

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2573
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Speeches Talking Points (PCSD) [President's Council on Sustainable Development]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	5	5	1

TALKING POINTS ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OCTOBER 18, 1993

· I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING OUR NATION'S COMMUNITIES IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.

· THAT COMMITMENT IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE HIGH PRIORITY THAT WE PLACE ON "REINVENTING" THE WAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPROACHES THE PROBLEMS FACING OUR COMMUNITIES. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO CHAIR THE PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE BOARD.

· THE BOARD HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF DETERMINING HOW WE CAN COORDINATE ACROSS ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES ALL OF THE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES.

· IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE BEST WAY TO HELP DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IS THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED, AND INTEGRATED APPROACH.

- OUR APPROACH COMBINES BOTTOM-UP INITIATIVES AND PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATIONS WITH RESPONSIVE SUPPORT FROM STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

- THIS INTEGRATED APPROACH IS IMPERATIVE. OUR COMMUNITIES ARE FACING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES. BUT WE CANNOT EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS ONE AT A TIME. WE CANNOT FOCUS UPON ONLY JOB CREATION, OR FIGHTING CRIME, OR CLEANING UP OLD CONTAMINATED SITES. WE MUST MERGE OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IF WE ARE TO MAKE LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES TRULY SUSTAINABLE OVER THE LONG TERM.

- THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES BOARD IS VERY CLOSELY RELATED TO THAT OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THESE GROUPS. THERE WILL BE MUCH THAT CAN BE SHARED THAT WILL HELP US TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

Remarks of Vice-President Al Gore
at the First Meeting of the PCSD
Kimball Conference Center, NWF

July 20, 1993

I want to thank all of you for your participation today in the first meeting of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. I'm enthusiastic about the success of this Council. I hope all of you are as well.

We face an important time in history. The choices we make today will have an indelible impact on the future we leave our children. Sustainable development -- development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the future -- is less about us than it is about our children and our children's children.

After all, unless we act, and act now, we face a future where our planet will be home to nine billion people -- but its capacity to support and sustain our lives will be very much diminished.

That future becomes dimmer still when we realize that forests are being destroyed at the rate of one football field's worth each second... when 2500 people around the world die each hour from contaminated water ... when we lose species to extinction at a rate paralleled only by the destruction of the dinosaurs.

The challenges we face are often global. But don't forget what we need to do at home. We face a situation in the US where nearly 1 in 6 children has elevated levels of lead in their blood and about 300,000 people are poisoned by pesticides a year.

We've made great progress over the last 25 years. But we face newer threats and unforeseen circumstances. We'll have to work hard, be creative and never lose faith in our ability to change.

Many of you have embraced change in industries or professions that are reluctant to move away from practices of the past.

Richard Clark has challenged Pacific Gas and Electric to provide more energy through efficiency and conservation.

John Sawhill's work at the Nature Conservancy has resulted in plans for innovative land management both here in the US and abroad.

President Clinton and I, along with the members of our Cabinet here today, have been working to produce this change as well. For example, the US has signed the biodiversity treaty to protect the miraculous diversity of life on our planet.

Our administration is developing an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cost effective and innovative ways.

We've announced a series of executive orders that will transform our government into a leader in pollution prevention and energy efficiency. But there are more steps ahead.

This council will help us take those steps.

Let me be clear. This Council's recommendations will greatly influence how our government promotes sustainable development. This is a Council for whom results should not be just paper, but progress: whose recommendations will not be just heard, but heralded.

That is one reason why 5 members of our Cabinet are members of the Council. Too often, advisory councils can operate independent of government and isolated from their constituencies. Not the PCSD.

The recommendations of the Council will be not only relevant, but will be hands-on policy documents. These recommendations can then form the basis for our environmental and economic strategies. But the PCSD is about more than reports and recommendations. It is about action as well -- and through demonstration projects around the country we can showcase the innovative and creative opportunities in sustainable development.

We can view these recommendations and projects produced by the PCSD in many ways. On one front, the US is obligated to provide to the UN reports on our progress toward the goals outlined at the Earth Summit.

The PCSD can help define our interaction with the new UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

But more importantly, we should view this Council as an opportunity to promote environmental leadership throughout the world. Other nations are currently stalled in moving forward on their pledges made at Rio. Bold US leadership is badly needed on the world stage to encourage nations to recognize the link between the economy and the environment.

Furthermore, the economic opportunity is one that the US can't afford to miss. Our international competitors are leading the environmental revolution in creating new technologies that are more efficient and less damaging to the environment. The global market for these products and services is at \$200 billion per year and growing.

The President and I, together with the PCSD, hope to provide the leadership to meet this demand.

But many of you already know that. You have been involved in issues pertaining to sustainable development for many years. That is why we have asked you to join our council. We need your creativity and your commitment to producing innovative recommendations.

I know we can make exciting progress. I've seen what some of you can do individually. But it's what we can do collectively that makes me so enthusiastic about this council.

I want to call upon all of you here to participate to the fullest. Each member is crucial. The diversity of views represented here is indicative of the broad challenges of sustainable development. Civil rights and community leaders, environmental representatives, labor, business and industry. We all bring different perspectives to these issues; and I hope we will all take something away from process as well... a new commitment to confront the problems facing us and to seize the opportunities in sustainable development.

I hope we all will strive to improve the dialogue and inter-action between the Government and the public. I know that the dialogue will be extended to the numerous agencies within this Administration whose work is affected by sustainable development.

But perhaps most significantly, I hope that we all can work together to demonstrate once and for all that environmental protection and economic development are compatible.

When Dave Buzzelli tells me that Dow Chemical has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in landfill fees by reducing waste by 60%, I know that we are well on our way to doing just that.

And when Johnathan Lash tells me that World Resources Institute is providing guidelines for the economic development of tropical biodiversity that will result in more new plants available for medicines and more protected tropical forests, I know that the phrase "jobs versus the environment" is becoming more outdated everyday.

Let me leave you with a challenge:
A few months ago I was going through the solutions to our environmental crisis for a group of scientists.

And at the end, one of them raised his hand and said, "You know, I agree with everything you've said, but I know enough about politics to tell you that its not likely to occur. The momentum toward continuing our current way of doing things is just too powerful."

There's something to that.

We can assume change is impossible. Or we can be part of the solution.

I believe there is every reason for hope.

Part of the reason is this group, from all sectors of our society, committed to the idea of sustainable development.

But that's not the only reason.

There are hundreds of thousands who believe as we do. Who believe that protecting our environment results in economic progress. Who believe that government can work together in a partnership with the American people to face our challenges. Who believe that with leadership, we can move past the false choices of the past.

These congressional representatives, state and local governments, local businesses, religious and civic leaders, educators, and environmental and community group leaders will be directly involved in all of our issue specific efforts. I emphasize grass roots involvement because it is so crucial to our progress.

By working on this grassroots level and developing projects that demonstrate what sustainable development actually means, we can show this synergy between economic progress and environmental protection. As the President and I demonstrated in the NW Forest Conference in April, local insight and encouragement is absolutely essential in developing our national policies.

As we open the first meeting of the PCSD, I challenge each of you to be part of this solution, and to bring to this challenge all of the hope, promise and dedication you have already shown in your work on sustainable development. Your work thus far gives me confidence that we will succeed in the future -- and for the future.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Problems we face

embrace change

examples of chge

Test the Admins accomplishments
more to go

**PHOTOCOPY
MISC. HANDWRITING**