

# What does Joni Ernst want to cut?

**Joni Ernst** has her knife out, and what she plans to do with it won't be pretty. Ernst won the Iowa Republican U.S. Senate primary with an ad that bragged about her experience castrating hogs. She says this qualifies her to "cut pork" in Washington. But pork isn't really what she's planning to cut.

Ernst is committed to destroying Social Security, replacing it with "private investment accounts." She supports Paul Ryan's plan to replace Medicare with "vouchers" with which seniors will be expected to buy private insurance. The Ryan plan is designed to *not* keep up with rising healthcare costs. These two proposals would drastically cut the incomes and security of retirees, driving millions into poverty.

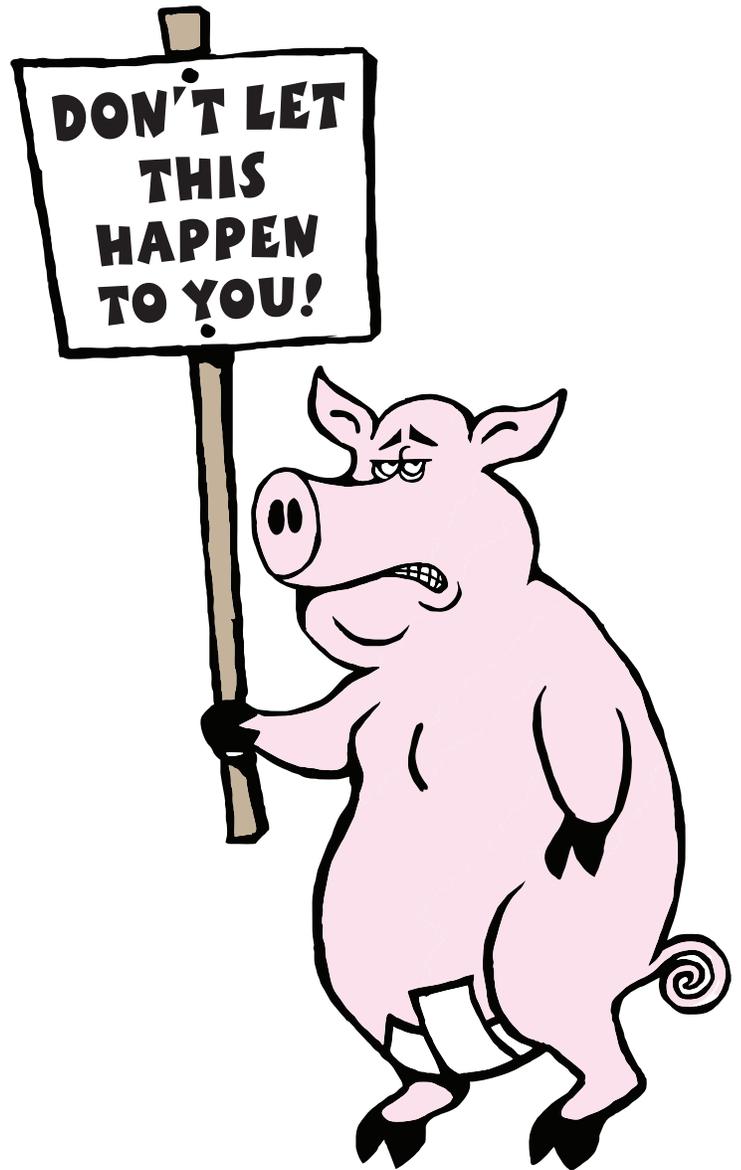
She says she'll vote to repeal the Clean Water Act and to eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency. Apparently Ernst believes we have too much clean water and not enough pollution.

Ernst said in June, "I do not support a federal minimum wage." She wants each state to determine whether it has a minimum wage, and how much it will be. She's against raising the minimum wage in Iowa.

Ernst says she'd eliminate the U.S. Department of Education. That would mean a loss of \$258 million in federal support for Iowa school kids in fiscal year 2015 alone. It would also harm higher education. More than 111,000 Iowa college students received almost \$359 million in Pell Grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education during the last school year.

Who owns Joni Ernst? Who is she working for? At a secretive June 16 California retreat hosted by the Koch Brothers, Ernst thanked her billionaire benefactors, their money and their network of other wealthy far-right donors for lifting her from obscurity as "a little-known state senator from a very rural part of Iowa" to a major candidate for the U.S. Senate. Ernst also receives major financial backing from the Koch-connected Americans for Prosperity, ExxonMobil and other oil companies, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, bankers and Wall Street investment firms.

As a Republican state senator, Ernst has been a reliable backer of Governor Branstad's anti-worker agenda. As a U.S. Senate candidate, she represents corporations and banks that want to pay poverty wages, trample workers' rights, hand Social Security over to Wall Street speculators, and pollute more.



**If Joni Ernst is elected to the U.S. Senate, she'll work for them, not us. We all need to get out and vote on November 4.**

