

AFD Lend Lease 1 Links and Notes

Bernie Sanders Means of Production legislation

<https://twitter.com/GunnelsWarren/status/1133775988586876928>

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), along with Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) introduced two pieces of legislation to help workers around the country form employee-owned businesses. [...] The bill is also co-sponsored by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and was introduced in the House by Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.).

<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2019/05/bernie-sanders-gets-pragmatic-by-getting-more-socialist.html>

<https://www.vox.com/2019/5/29/18643032/bernie-sanders-communist-manifesto-employee-ownership-jobs>

There aren't many details on this plan yet, so it's hard to compare it with much specificity to Elizabeth Warren's plan that mandates 40 percent of corporate board members be elected by workers, or even to Hillary Clinton's 2016 proposal to offer a tax break for profit-sharing payments made by corporations to their workers.

But Sanders's most ardent socialist backers are already comparing it to the fabled Meidner plan, a 1970s initiative in which the social democratic government of Sweden sought to set up "wage earner funds" where workers would pay in payroll taxes and then gradually buy up majority stakes in all Swedish corporations. Eventually, right-leaning parties in Sweden (and the scared Social Democrats who tacked right to win back power) forced the proposal's defeat. That said, a version of the idea has recently been taken up again by party leader Jeremy Corbyn and shadow chancellor John McDonnell in the British Labour Party, sparking hopes that Sanders, Corbyn's American equivalent, will embrace it as well.

In its strongest form, Sanders's plan could amount to a Meidner-esque attempt to achieve real democratic socialism — democratic ownership and control over the means of production. In its weakest form, the plan could be mostly vestigial, a symbolic effort to boost worker power that barely changes material conditions on the ground.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/sep/23/labour-private-sector-employee-ownership-plan-john-mcdonnell>

<https://jacobinmag.com/2018/11/labour-party-inclusive-ownership-funds-corbyn-mcdonnell>

<https://medium.com/@SenSanders/senator-sanders-statement-on-taxing-wall-street-speculation-754046c42558>

<https://medium.com/@SenSanders/senator-bernie-sanders-and-representative-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-s-plan-to-stop-big-banks-and-1817c205587b>

<https://berniesanders.com/a-thurgood-marshall-plan-for-public-education/>

<https://berniesanders.com/issues/revitalizing-rural-america/>