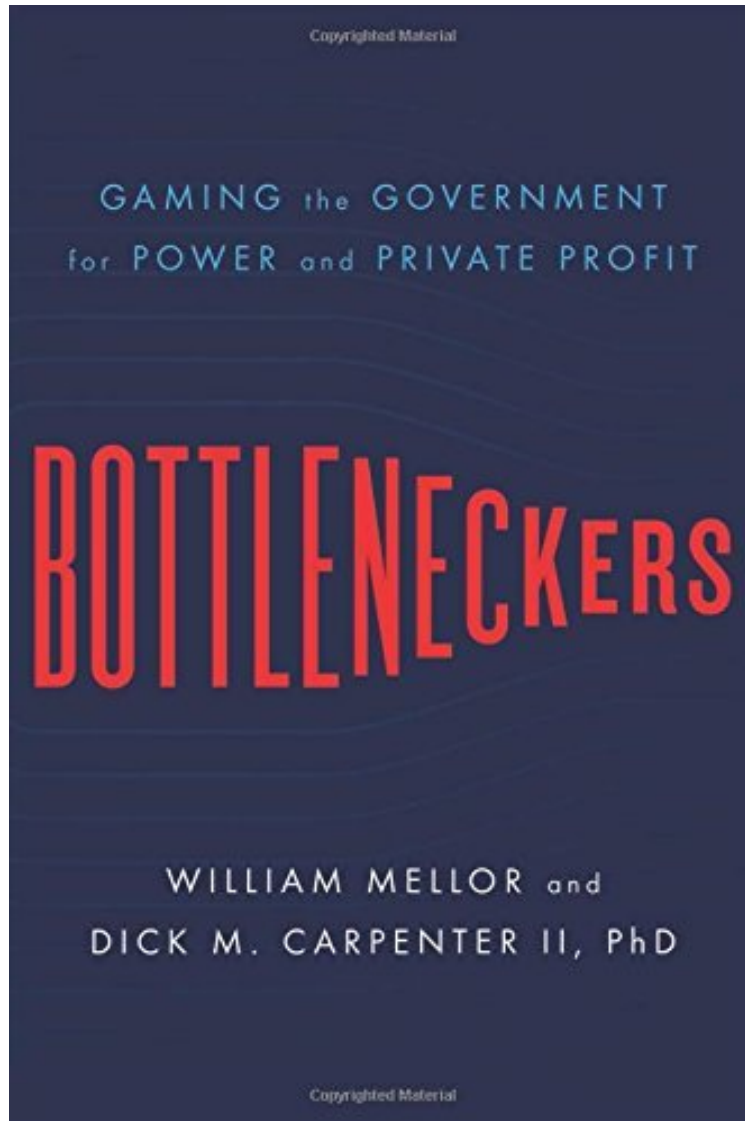


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Bottleneckers: Gaming the Government for Power and Private Profit

William Mellor, Dick M. Carpenter II
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Harm of Governmental Licensing By George C. Leef I have been following the work of the Institute for Justice for many years and this book sums up the group's reason for existence -- to oppose the misuse of government power to keep people from competing with entrenched interest groups. The many cases the authors discuss are very enlightening. One of the points I wish they'd emphasized more is that the politicians who often assist the "bottlenecks" in keeping out competition are often ones who loudly proclaim that they're so concerned about helping "the little guy." Taking campaign cash from interest groups that impede entrepreneurship and upward mobility for poor people is actually far more important to them. You will cringe at the nasty tactics often employed by the monopolists and their political allies. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. America in economic decline By Dave Pechan Commentary on the sad state of free enterprise in a declining capitalist state.

Bottleneck (n): a person who advocates for the creation or perpetuation of government regulation, particularly an occupational license, to restrict entry into his or her occupation, thereby accruing an economic advantage without providing a benefit to consumers. The Left, Right, and Center all hate them: powerful special interests that use government power for their own private benefit. In an era when the Left hates "fat cats" and the Right despises "crony capitalists," now there is an artful and memorable one-word pejorative they can both get behind: bottleneckers. A "bottleneck" is anyone who uses government power to limit competition and thereby reap monopoly profits and other benefits. Bottleneckers work with politicians to constrict competition, entrepreneurial innovation, and opportunity. They thereby limit consumer choice; drive up consumer prices; and they support politicians who willingly overstep the constitutional limits of their powers to create, maintain, and expand these anticompetitive bottlenecks. The Institute for Justice's new book *Bottleneckers* coins a new word in the American lexicon, and provides a rich history and well-researched examples of bottleneckers in one occupation after another—from alcohol distributors to taxicab cartels—pointing the way to positive reforms.