

## It's Time to Stop Spending Taxpayer Dollars on

### Elon Musk and Cronyism

David Williams //

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Elon Musk, chairman of SolarCity and CEO of Tesla Motors, speaks Oct. 2, 2015, at SolarCity's Inside Energy Summit in New York. Among SolarCity, Tesla, and SpaceX, Elon Musk's interests got at least \$4.9 billion in taxpayer subsidies over the past 10 years. (Photo: Rashid Umar Abbasi/Reuters/Newscom)

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David Williams is president of Taxpayers Protection Alliance, a Washington-based nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that researches, and educates the public about, the government's effects on the economy.

From Enron to Bernie Madoff, at the end of every great American financial scandal, the totality of the perpetrators' greed seems to be matched only by the public's incredulity at how such a thing could be allowed to happen.

And thanks to Elon Musk, there's a good chance we may all be asking this question again soon.

The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have launched a probe into tax incentives paid to solar companies, according to The Wall Street Journal. The committee probes, led by their respective Republican chairmen, Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas and Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, have found an appropriate and disturbing target to begin this work.

SolarCity, a solar installation company set to be purchased by Tesla Motors Inc., is one of the seven companies named in the initial investigation.