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BILL CLINTON ON PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

For all its rhetoric, the Bush Administration has been an environmental disaster. The President has ignored the threat of global warming and the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer, undermined enforcement of the Clean Air Act, supported drilling in Alaska's precious Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, backed off on his "no net loss" wetlands policy, and opposed efforts to increase American recycling. The United States ought to lead the world in fighting for environmental protection, but George Bush has been dragging his feet at international environment summits and ignoring his promises here at home.

After twelve years of Republican inaction, it's time for a change. Bill Clinton wants to give America a real environmental policy. He believes that environmental protection is fundamental to America's national security — and that we must reject Bush Administration attempts to force a false choice between environmental protection and economic growth. A Clinton Administration will challenge Americans and demand responsibility at every level — from individuals and families to corporations, and government agencies — to do more to preserve our world.

THE CLINTON PLAN TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Reduce pollution and solid waste

Preserve America's natural beauty and key resources

Use market forces to encourage environmental protection

Exert American leadership for a healthier world

Improve energy efficiency

THE CLINTON PLAN

The time for complacency is over. We need to take swift and aggressive action to turn our nation around, and make America a leader in the fight to save the planet.

We must renew our commitment to leave our children a better nation — a nation whose air, water, and land are unspoiled; whose natural beauty is undimmed; and whose leadership for sustainable global growth is unsurpassed.

Four goals:

- Reduce solid and toxic waste, and air and water pollution to ensure we leave our nation cleaner and healthier.
- Preserve places of natural beauty and ecological importance — such as our national parks, wilderness areas, old growth forests, and wetlands — so that we can pass on America's natural splendor to our children.
- Shatter the false choice between environmental protection and economic growth by creating a market-based environmental protection strategy that rewards conservation and "green" business practices while penalizing polluters.
- Exert international leadership to advance our own nation's interest in a healthier global environment, a stable global climate, and global biodiversity. Reduce American and worldwide use of fossil fuels and airborne chemicals that destroy the ozone layer and work to keep our world's delicate environment in balance.

Reduce Pollution and Solid Waste

- Create and expand markets for recycled products by providing revenue-neutral tax incentives which favor the use of recycled materials whenever possible.
- Create a solid waste reduction program which gives credits to companies that recover a portion of the waste they generate and penalizes companies that fail to do so. Less efficient companies would be forced to buy waste credits from more efficient companies, creating a strong profit incentive for reducing solid waste.
- Pass a new Clean Water Act with standards for "non-point-source" pollution and incentives for our firms, farmers, and families to develop ways to reduce and prevent polluted run-off at its source; launch a national education campaign to encourage all citizens to drastically reduce their contributions to "non-point-source" pollution made by household chemicals, lawn products, and pesticides.
- Reform the EPA Superfund to ensure that taxpayer money goes toward cleaning up toxic waste instead of paying legal bills. Currently, almost half of all federal Superfund appropriations go to pay lawyers' fees — while 22,000 Superfund sites threaten the health of citizens and communities across America.
- Support legislation that allows ordinary citizens to sue federal agencies that ignore environmental laws and regulations designed to preserve our environment — so government bureaucrats are made accountable for proper and effective environmental law enforcement.
- Support the proposed Community Right To Know More Act, which

We need to adopt an aggressive market-based national strategy to cut pollution and decrease the generation of solid waste. We also need to take more effective measures to clean up pollution and waste which have already harmed our environment.

Every year millions of American families vacation in national parks, from Yosemite to Yellowstone. Those people deserve an Administration that cares as much about America's parks as they do.

would mandate public reporting on toxic chemicals used and produced by companies, and require those companies to develop plans for reducing their toxic chemical use.

- Crack down on environmental crime by holding companies and polluters responsible for their behavior. Corporations that deliberately violate environmental laws will pay the price — and polluters will be sent to jail where appropriate.

Preserve America's Natural Beauty and Key Resources

- Preserve our ancient forests for their scientific and ecological importance.
- Make the "no net loss" wetlands pledge a reality; base wetlands policy on science instead of politics by working with the National Academy of Sciences and other members of the scientific community to devise appropriate policies. Our wetlands act as a natural filter for much of the water America drinks, and make up one of our most important and fragile natural habitats.
- Rededicate the agencies that manage our national parks and wilderness lands to a true conservation ethic; expand our efforts to acquire new parklands and recreational sites with funds already available under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Designate as a wilderness area the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and stop the crusade for new offshore drilling.

Use market forces to encourage environmental protection

- Place greater emphasis on preventing and reducing pollution before it happens, so we won't have to spend so much on cleaning it up after the fact. We can do that without big bureaucracies and public spending — by harnessing market forces, integrating environmental incentives into daily production decisions of big firms, and making polluters pay.
- Develop and implement revenue-neutral tax incentives to reward consumers and businesses that conserve, and penalize polluters and inefficient energy users. In California, for example, purchasers of high-mileage cars receive rebates financed by a special penalty applied to purchasers of gas guzzlers.
- Create revenue-neutral tax incentives to encourage the use of alternative fuels like clean coal and natural gas, and renewable energy sources like hydro-electricity, solar power, and wind power.

Exert American leadership for a healthier world

- Provide real international leadership to protect the world's delicate environmental balance.

The world faces a tremendous threat from global climate change, ozone depletion, and out-of-control and unsustainable population growth. We have seen seven of the hottest years in history over the last decade. The world's rainforests are disappearing at the rate of one football field each minute. These and other developments clearly threaten our own interests — not just with the possibility of rising sea levels — but also through higher cancer rates, crop failures, and depletion of worldwide resources that we depend on for pharmaceuticals and other vital products. We must lead the world, not follow.

- Limit U.S. carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 and accelerate the phase-out of CFCs.
- Call on major banks and multinational institutions to negotiate debt-for-nature swaps with all developing nations that allow Third World countries to reduce their crippling debt burdens by setting aside precious lands.
- Restore U.S. funding for the United Nation's population stabilization efforts, and allow U.S. foreign aid to support international family planning services.
- Explore the establishment of an international equivalent to a Nature Conservancy, a fund financed by developed nations and pharmaceutical companies to purchase easements in rainforests for medical research.

Improve energy efficiency

- Accelerate our progress toward more fuel-efficient cars, and raise the CAFE standards for automakers to 40-45 miles per gallon.
- Increase U.S. reliance on natural gas — which is inexpensive, clean-burning and abundant, and can reduce carbon dioxide emissions — by issuing an executive order to purchase natural gas-powered vehicles for the federal automobile fleet, following Texas' lead.
- Invest more in the development of renewable energy sources; encourage the use of new energy sources like wind and solar power, and new methods to make better use of the resources we already have.
- Stop spending 60 percent of the Department of Energy's budget on nuclear weapons, with nuclear power and fossil fuels receiving most of the rest.
- Convert some of our Cold War military spending to civilian purposes, like funding light rail systems, which can speed travel, save fuel, and provide transportation for people less able to afford it.
- Improve America's overall energy efficiency by 20 percent by the year 2000 by making energy conservation and efficiency central goals in every policy field — in planning communities, designing offices, developing transportation and regulating utilities.

THE CLINTON RECORD IN ARKANSAS

Arkansas has some of the purest air and water in the nation, and incomparable natural beauty. Outdoor recreational opportunities — hiking, canoeing, camping — abound, and no state has a higher percentage of its population who hunt, fish, and otherwise enjoy and appreciate their natural resources. Arkansas offers its citizens and visitors 48 state parks, 69 wildlife management and wildlife refuge areas, 52 natural areas, two national forests enclosing more than 3 million acres, and the nation's first national river. To protect this treasure and insure its availability to future generations, Clinton has taken vigorous environmental steps from the first administration to the present.

Natural Resources

- Endorsed by the Sierra Club in 1990.
- Planting the Future: the goals of this program are to plant an additional 10 million trees each year for 10 years, to establish a "no net loss" policy for forest land, and to increase the state's forested acreage from 17.2 million to 18 million acres by the year 2000.
- Promoting Environmental Education: Governor Clinton encouraged the State Department of Education to emphasize environmental issues in all disciplines of the curriculum. An Environmental Education Trust Fund also was created in 1991 at the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology.
- Expanded Protected Lands: Since 1983, 31 new natural areas have been added to the state's System of Natural Areas, three state parks have been established, four new wildlife management areas have been created, and 30 separate tracts of land have been added to the state park system. The Natural and Cultural Resource Trust Fund, established by Clinton in 1987, provides about \$3 million a year to protect natural areas, improve state park lands, and restore historic structures.
- In 1985 Governor Clinton received the President's Public Service Award from the Nature Conservancy for "being a creative leader over the last six years in Arkansas land preservation work."
- Created a state Land Bank, providing an initial \$1 million to preserve natural areas, purchase state park lands and wildlife management areas, and established the Arkansas Natural and Rivers Commission.
- Arkansas is one of only a few states meeting all federal standards under the Clean Air Act.
- In 1988 Arkansas developed what are considered to be some of the most progressive water quality standards in the nation. These regulations prevent point source pollution in the highest quality waters of the state — those streams, rivers, and lakes that have high recreational, scenic, and habitat values. Today, over 88 percent of Arkansas rivers and streams are safe for swimming; over 85 percent are fishable; 100 percent of Arkansas' lakes are fishable and swimmable. To address Arkansas' most serious water quality problem, nonpoint pollution by

animal wastes, Clinton created a task force which has approved new management requirements and is developing additional legislation for the next session.

Solid Waste

- Banned the disposal of batteries, unshredded tires, and yard wastes in landfills. He required the state to expand its purchasing of recycled materials, and has established a goal of recycling 25% of the state's solid waste by 1995 and 40% by the year 2000.
- Established trust funds for recycling grants and waste tire management.
- He created two new divisions at the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, a Recycling Division and a Marketing Board for recyclables. Finally, state law now mandates that every Arkansan shall have an opportunity and place to recycle.
- Closing Open Dumps: In 1980, the U.S. EPA and the State of Arkansas identified 314 open dumps in the state; since then, Governor Clinton has either closed or placed every one of them under litigation.
- Taking on Polluters: Governor Clinton pushed through a measure to give the state authority to deny operating permits to companies with bad environmental records in this and other states. Increased criminal penalties and doubled civil penalties for violating the state's environmental laws and regulations.

Hazardous Waste

- In 1979, Arkansas' Hazardous waste program was approved by the EPA. Clinton's plan was used as a model at the National Governor's Association.
- Passing Chemical Right-to-Know Law: Clinton helped create the right of public employees to know about hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- Empowering Citizens: Clinton put more citizen control into the state Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, and passed a law declaring that any lawsuit settlement which restricts a person's right to disclose the existence of an environmental hazard is contrary to public policy and void.

Energy Efficiency

- In 1979, Clinton had the foresight to create a state Department of Energy to develop renewable energy resources, give grants for solar energy projects, and promote energy conservation.
- Clinton established an Alternative Fuels Commission. Arkansas now ranks among the top ten producers of alternative energy.