For over one hundred years, the United States has recognized that a free-enterprise system must have certain constraints to prevent unfair competition. The Tycoons and Robber-Barons of the late 19th century made it quite evident that monopolies prevent competition, and harm consumers.

Imagine if only expensive, Steakhouse restaurants had unhindered access to, for example, water. Envision a scenario where water was expensive, and their “unhindered” access to water derived from their ability to pay a premium for it. Their ability to pay a premium, of course, derived from their expensive meal prices. In such a scenario, inexpensive burger joints might barely afford enough water to survive as a business; they may loose customers because they can’t provide water with a meal.

If YOU control the price of water and YOU have made it expensive, then YOU have effectively provided an unfair competitive advantage to the Steakhouses over the Burger joints. This is certainly laisse-fair capitalism, but it is also UNFAIR capitalism, which our Nation has long-understood creates monopolies, and does not benefit the Nation as a whole.

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