



## What Does Conservative Media Say About Tesla Requests for Special Rules?

“...it is dangerous to allow Tesla to portray itself as a free-market champion, because the company is actually a **prodigious harvester of government favors** and handouts.”

“Tesla and its apologists constantly tout the fact that the company paid off its hefty \$465 million taxpayer-subsidized loan from the Department of Energy early, but they don’t explain why: Had the loan not been paid early, the U.S. Treasury stood to grab a significant portion of the company’s increased stock price by exercising warrants. **Capitalizing on the subsidy-stoked** electric-car mania that pumped its stock to record levels, Tesla issued \$450 million in new stock to pay the loan early and cancel those warrants. The shrewd deal **cost taxpayers** about a billion dollars, leading Scott Woolley to conclude: **“Tesla is worse than Solyndra.”**”

“Tesla has effectively **socialized its costs** through subsidized loans, tax credits, abatements, and regulatory schemes while privatizing its gains by canceling the warrants owned by taxpayers.”

“Every time a Tesla is sold, we witness a transfer of wealth to a rich hobbyist (most Teslas are their owners’ third or fourth car), while average Americans are on the hook for **at least \$30,000 in federal and state subsidies**. Tesla is more a regulatory arbitrageur than an auto manufacturer.”

“Yet the company and Musk are now free-market heroes because they want to disrupt the franchised-dealer system? **Sorry, but no.**”

As Mike Jackson, CEO of AutoNation, the largest U.S. auto-retailing company, aptly put it: “There’s a certain irony here that as Elon Musk complains about government intervention and government protectionism, he **wouldn’t exist without the government.**”

“...nobody should **mistake Tesla** for a friend of the free market.”

Sources: [Tesla and Its Subsidies](#)

Phil Kerpen, National Review 1.26.2015

Source: [Tesla Is No Free Market Champion](#)

John Merline, Investor’s Business Daily 1.26.2015