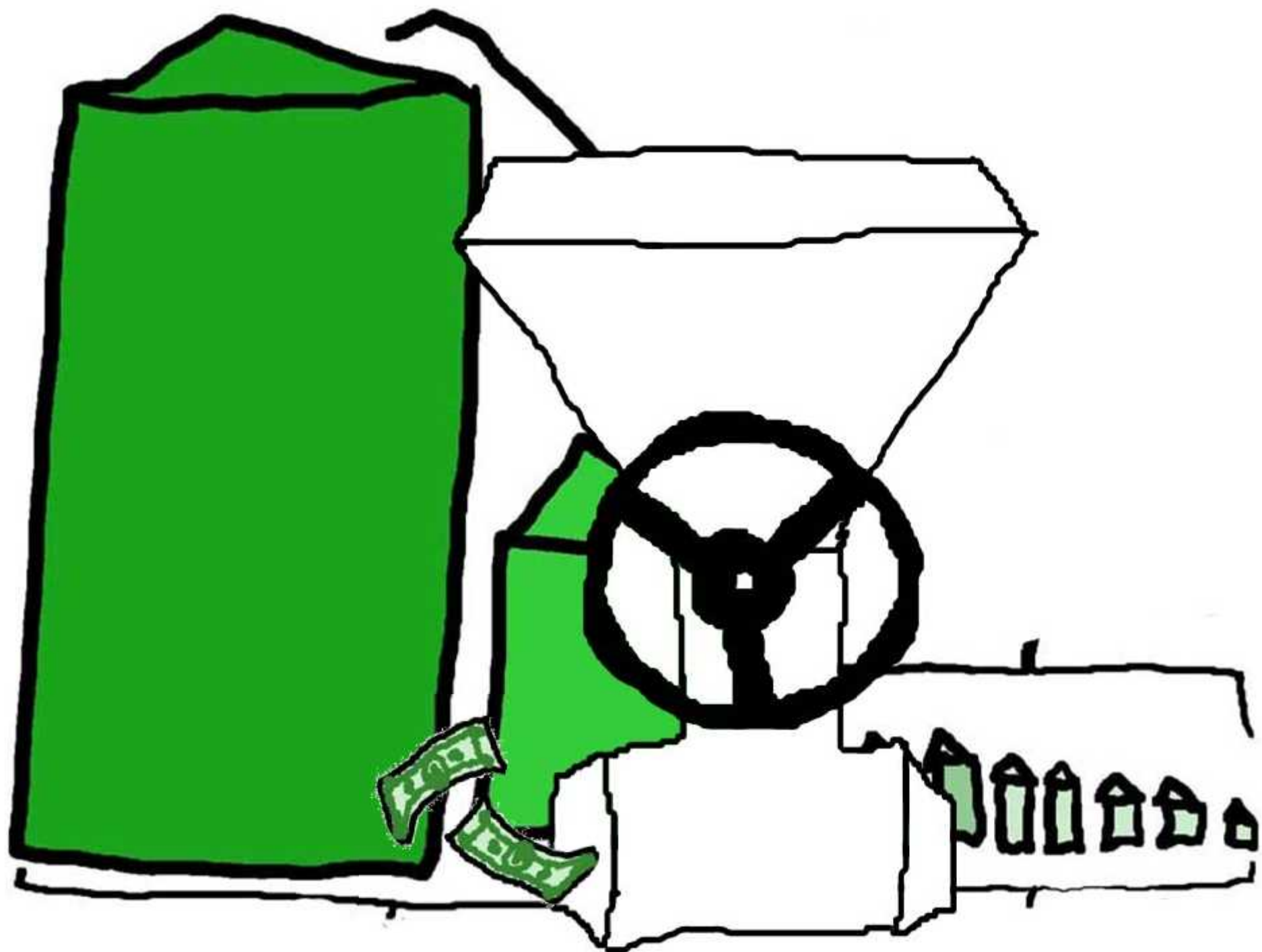
**Capital ownership doesn't determine voting power.**



2. Profits distributed on the basis of patronage.

**Capital ownership doesn't determine profit share.**

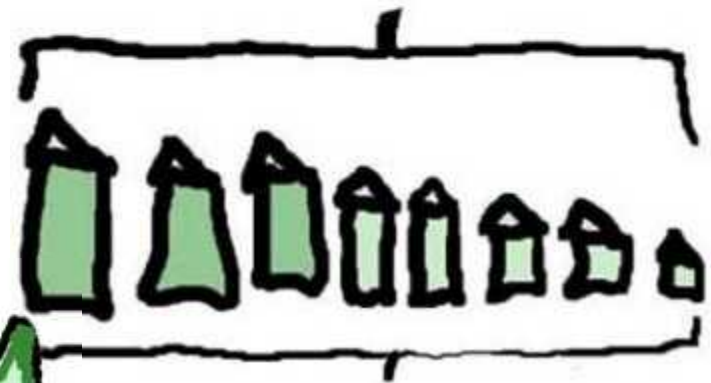






Co-ops will change  
how wealth flows in  
society and multiply  
the wealth for the 80%

**7% of the  
wealth**



**80% of the people**

**This entity is  
designed to  
extract.**

**Extractive!**

**Work**

**Money**

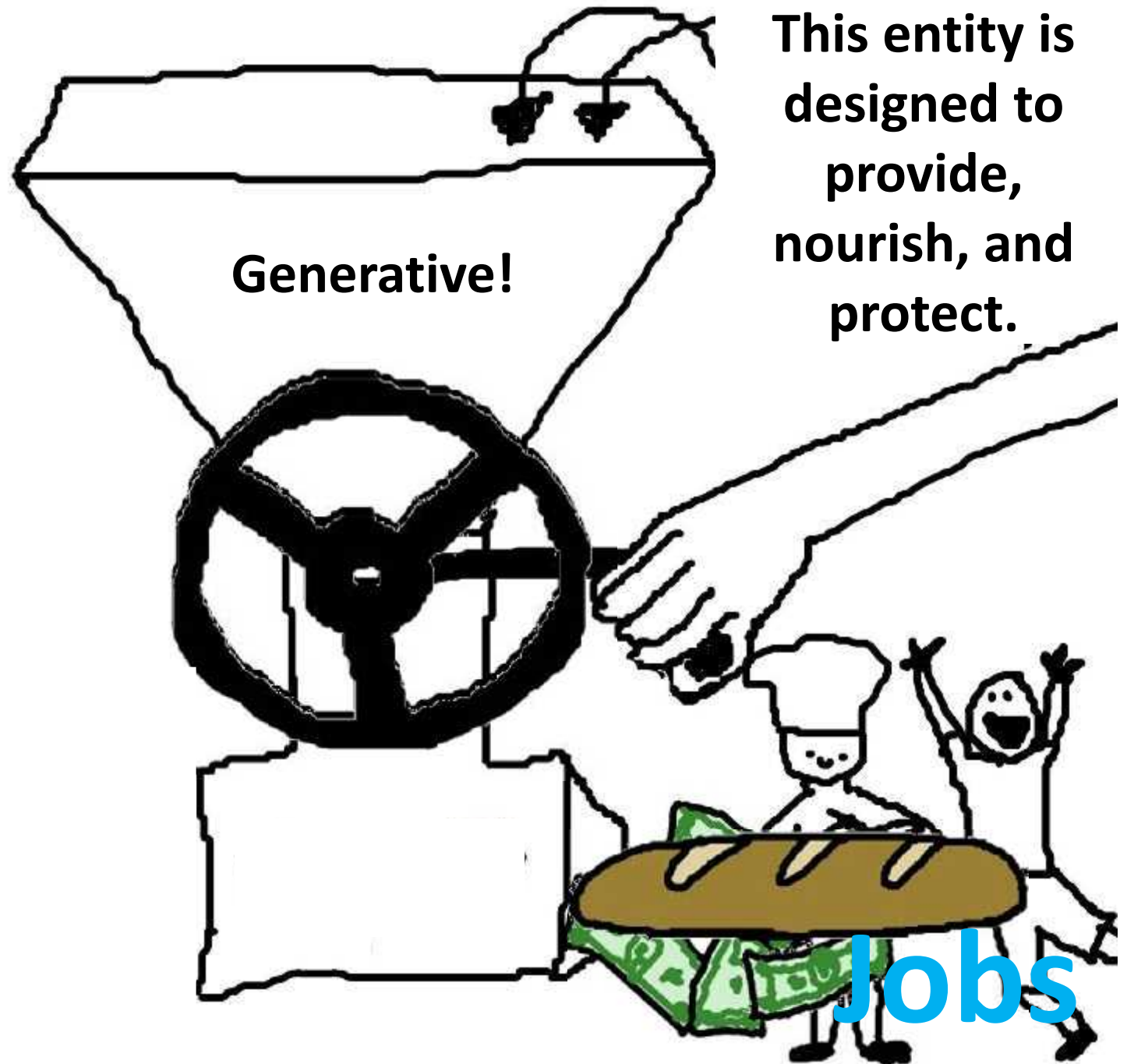
**Shareholder-Elected Board**



**Corporate Shareholders**

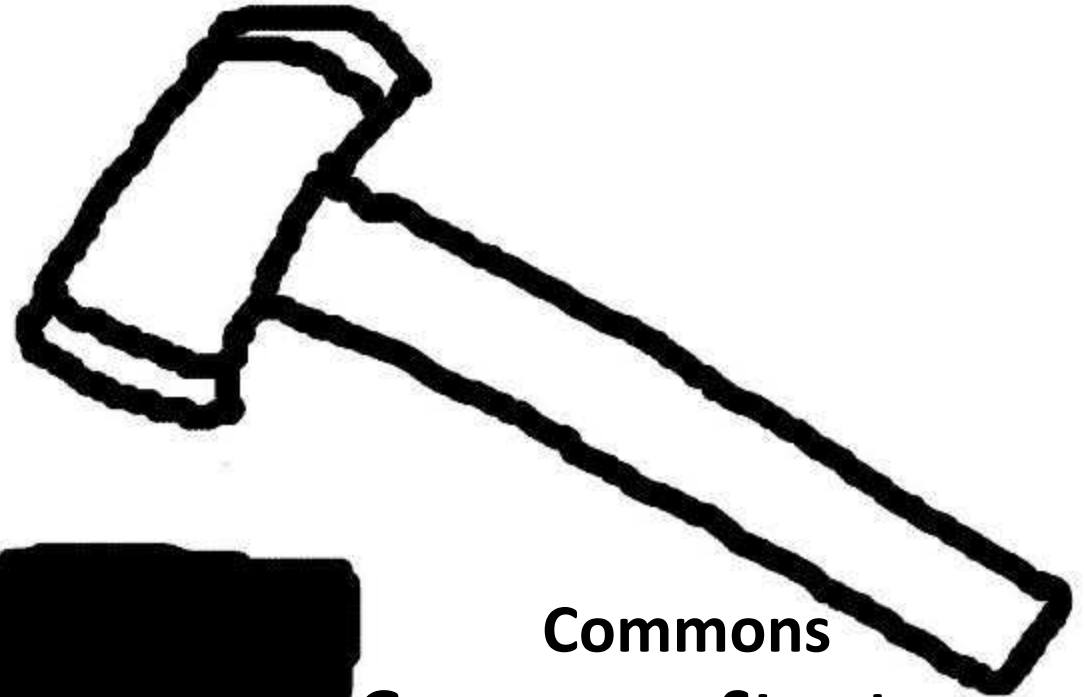






This entity is  
designed to  
provide,  
nourish, and  
protect.

**That's our  
legal wedge!!**



**Market  
Governance Structures**

**Commons  
Governance Structures**

**We need one legal  
regime for  
extractive entities.**

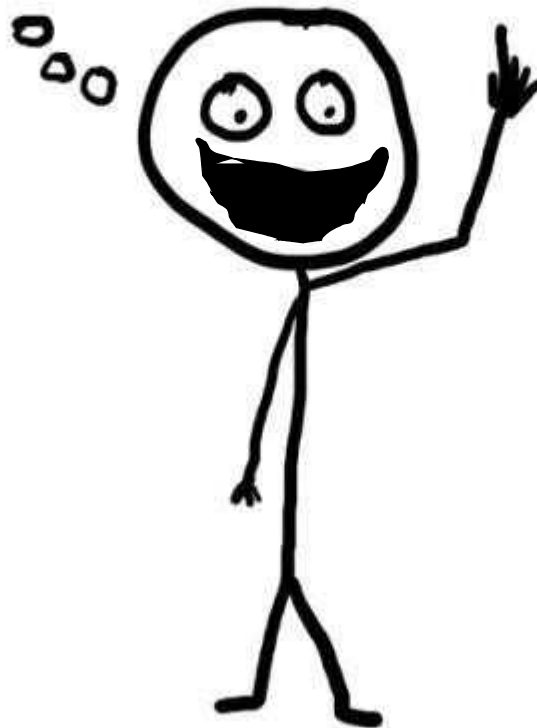
**We need ANOTHER  
legal regime for  
generative entities**

**One moral to the story:**

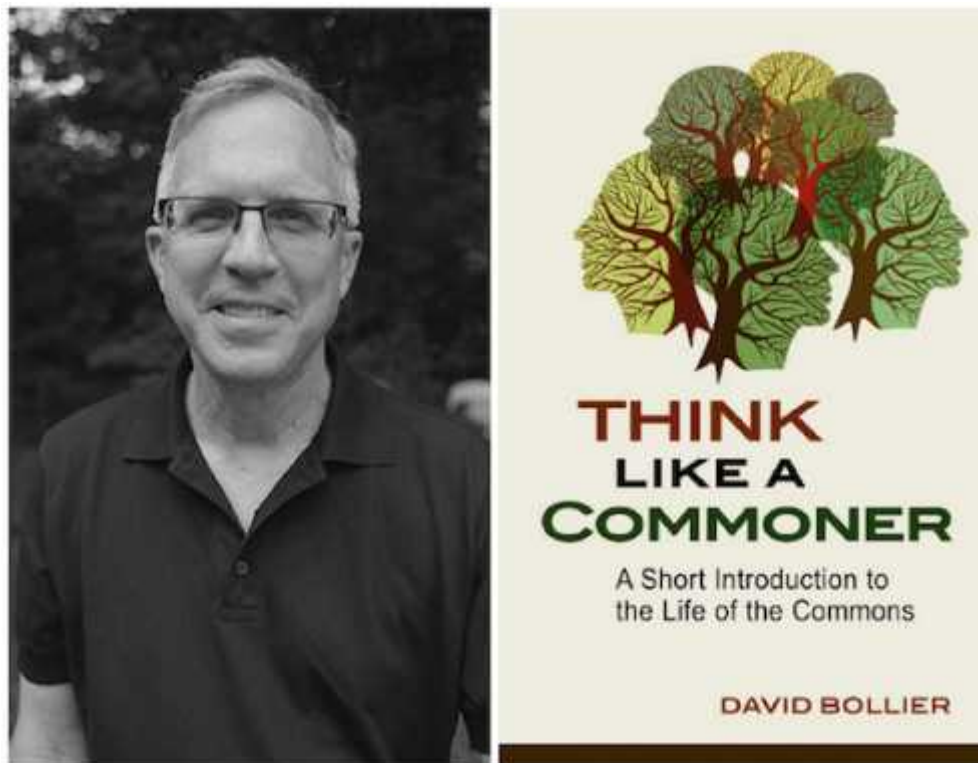
**COOOOOOOOPERATIVES!**

**We can't change  
the economy  
without them.**

**We can't change  
the legal system  
without them.**



“A **commons** may arise whenever a group of people decides that it wishes to **manage a resource in a collective manner**, with a special regard for **equitable access**, use and **long-term stewardship**.” – David Bollier



# Let's create commons all over the place!!

## We'll soon reach this tipping point.





**Of course,  
that's where**

**EVERYONE**

**comes in.**

“We can begin to imagine ourselves as commoners. We can begin to **become protagonists in our lives**, applying our own considerable talents, aspirations and responsibilities to real-life problems. We can begin to **act as if we have inalienable stakes in the world** into which we were born. We can assert the **human right and capacity to participate in managing resources critical to our lives.**” – David Bollier

