

# THE

# OPTIMAL

# BUNDLE

THE PENN STATE ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION  
THE OPTIMAL BUNDLE

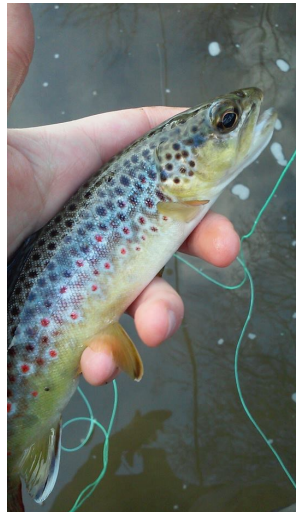
Editor: Bronson Ford  
Contributors: Pete Scharf, Anthony Campano,  
Henry Lin, Matt Winiarski, Nicolas Guerrero

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## Top 1% Catch 99% of Trout

"Pennsylvania is a trout state," says John Arway, executive director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). He certainly has a case; the PFBC recognizes 34,170 miles of Pennsylvania stream as supporting wild trout with more being added every year. In fact, the PFBC was originally formed in 1866 to protect our trout streams from logging and industrial pollution. Through federal and state efforts Pennsylvania trout streams are doing better now than any time in the past 200 years. However, today's trout fishery faces a new threat.



Despite trout populations being on the rise, access to the trout is becoming more and more restricted. 70% percent of PA trout streams are on private property and restricted from fishing. While much of these restrictions are because of streams flowing through people's backyards, farmland, and businesses, large sections on the state's best streams are closed to fishing to anyone but club members. These clubs, like Centre County's Spring Ridge Rod and Gun Club, buy large sections of streamside land and close it to the public. To access these large closed sections of Spruce, Spring, Little Juniata, Yellow and Penns Creeks, one must pay a membership fee of \$75,000 plus thousands in annual dues.

As the clubs buy more land, the common angler is restricted to an ever-dwindling supply of public land. This increases the pressure on fish populations and thus decreases the productivity of fishing on public waters. While the nation's wealthiest enjoy the opportunity to fish for trout in solitude, local fishermen and environmentalists are disgusted that they are barred from enjoying the area's best trout water because they are not wealthy enough. — PS  
Sources: [bit.ly/2mNCSE2](http://bit.ly/2mNCSE2), [nyti.ms/2n7kNo6](http://nyti.ms/2n7kNo6), [bit.ly/2mNylm5](http://bit.ly/2mNylm5)

## Mutti Meets The Donald

This past Friday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washing-



ton. Given that the two lead some of the largest economies in the world, the meeting was seen as quite important. Although their talks were met with quick criticism by political pundits, both sides said the talk was beneficial. "Not warm, but not distant," stated progressive German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, on Saturday. Donald Trump, on the other hand, took to Twitter to address the negative reviews of the meeting. He tweeted, "Despite what you have heard from the FAKE NEWS, I had a GREAT meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Nevertheless Germany owes vast sums of money to NATO & the United States must be paid more for the powerful, and very expensive, defense it provides to Germany!" Over the long-term, the meeting will hopefully ease tensions between the U.S. and many European allies, who view America's new sense of nationalism as a threat to relations. — AC

Sources: [nyti.ms/2nXmD8J](http://nyti.ms/2nXmD8J)

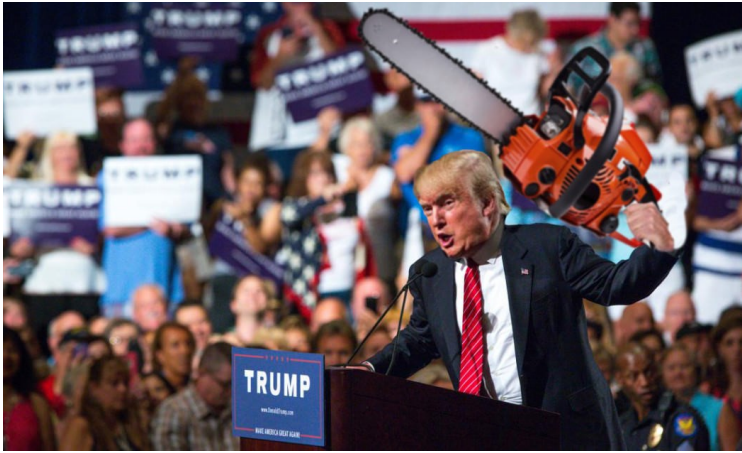
## Announcements

- Read campaign platforms for Executive Board candidates running in today's election on [optimalbundle.org](http://optimalbundle.org) at [bit.ly/2ntueiA](http://bit.ly/2ntueiA)

## Washington Budget Cut Massacre

**OP-ED** President Trump's recently unveiled federal budget for the coming fiscal year will drastically alter the United States government. Most notably, the new budget plans to increase military spending by \$54 billion annually, and to compensate for that increase, funding for dozens of agencies will be significantly reduced.

The first of these substantial cuts impacts the Environmental Protection Agency, which would lose approximately 3,200 jobs and impactful environmental programs they had been running. The Clean Power Plan, which was made to reduce each state's carbon emissions, would be defunded completely if this budget were to go through.



Teachers would also feel the burden of this increase in defense spending because \$2.4 billion meant for teacher retention and evaluation will be gone, as well as another \$1.2 billion in support for after-school and summer programs. Without this funding, many teachers will try to find new or additional jobs outside of school, and students may have nowhere to go after school or over the summer. This would leave millions of working parents in sticky situations, as they would have to either find and spend additional money on childcare, or worry about where their child will end up during the day.

If a disaster were to strike after this budget passes, there will be miniscule relief funds on which impacted states could rely. The budget plans to cut \$667 million from FEMA, which will come from the "pre-disaster mitigation grants," that help to save millions and get recovery supplies to disaster areas. For example, if another hurricane like Katrina were to strike, a quick recovery would be hindered by a lack of funding to pay for cleanup costs.

The newly proposed budget and its drive towards national security does have some beneficial effects, but the negative consequences it will cause far outweigh these. The sudden "need" to substantially increase military spending, especially during peacetime, is unnecessary and, frankly, wasteful. — MW Sources: [on.wsj.com/2mwdR10](https://www.wsj.com/2mwdR10)

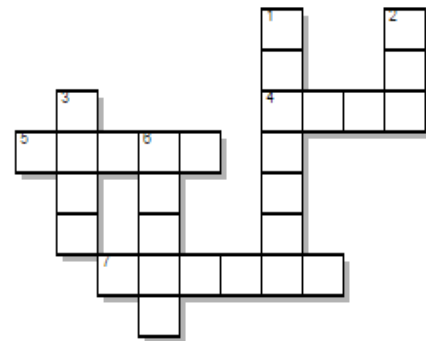
## Let Them Eat Chips

The world's largest contract chip manufacturer is considering to build a plant in the United States. TSMC, the Taiwanese manufacturer behind Nvidia and Apple chips, is divided over whether or not to build the plant, but believes that a final decision come within the next year. The company feels that that the biggest issue with building the plant in the U.S. would mean difficulty in supporting it if it encounters problems, as they could not deploy workers to resolve potential issues like the company can with its plants in Taiwan.

This follows rumors that TSMC seeks to purchase Toshiba's semiconductor business. In an industry that faces rapid microeconomic business cycles, mergers may result in increased savings and lower prices with economies of scale. Those factors are also accompanied by isolationist and economically burdensome foreign trade policies that may arise with the current presidency and that 65% of the business comes from the United States.

It is uncertain as to how many jobs would remain in the U.S. over the long term should the plant be built, although semiconductor manufacturing is largely automated and needs very little manpower. However, TSMC's uncertain decision reflects both the challenges of technology production and isolationist trade policy. — HL Sources: [bit.ly/2nLKEjY](https://bit.ly/2nLKEjY)

## Word Up



### ACROSS

- 4 This agency will have its funding cut by 11% under President Trump's budget proposal.
- 5 This is one nickname for German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
- 7 Although he wants to produce more guns, President Trump likely eats a diet rich in \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

- 1 This agency will have its funding increased by 10% under President Trump's budget proposal.
- 2 This agency will have its funding cut by 31% under President Trump's budget proposal.
- 3 Simply summarized, President Trump wants to produce \_\_\_\_\_ instead of butter.
- 6 Pete catches 99% of all of this type of fish in Centre County.