

KEY AREA 1.) THE TEN KEY VALUES

PKA/RA-1 RE The Ten Key Values of the Green Party (Replace the existing "key value" language with the following language to recreate the 'original Green key values' language circa 1986)

ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

How can we operate human societies with the understanding that we are part of nature, not on top of it?
How can we live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet, applying our technological knowledge to the challenge of an energy efficient economy?
How can we build a better relationship between cities and countryside?
How can we guarantee the rights of non-human species?
How can we promote sustainable agriculture and respect for self-regulating natural systems?
How can we further biocentric wisdom in all spheres of life?

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

How can we develop systems that allow and encourage us to control the decisions that affect our lives?
How can we ensure that representatives will be fully accountable to the people who elected them?
How can we develop planning mechanisms that would allow citizens to develop and implement their own preferences for policies and spending priorities?
How can we encourage and assist the "mediating institutions" - family, neighborhood organization, church group, voluntary association, ethnic club - to recover some of the functions now performed by the government?
How can we relearn the best insights from American traditions of civic vitality, voluntary action and community responsibility?

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/SOCIAL JUSTICE

How can we respond to human suffering in ways that promote dignity?
How can we encourage people to commit themselves to lifestyles that promote their own health.
How can we have a community controlled education system that effectively teaches our children academic skills, ecological wisdom, social responsibility and personal growth?
How can we resolve personal and intergroup conflicts without just turning them over to lawyers & judges?
How can we take responsibility for reducing the crime rate in our neighborhoods?
How can we encourage such values as simplicity and moderation?

NONVIOLENCE

How can we develop effective alternatives to our current patterns of violence at all levels, from the family and the street to nations and the world?
How can we eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth without being naive about the intentions of other governments?
How can we most constructively use nonviolent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and in the process reduce the atmosphere of polarization and selfishness that is itself a source of violence?

DECENTRALIZATION

How can we reduce power and responsibility to individuals, institutions, communities and regions?
How can we encourage the flourishing of regionally-based culture, rather than a dominant mono-culture?
How can we have a decentralized, democratic society with our political, economic and social institutions locating power on the smallest scale (closest to home) that is efficient and practical?
How can we redesign our institutions so that fewer decisions and less regulation over money are granted as one moves from the community to the national level?
How can we reconcile the need for community and regional self-determination with the need for appropriate centralized regulation in certain matters?

COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS

How can we redesign our work structures to encourage employee ownership and workplace democracy?
How can we develop new economic activities and institutions that will allow us to use our new technologies in ways that are humane, freeing, ecological and accountable, and responsive to communities?

How can we establish some form of basic economic security, open to all?

How can we move beyond the narrow "job ethic" to new definitions of "work," "jobs" and "income" that reflect the changing economy?

How can we restructure our patterns of income distribution to reflect the wealth created by those outside the formal monetary economy: those who take responsibility for parenting; housekeeping, home gardens, community volunteer work, etc.?

How can we restrict the size and concentrated power of corporations without discouraging superior efficiency or technological innovation?

FEMINISM/POST-PATRIARCHAL VALUES

How can we replace the cultural ethics of dominance and control with more cooperative ways of interacting?

How can we encourage people to care about persons outside their own group?

How can we promote the building of respectful, positive and responsible relationships across the lines of gender and other divisions?

How can we encourage a rich, diverse political culture that respects feelings as well as rationalist approaches?

How can we proceed with as much respect for the means as the end (the process as much as the product of our efforts)?

How can we learn to respect the contemplative, inner part of life as much as the outer activities?

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

How can we honor cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity within the context of individual responsibility toward all beings?

How can we reclaim our country's finest shared ideals: the dignity of the individual, democratic participation, and liberty and justice for all?

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

How can we be of genuine assistance to the grassroots groups in the Third World? What can we learn from such groups?

How can we help other countries make the transition to self-sufficiency in food and other basic necessities?

How can we cut our defense budget while maintaining an adequate defense?

How can we promote these ten Green values in the reshaping of our global order?

How can we reshape the world order without creating just another enormous nation state?

SUSTAINABILITY/FUTURE FOCUS

How can we induce people and institutions to think in terms of the long-range future, and not just in terms of their short-range selfish interest?

How can we encourage people to develop their own visions of the future and move more effectively toward them?

How can we judge whether new technologies are socially useful, and use these judgements to shape our society?

How can we induce our government and other institutions to practice fiscal responsibility?

How can we make the quality of life, rather than open-ended economic growth, the focus of future thinking?

[recommend for inclusion], [not recommend for inclusion], [return to Platform Committee for further revision and development].

KEY AREA 2.) DEMOCRACY - Political Reform; Electoral Reform-Proportional Representation; Free Speech; Political Participation at All Levels

PKA/RA-2 RE Political Participation

We support statehood for the District of Columbia. The residents of D.C. must have the same rights as all other U.S. citizens to govern themselves and to be represented in both houses of Congress.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PKA/RA-3 RE Foreign Policy

(the Platform Committee has chosen to use non-sexist language for the following proposed position, that is, 'his' has been replaced with 'their', etc)

As stated in the United Nation's "Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Article 25", the U.S. Green Party, one of more than eighty Green Parties internationally, calls for the global adoption of basic human rights. "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of [themselves] and of [their] family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond [their] control".
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PKA/RA-4 RE Political Reform

I. DEMOCRACY

A. Political Reform

1. The Green Party, proposes a COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL REFORM AGENDA calling for real reform, accountability, and
*** replace responsibility with "responsiveness" ... responsibility in government.
2. Political debate, public policy, and legislation should be judged on its merits, not on the quid pro quo of political barter and money.
3. We propose comprehensive CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM, including caps on spending and contributions, at the national and state level, and
***** in addition to caps on spending add language "and/or full public financing of elections", remove partial funding language, partial public funding to remove undue influence in political campaigns.
4. We will work to ban or greatly limit POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES
**** add "and restrict SOFT MONEY contributions"
6. We recognize individual empowerment, full citizen participation, and PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION as the foundation of
**** add "an effective and PLURALISTIC democracy." ... effective democracy.
7. We demand choices in our political system. This can be accomplished by
***** revise to: proportional representation voting systems such as: 1) Choice Voting (which is candidate-based) 2) Mixed Member Voting (which combines with district representation) ; and/or 3) Party List (which is party based), and semi-proportional voting systems such as: 1) Limited Voting and 2) Cumulative Voting. All are used throughout the free world
***** and by U.S. businesses, community and non-profit groups to increase democratic representation. We call on local governments to lead the way toward more electoral choice and broader representation.
**** add a number here: "We believe in MAJORITY RULE. Accordingly, we call for the use of INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING in chief executive races (mayor, governor, president, etc.) where voters can rank their favorite candidates (1,2,3, etc.) to guarantee that the winner has majority support and that voters aren't relegated to choosing between the "lesser of two evils."
**** add another number here: "We believe in MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY (for partisan elections) as the best way to guarantee majority rule, since more people will have representation at the table where policy is enacted.
**** add another number here: "The Electoral College is an 18th century anachronism. We call for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College and providing for the direct election of the president by Instant Runoff Voting. Until that time, we call for a proportional allocation of delegates in state primaries."

B. Political Participation

1. Greens advocate direct democracy as a response to local needs and issues, where all concerned citizens can discuss and decide questions that immediately affect their lives, such as land use, parks,

schools and community services. We would decentralize many state functions to the county and city level and seek expanded roles for neighborhood boards and associations.

2. We call for a change in the practice of "unfunded federal mandates", and for more flexibility by states and local decision-making.
3. We advocate maintaining and enhancing federal guarantees in the areas of civil rights protections, environmental safeguards, and social "safety net" entitlements.
4. We endorse and advocate citizen rights to INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM and RECALL.
 ***** add: "We believe that these important tools of democracy should not be for sale to the wealthy who pay for signatures to buy their way onto the ballot. Therefore we call for a certain percentage of signatures gathered to come from VOLUNTEER collectors."
5. We call for citizen control of REDISTRICTING processes and moving the "backroom"
 ***** change to "gerrymandering" not apportionment
 apportionment process into the public light. Minority representation must be protected and secured in order to protect minority rights.
6. We will act to broaden voter participation and BALLOT ACCESS, urging UNIVERSAL VOTER REGISTRATION and an ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY.
7. We believe that a binding "None of the Above" option on the ballot should be considered.
8. We believe that providing free television and mail under reasonable conditions for every qualified statewide, congressional, presidential candidate and party can move the political process toward increased participation.
9. Individual participation in the life of our local community - in community projects and through personal, meaningful, voluntary activity - is also political and vital to the health of community.
10. We support citizen involvement at all levels of the decision-making process and hold that DIRECT ACTION can be an effective tool where peaceful democratic activism is appropriate. We support the right to non-violent direct action that supports green values.
 ***** add: "We call for the implementation of Children's Parliaments, whereby representatives elected by students gather every quarter to discuss, debate and propose legislation to their city councils and school boards which then must be voted upon by the respective legislative body."
 [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

KEY AREA 3.) Economic Justice / Labor Rights -- A Blue-Green Agenda, "The Battle after Seattle - Beyond the WTO," and The Growing Inequities of Wealth

PKA/RA-5 RE Social Justice and Equal Opportunity

C. Welfare/Workfare section to be re-named "Economic Justice" [recommend] [not recommend]
 [return]

PKA/RA-6 Economic Justice - Welfare

Replace the Welfare section with the following:

[Economic Justice] Welfare: A Commitment to Ending Poverty

The health of the planet is inseparably bound to the health of our human communities. Greens understand that an unjust society is an unsustainable society. When communities are stressed by poverty, violence and despair, our ability to meet the challenges of the post-industrial age are critically impaired. A wholistic, future-focused perspective on how we distribute resources in this country will consider the effects of such distribution not just on our present needs, but on the seventh generation to come.

The ones who suffer most from economic injustice are children - those who will inherit the social and environmental problems of the 20th century, and who will carry the responsibility of sustaining our society into the next millennium. Ensuring that children and their caregivers have access to an adequate, secure standard of living should form the cornerstone of our economic priorities.

It is time for a radical paradigm shift in our attitude toward support for families, children, the poor and the disabled. Such support must not be given grudgingly; it is the right of those in present need and an investment in our future. We must take an uncompromising position that the care and nurture of children, elders and the disabled are essential to a healthy, peaceful and sustainable society. We

should recognize that the work of their caregivers is of social and economic value, and reward it accordingly. Only then can we hope to build our future on a foundation of healthy, educated children who are raised in an atmosphere of love and security.

We believe that all people have a right to food, housing, medical care, a living wage job, education, and support in times of hardship.

We believe that work performed outside the monetary system has inherent social and economic value, and is essential to a healthy, sustainable economy and peaceful communities. Such work includes, but is not limited to: child and elder care; homemaking; voluntary community service; continuing education; participating in government; and the arts.

We call for restoration of a federally-funded entitlement program to support children, families, the unemployed, elderly and disabled, with no time limit on benefits. This program should be funded through the existing welfare budget, reductions in military spending and corporate subsidies, and a fair progressive income tax.

We call for a graduated supplemental income, or negative income tax, that would maintain all individual adult incomes above the poverty level, regardless of employment or marital status.

We advocate reinvesting a significant portion of the military budget in family support, living wage job development, and work training programs. Publicly-funded work training and education programs should have a goal of increasing people's employment options at living wage jobs.

We support public funding for the development of living wage jobs in community and environmental service, for example, environmental clean-up, recycling, sustainable agriculture and food production, sustainable forest management, repair and maintenance of public facilities, neighborhood-based public safety, aids in schools, libraries and childcare centers, and construction and renovation of energy-efficient housing.

The accumulation of individual wealth in the U.S. has reached grossly unbalanced proportions. It is clear that we cannot rely on the rich to regulate their profit-making excesses for the good of society through "trickle-down economics". We must take aggressive steps to restore a fair distribution of income. We support tax incentives for businesses that apply fair employee wage distributions standards, and income tax policies that restrict the accumulation of excessive individual wealth.

Livable Income

Forcing welfare recipients to accept jobs that pay wages below a livable income drives wages down and exploits workers for private profit at public expense. We reject "workfare" as a form a slave labor. Corporations receiving public subsidies must provide livable wage jobs, observe basic workers rights, and agree to affirmative action policies.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

Resolution 1 -- "A Call for Economic Justice"

(Proposed Resolution to endorse the Labor Party's "Call for Economic Justice")

The Green Party in principle endorses the Labor Party "Call for Economic Justice" and supports the creation of a new worker-oriented environmental movement - a 'Just Transition Movement' - that puts forth a fair and just transition program to protect both jobs and the environment.

Included in the "Call for Economic Justice" --

-- All workers with jobs endangered by steps taken to protect the environment are to be made whole and to receive full income and benefits as they make the difficult transition to alternative work.

-- The cost of this Just Transition Income Support program will be paid for by taxes on corporate polluters. [support] [do not support]

Resolution 2 -- (Proposed Resolution - "A Blue-Green Agenda")

An emerging coalition of blue-collar labor and greens reached a new degree of solidarity last year during the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle. Progressives of all stripes formed a powerful new fusion and left Seattle determined to forge an ongoing "blue-green agenda".

In Seattle, in response to the blue-green alliance, the President made a series of concessions. But

these were not enough. In the upcoming national elections, a blue-green agenda will keep the heat on. In opposition to the two major parties, the 2000 Green presidential campaign will link labor rights and environmentalism to the critical debate on the global economy.

The alliance that came together so effectively in Seattle was not altogether new. Since the early 90's, labor and environmental groups have found themselves united in opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement and GATT, which seemed to both groups to ignore the public interest. By 1997, this coalition had gained enough clout to defeat the President's bid for a "fast-track" ticket for negotiating future trade agreements.

An ongoing blue-green agenda will forge an even more powerful coalition. Recent AFL-CIO blue-green talks have involved non-profit, community, and environmental groups. Focusing originally on "climate change" and related issues stemming from the Kyoto Summit in 1997, an expanded labor-green-progressive effort has been set in motion. A statement of principles proposes blue-green advances on the policy level, through educational outreach and initiatives to bring labor and greens together in common ground actions. Ralph Nader and organizations such as Global TradeWatch and Public Citizen have continued to spearhead organizing efforts and are looking "Beyond the WTO" to the larger issue of globalization, corporate malfeasance, insider trading and power brokering.

"The Battle After Seattle" has catapulted the blue-green agenda to the main arena. The year 2000 will be pivotal for those who see a different vision of the future than the one promoted via the WTO by corporate lobbyists.

Green 2000 Campaign Talking Points for "The Battle after Seattle: Beyond the WTO":

WTO - Free trade versus fair trade

Globalization vs cooperative globalism

Privatization vs a balance of public and private responsibilities

Economic Justice

Core Labor Standards

Workers Rights / Workplace Safety

"Just Transitions" to sustainable jobs in a sustainable environment

Lifelong education and training

Public Disclosure/Democracy

Transparent, open trade decision-making

Democratic process and protections

"Declaration of Human Rights"

Third World Issues

Debt relief/Economic development

No coercion

Sovereignty Over Basic Economic Policy

Sweatshop and child labor reform

Next Stop: China

Vote on Permanent Normal Trading Relations

The Corporate Welfare state

Corporate Accountability

Campaign Finance Reform

Corporate lobbyists' influence on Congress

The Media/Press and corporate control

Corporate convergence (mergers and acquisitions)

In 2000, the Green Party is campaigning to literally change the world. Each of our candidates holds out a Green vision and a courageous message. When Ralph Nader states that "Concentrated corporate power is on a collision course with democracy", he is speaking 'truth to power'. The Green Party is a party of democracy, not a tool of the monied interests. The Green Platform is founded on core principles and our key positions are those of the land and the people. The defining principles and rules of a global economy must be geared to human needs, not corporate demands.

The formation of a blue-green alliance stands in the way of corporate dominance of civil society.
[support] [do not support]

PKA/RA-7 RE Corporate Accountability

1. Amendment # 1: Change the Title from "Corporate Accountability" to "Re-asserting Local Citizen Control Over Corporations."

2. Revise paragraph # 1 as follows:

Currently, corporations possess more rights and freedoms than natural human persons. Through a series of judicial rulings, and by virtue of their ability to control governments and economies by virtue of wealth, corporations have judicially rewritten our Constitution and have emerged as unaccountable, unelected governments. The Greens, therefore, support all reforms that seek to supplant governmental regulation of corporations with communities that seek to define corporations. In the interim, Greens support measures that hold executives and officers of corporations directly liable for the harm that results from their decisions.

3. Revise paragraph #7 as follows:

Legal doctrines must be continually revised in recognition of the changing needs of an active, democratic citizenry. Huge multi-national corporations are artificial creations, not natural persons uniquely sheltered under constitutional protections. It is time to support local government and state government attempts to DEFINE CORPORATIONS and to prevent these entities from exercising democratic rights which are uniquely possessed by the citizens of the United States.

4. Also: The corporations section of the Green Party platform should be introduced in the "A Call to Action" and the "Platform Preamble" section of the platform, as a set of ideas/values that sets the Greens apart from the corporatized government and economy that currently permeates the U.S. system.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

KEY AREA 4.) A Human Rights Agenda -- An Unequivocal Defense of the Rights of Minorities and the Oppressed

Resolution 3 -- (Proposed Resolution - "A Human Rights Agenda")

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SEXUALITY

It is the position of the Green Party that sexual activity conducted among consenting adults in private shall not be the basis for any form of criminal prosecution, discrimination, or other negative treatment by any state, local, or federal government.

It is the position of the Green Party that all people are entitled to equal rights under law, regardless of sexual orientation, preference, or identity. By sexual orientation and preference, we mean one's real or perceived sexual emotion, desire, attraction, relationship(s), friendship(s), whether by psychological predisposition or chosen sexual behavior. By sexual identity we mean one's biological, psychological, chosen, or perceived sex or gender, including decisions to change one's sex ("transgender" identity).

The Green Party calls for national legal protection (whether through new legislation or amendment to prior legislation) against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, preference, or identity in housing, public accommodations, medical treatment, and employment in both the public and private sector. It must outlaw all discrimination in all branches of the United States Armed Forces.

We do not consider same-sex desire in any way pathological, and we oppose involuntary and nonconsensual treatment for to change one's sexual orientation, preference, or identity. We oppose imposed, obligatory, and nonconsensual gender-reassignment surgery for infants and children. We support the right of individuals to be treated as a member of one's chosen sex.

We respect personal privacy and freedom of association, and therefore support the exemption of housing in shared living quarters, i.e., roommate and housemate situations, from nondiscrimination statutes.

The Green Party supports giving same-sex couples in committed relationships (whether these are called "partnership" or "marriage") the same recognition, rights, privileges, protections, and benefits under the law as different-sex couples. The right to adopt or raise children must not be limited or determined by the current or prospective parent's sexual, orientation, preference, or identity. All laws

affecting inheritance, adoption, custody, benefits, insurance, and family visitation rights must treat same-sex and different-sex unions equally.

The Green Party supports the inclusion of progressive education about sex and sexuality at all level ages in the public school curriculum, and always appropriate to the age of the children being taught. The Green Party supports the unlimited and free availability of condoms, information about AIDS and other sexuality transmitted diseases, and referrals to counseling on matters of sex and sexuality, at public schools and clinics. We support a 10 percent or reasonably comparable goal of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender teachers in public education.

Sex workers: We support the right of sex workers to be free of exploitation, coerced and involuntary labor, and harassment. Sex workers must enjoy all the rights that other workers enjoy, including medical coverage, security and safety, benefits, collective bargaining rights, reasonable hours, and a democratic workplace.

ABORTION RIGHTS

Abortion rights: The Green Party fully supports the right of all women to abortion on demand. The Green Party believes that all questions of whether, why, when, and how to terminate a pregnancy are private and should be considered by a woman and her physician and anyone else the woman herself chooses to involve, regardless of her age, without outside interference. The abortion itself must be treated as any other standard medical procedure in regard to public funding.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Health Care: The Green Party considers health care a human right, and therefore supports a single-payer national insurance program ("Just Health Care") for the US. [see following Proposed Key Area/Revision Amendment (PKA/RA-8) to the Green Party Platform]

DRUGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

The Green Party fully supports publicly funded needle exchange programs, both mobile and stationary, as a public health measure against the spread of HIV infection.

It is the position of the Green Party that no person should be prosecuted, harassed, arrested, or otherwise harmed for involvement in the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The Green Party supports the use of marijuana for medical purposes, under a physician's supervision, and the recognition of not-for-profit buyers' clubs.

The Green Party supports decriminalization of marijuana and its possession, use, transportation, and cultivation. The only restrictions on marijuana should be those needed to protect public safety, such as the prohibition on driving under the influence and distribution to minors.*

The Green Party supports drug abuse counseling and treatment on demand.

It is the position of the Green Party that regulations concerning "controlled substances" must be made in a coherent, rational, science-based and nondiscriminatory manner. The legality of controlled substances should be analyzed based on their actual and specific harm and impact. Any substance that is found to have less of a harmful impact than alcohol shall not be subject to any greater restrictions or criminal sanctions than those imposed on the use, sale, and possession of alcohol. Restrictions on the use of controlled substances shall not be imposed in such a manner as would have a discriminatorily disproportionate impact on the poor or on communities of color or other minorities. [OR: We support decriminalization of the personal use of any amount of any controlled substance.] [support] [do not support]

KEY AREA 5.) Health Care - Universal Health Care; The Right to Health Insurance; The Moral Bankruptcy of the Democrats and Republicans on the Health Care Issue

PKA/RA-8 RE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE (A "Just Health Care" Program)

Health Care: The Green Party considers health care a human right, and therefore supports a single-payer national insurance program ("Just Health Care") for the US. Just Health Care would be publicly financed at the national level, administered locally, and privately delivered, i.e., private physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers would remain private and competitive, and

consumers given full choice of provider.

Just Health Care would cover all standard medical procedures, treatment, diagnosis, etc., as well as drug treatment, dental care, medication, chronic and terminal illness, and abortion. Just Health Care must include equal coverage for treatment of mental illness. All Americans must be covered under Just Health Care, regardless of employment, income, housing, age, or prior medical condition.

The Green Party believes, based on comparison with other nations that have enacted similar programs, that Just Health Care is more economical and would save money in many areas. In order to enact Just Health Care, we must dismantle the current managed care system and enact federal control of drug pricing. The prices of all kinds of medication must be publicly supervised and be set with respect to the needs of patients and consumers, instead of demands for commercial profit.

In matters of international trade, the United States must respect the measures other nations take to ensure public health, and must not use medication, medical equipment, and other medical necessities -- and threats of withholding them -- as leverage for political reasons or as extortion for the sake of commercial profit. We oppose any embargo or economic sanction that would cause the suffering of innocent civilians. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

KEY AREA 6.) Environmental Sustainability -- Quality of Life Issues; Core Green Environmental Positions in the New Millennium

PKA/RA-9 RE Agriculture/Biological Diversity

The Green Party opposes the 'biodevastation' that Monsanto and related 'biotech' companies are engaged in. The actions of Monsanto in trying to subvert labeling of RBGH need to be exposed. Monsanto and other biotech, ' Frankenfood' companies need to be brought into the light and their actions made public. For example, over half the soybean production in the U.S. (for example, "Roundup Ready soya") is the result of genetically modified seeds. These GMOs are the new stealth product of transnational corporations. The acquiescence of the U.S. government to biotech friendly capitalism, despite the loud protests of governments and peoples around the world, is a scandal. It is unacceptable that consumers purchasing soy products, for example, do not know whether they are eating or drinking GMOs. If a fish gene has been transferred to a crop to make it more tolerant of cold, consumers should know that they're ingesting a hybrid " Frankenfood". If a gene has been added to seed stock to make that crop more capable of being heavily doused with pesticides like 'RoundUp', consumers should be warned. Genetically modified 'Terminator' seeds that are more about "intellectual property rights" and corporate profit than sustainable agricultural practices, third-world economic independence, and health, should be banned. Labeling should fully disclose where genetically engineered (and/or irradiated) food is being supplied. Consumer choice needs to be based on full and complete disclosure. Whether it is Bt corn, genetically modified maize, or GM oilseed that finds its way into a menu of other products, the consumer needs to know and choose. Ralph Nader has called for consumer revolts. The time has come. The Green Party stands in opposition to the ' Frankenfood' future of the mega-transnational corporation.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

Consensus Areas [common ground positions]

Proposal C-1 RE Foreign Policy

The US Green Party, with Green parties around the world, demand that the US support the international anti-personnel mine treaty.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

GREEN PARTY PLATFORM -- Proposed Revisions and Amendments

PRA-1 RE Political Reform

The electoral reform bills proposed by Congress have been openly discriminatory against third parties, even if the third party candidate happens to have more support than a major party nominee does. For example, formulas proposing public financing, dependent on whether the qualifying candidate is the nominee of a party which polled at least 25% of the last presidential vote, are opposed by the Green Party.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-2 RE Community

Building communities that nurture families, generate good jobs and housing, and provide public services. Creating cities and towns that educate children, encourage recreation, and Preserve natural and cultural resources. Building local governments that protect people from environmental hazards and crime, and motivate citizens to participate in making decision. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-3 RE Democracy

Democracy must empower all citizens to obtain timely, accurate information from their government; communicate such information and their judgments to one another through modern technology; band together in civic associations in pursuit of a prosperous, just and free society

The separation of ownership of major societal assets from their control permits the concentration of power over such assets in the hands of the few who control rather than in the hand of the many who own. The owners of the public lands, pension funds, savings accounts, and the public airwaves are the American people, who have essentially little or no control over their pooled assets or their commonwealth.

A growing and grave imbalance between the often-converging power of Big Business, Big Government and the citizens of this country has seriously damaged our democracy.

Corporations have perfected socializing their losses while they capitalize on their profits. It's time to end "corporate welfare" as we know it. The power of "civic action" is an antidote to abuse. As we look at the dismantling of democracy by the corporatization of society, we need to rekindle the democratic flame. As voter citizens, taxpayers, workers, consumers and shareholders, we need to exercise our rights and, as Jefferson urged, counteract the "excesses of the monied interests". [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-4 RE Free Speech

As Greens, we support those who urge the public to "reclaim the public airwaves". The privatization of the broadcast airwaves -- one of our most important taxpayer assets -- has caused serious deformations of our politics and culture. The basic problem is that private broadcasters control what the public owns. And in return for free licenses to use taxpayer property, broadcasters give us a steady stream of increasingly coarse, redundant, superficial programming and, of course, exclusively decide who says what on our public airwaves. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-5 RE Community Involvement

Establish a new model of consumer representation. We urge the creation a public purpose, nonprofit, democratically controlled membership association of financial service consumers, with a mandate to inform consumers and represent consumer, local community and broad public interests in financial service matters [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-6 RE Direct Democracy

To establish a National Advisory Referendum Act, which will act to inform the Congress of the public's positions on key national questions. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-7 RE Political Reform

To establish public financing of campaigns through well promoted voluntary taxpayer check-offs on tax returns. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-8 RE Political Participation

A new democracy "tool box" should be part of a basic civic curriculum in public education, as a way to ensure the future of democracy. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-9 RE Community Involvement

(note corresponding Resolution 4) Community-based economics constitutes an alternative to both corporate capitalism and state socialism. It is very much in keeping with the Greens' valuation of diversity and decentralization.

Recognition of limits is central to a Green economic orientation. The drive to accumulate power and wealth must become recognized for what it is, a pernicious characteristic of a civilization headed, ever more rapidly, in a pathological direction. Greens advocate that economic relations become more direct, more cooperative, and more egalitarian.

Humanizing economic relations is just one aspect of our broader objective: to consciously and deliberately (albeit gradually) shift toward a *different way of life* -- characterized by sustainability, regionalization, a more harmonious balance between the natural ecosphere and the human-made technosphere, a revival of community life.

Our communitarian perspective is antithetical to both Big Business and Big Government. It distinguishes the Greens and will enable us to make a unique contribution toward deriving political and economic solutions for the 21st century. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-10 RE Global Warming/Global Climate Treaty

Climate change presents very real economic and social opportunities for new and sustainable jobs from new energy technologies, including both energy efficiency and renewables. Yet, too often, the focus of debate has been only on the pain of adjustment to carbon reductions, this because of the influence of multinational business on government policies.

Greens believe the following are possible, if we are to make a start on protecting our global climate. It is imperative that we strive for no less:

1. An early target must still be set to prevent emissions rising so far that future reductions become even more difficult. There must be commitments for 2005.
 2. Avoiding loopholes is now even more important than an ambitious target. Unless a very ambitious target is set, which now seems unlikely, allowing sinks and trading within the protocol will create such loopholes that no real reductions will occur. Trading and sinks must be left until there is much more scientific precision about how they are measured.
 3. Nuclear power is not an acceptable alternative to fossil energy. We should not accept country commitments that depend on increasing nuclear capability. We must join the solar age.
 4. Targets are not enough without credible policies and measures to achieve them. We urge all governments to table a list of the policies and measures they intend to adopt to attain their target, for example eco-taxes and energy performance standards.
 5. The Green party endorse the "Contraction and Convergence" model under discussion at international talks, which as proposed would eventually give every human being an equal right to the atmosphere, as the most practical way to achieve justice and participation for developing countries.
- [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-11 RE Global Warming

With only 4 percent of the earth's people, the United States produces more than 20 percent of emissions. From 1990 to 1996, total US emissions grew by an amount equal to what Brazil and Indonesia produce every year. Per capita, the United States emits 85 percent more than Germany, twice as much as England and Japan, and currently nearly 10 times as much as China.

The Green Party urges the US Congress to act immediately to address the critical global warming and climate change issues. When the US Senate voted 95-0 to oppose any global warming treaty that does not also bind developing countries to specific, if smaller, emissions reductions in the future, which many industrializing countries oppose, it put a roadblock in the way of progress by all nations.

Vice President Gore, who ran in 1992 as a foe of global warming, calling it "the most serious threat we have ever faced" and urging that "the rescue of the environment" become "the central organizing principle for civilization", must put actions to his words and develop a common ground agenda with the 3rd world and all those who would be impacted by climate energy policy.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-12 RE Shipment of Wastes

The Green Party strongly opposes any shipment of high level nuclear waste across the US to the

proposed Nevada waste 'depository' at Yucca Mountain. The Green Party believes that this proposal is part of a move to re-fire a fast-track, commercial nuclear industry, if they can get their unsafe waste product "safely" disposed.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-13 RE Education - (add) The Arts

Freedom of artistic expression is a fundamental right and is a key element in empowering communities and moving us toward sustainability and respect for diversity. Artists can create in ways that foster healthy, non-alienating relationships between people and their daily environments, communities, and the Earth. This can include both artists whose themes advocate compassion, nurturance, or cooperation; and artists whose creations unmask the often obscure connections between various forms of violence, domination, and oppression, or effectively criticize aspects of the very community that supports their artistic activity. The arts can only perform their social friction if they are completely free from outside control.

The Green Party supports:

- Alternative, community-based systems treating neither the artwork nor the artist as a commodity.
- Eliminating all laws which seek to restrict or censor artistic expression, including withholding of government funds for political or moral content.
- Increased funding for the arts appropriate to their essential social role at all levels of government: Local, State and Federal.
- Community-funded programs employing local artists to enrich their communities through public art Programs. These could include, but would not be limited to, public performances, exhibitions, murals on public buildings, design or re-design of parks and public areas, storytelling and poetry reading, and publication of local writers.
- The establishment of non-profit public forums for local artists to display their talents and creations.
- Research, public dialogue, and trial experiments to develop alternative systems for the valuation and exchange of artworks and for the financial support of artists (e.g., community subscriber support groups, artwork rental busts, cooperative support systems among artists, legal or financial incentives to donate to the arts or to donate artworks to public museums).
- Responsible choices of non-toxic, renewable, or recyclable materials and choosing funding sources not connected with social injustice or environmental destruction.
- Education programs in the community that will energize the creativity of every community member from the youngest to the oldest, including neglected groups such as teenagers, senior citizens, prisoners, immigrants, and drug addicts. These programs would provide materials and access to interested, qualified arts educators to every member of the community who demonstrates an interest.
- Incorporating arts education studies and activities into every school curriculum with appropriate funding and staffing. We also encourage local artists and the community to contribute time, experience, and resources to these efforts.
- Diversity in arts education in the schools, including age-specific hands-on activities and appreciative theoretical approaches, exposure to the arts of various cultures and stylistic traditions, and experience with a variety of media, techniques and contents.

The integration of the arts and artistic teaching methods into other areas of the curriculum to promote a holistic perspective.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-14 RE Nuclear Issues/Foreign Policy

Press for the immediate start of the negotiation of a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, and for the completion of those negotiations by the year 2002.

Cut off all funding for the development, testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. Also cut off funding for nuclear weapons research.

All nuclear weapons be taken off alert and that all warheads be removed from their delivery vehicles. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-15 RE Foreign Policy

Cut military spending 50% over the next 10 years, and increase spending for social programs.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-16 RE Campaign Finance Reform

Support 'Clean Election Act' reforms at the state level. Under a Clean Election Act, state candidates qualify for public funds when they gather a minimum number of \$5 contributions to show their seriousness. Candidates who qualify receive funding equal to 75% of the average cost of the last two campaigns. The Act assumes that 25% of all campaign expenses go to fund raising. Additional "equalizing " funds will go to clean-money candidates who are outspent by privately financed opponents or targeted by outside groups making independent expenditures. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-17 RE Political Reform

Provide qualified candidates with 90 minutes of free broadcast time on geographically relevant radio and TV stations, and a guarantee of half-price broadcast time above that amount

Require public-financed candidates to participate in at least one primary and two general election debates with other candidates.

Suspend incumbents mass-mailing privileges in election years.

Ban political party soft money. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-18 Welfare/Workfare - Economic Justice

Oppose welfare reform, workfare, and enterprise zones. Welfare reform and workfare force welfare recipients into the labor market, pushing wages down for low-income workers. Enterprise zones provide tax breaks to large corporations at the expense of locally owned businesses and workers in the Enterprise zones. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-19 RE Corporate Accountability

Raise corporate taxes. The corporate share of taxes has fallen from 33% in the 1940s to 15% today, while the individual share has risen from 44% to 73%, according to the Alliance for Democracy. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-20 RE Biological Diversity

Cloning is a challenge to basic Green philosophy. Since the efforts to clone animals, and eventually, humans, has been undertaken by profit-making corporations, the purpose behind such projects is to manufacture commodities. To classify a human (or any part thereof, including human DNA or body organ) as a commodity, i.e., a piece of property belong to another, is to reintroduce slavery. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-21 RE Biological Diversity

(to be added where there is not existing Platform language on these positions)

The Green Party supports the following positions:

- a ban on monopoly or patenting of life forms, genomes, cells, molecules, tissues or organs, whether natural or cloned;
- ban on manufacture or distribution of genetically engineered or transgenic foodstuffs, consumer products or compounds;
- independently monitored government testing of all existing genetically engineered foods over substantial periods of time;
- guaranteed free access to seeds and life forms by farmers, including rights to free breeding and seed exchange;
- labeling of all foodstuffs raised with the use of antibiotics, hormones, synthetic chemicals;
- ban on use of antibiotics and hormones in raising of food animals;
- protection of traditional and historical genes, genomes and life forms to promote genetic diversity;
- protection of indigenous collective agricultural practices;
- protection of the evolutionary integrity of genes, genomes, species, populations and ecosystems;
- no commodification, privatization or monopoly of genetically engineered life forms;
- no germ line intervention;
- ban on collection of cells or genetic material from indigenous peoples;
- ban on the use of human genetic materials, cells or tissue without knowledge, consent and compensation;
- mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foodstuffs, consumer products and drugs, including RBGH in milk;
- ban on distribution of milk produced from cows given RBGH in all schools and

public institutions; -allow localities and states to enact more stringent laws on genetically engineered foods, consumer products, chemicals and drugs than Federal government; -ban on cloning; -public information campaign to alert consumers to possibility of allergic reactions to genetically engineered foods using allergenic foodstuffs such as Brazil nuts, etc.; removal of all such foodstuffs from markets; -ban on manufacture and use of genetically engineered chemicals intended to confer pesticide immunity on plants; -ban on release of genetically engineered and transgenic organisms into environment; -mandatory regular testing of food animals for "Mad Cow" disease and destruction of those having the disease, ban on incorporation of animal parts or byproducts in animal feed. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-22 RE Rural Development (add Industrial Farming section)

Factory farming ("industrial farming") threatens to further erode the family farms and the general quality of life in our rural areas. It is estimated that over a million family farmers have been driven out of business by billionaire hog tycoons and billionaire chicken barons. Each corporate farm puts ten family farmers out of business. Yet family farms are the basis of community-based economics and essential to rural development and a healthy, diverse economy. More city-farm linkages that will generate small-scale markets need to be developed, but the industrial farming lobby has given the large corporate interests the ability to evade environmental laws and pay slave wages to their workforces who experience terribly unhealthy and dangerous conditions.

The consequences of factory farming are devastating. For example, North Carolina's hogs now outnumber its citizens and produce more fecal waste than all the people of California. While human waste must be treated, the virulent waste of hogs is allowed to be dumped into the environment. Open pits of putrefying animal wastes are allowed to discharge into rivers and streams. This effluent has caused a host of obvious, and not so obvious problems. 'Kill-offs' of aquatic life are common, and in incidents outside Washington DC and in North Carolina over a billion fish died and were bulldozed into mass graves. Scientists suspect that toxic microbes caused by this type of waste are responsible for brain damage and respiratory illness in humans and increasing numbers of reports are surfacing.

Corporate industrial farming is responsible for millions and millions of beakless chickens crowded into dark cages, digesting large doses of antibiotics and consigned to short, dreary life of torture. Corporate industrial farming is responsible for health questions that range from outbreaks of disease to chronic conditions due to exposure to environmental hazards. Industrial farming has changed the type of food we eat, and studies are now demonstrating that nutritional value has been decreased, with resultant immune system impacts.

The story of industrial farming needs to be told. The Green Party strongly opposes the rampant and damaging policies of corporate industrial farming and calls for a national shift away from these practices. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-23 RE Organic Standards

The Green Party supports the strongest "organic" standards. California has had the highest standards of any state for organic foods labeling. These standards were authored by those in the industry, growers, manufacturers and those in the business of livestock raising and feed production. Proposed USDA standards should be based on the highest standards. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-24 RE Eco-nomics

Greens support a definition of sustainability where we openly examine the economy as a part of the ecosystem, not as an isolated subset in which nothing but "resources" come in and products and waste go out and never the economy and the real world shall meet. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-25 RE Technology/Research Initiatives

We call for a federal Technology Assessment Office to examine how technology fits in with life on Earth, in our neighborhoods and the quality of our daily lives. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-26 RE A CALL TO ACTION

Our Party's first priority is to value-based politics, in contrast to a system extolling exploitation,

consumption, and non-sustainable competition.

We believe in an alternative, independent politics... *** add "proportional representation"
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-27 RE CALL TO ACTION/Political Reform

...and active, responsible government.

We believe in empowering citizens and communities. We offer hope and a call to action

We demand choices in our political system. Winner-take-all systems almost always offer voters only one of two choices one of two political parties, each party with limited appeal to most voters (the number of voters who describe themselves as "independent" has risen to over thirty percent in recent polls, with over two thirds of Americans stating they support the formation of an alternative third-party.)

*** add *** "In approximately 80 percent of congressional districts, voters have only one viable choice because redistricting practices have gerrymandered the districts to be so tilted toward the Republican or Democrat side, effectively robbing voters of any choice or substantive campaign debate. The politicians are picking the voters via redistricting practices before the voters have a chance to pick their political representative."

Yet, the US is one of only a handful of "established" democracies that still employ a winner-take-all system. We must work to change this.

A truly democratic election system should represent the amount of support a candidate or party receives, and be proportional to the number of seats awarded in the elected body.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-28 RE Economic Justice

The Green Party opposes the 'privatization' of Social Security. The social security trust fund, contrary to claims being made by Republican and Democrat candidates, is not about to "go broke", and as a result needs "to be fixed" by Wall Street. According to the actuarial figures, this just isn't so - unless we have depression level economic growth in coming decades.

Robert Reich states flatly, "Social Security is not endangered [the demise of social security benefits] is based on the wildly pessimistic assumption that the economy will grow only 1.8 % annually over the next three decades. Crank the economy up just a bit, to a more realistic 2.4% a year (what the actuary gloomily termed the "high option: projection) and the fund is flush for the next 75 years." Incidentally, 2.4% growth is exactly what the White House budget predicts for the next five years...

Considering that the bottom twenty percent of American senior citizens get roughly 80% of their income from Social Security and that without Social Security, nearly 70% of black elderly and 60% of Latino elderly households would be in poverty, it is critical that the public protections of social security are not privatized and subjected to increased risk based on misleading projections of shortfalls.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-29 RE Political Reform [current position is in support of term limits]

[We] are opposed to Term Limits. We are committed to proportional representation and believe that Term Limits serve no purpose that we support. [Let member states who endorse T.L. put it in their state platform, but not in our national platform.] [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-30 RE Education

High school classes should not be over 30. Schools should be designed for teaching and learning, not warehousing and processing. High school size should be limited (at most) to 1,500 students.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-31 RE Criminal Justice:

The advent of a 'prison industrial complex' in the US has become a national disgrace. The Green Party raises a united voice in opposition to the terrible inequities within the criminal justice system, the systemic injustice and prejudice, the lack of adequate legal representation for the poor and under privileged, the gross punishments mandated under punitive sentencing laws that fill the jails, prisons and penitentiaries with non-violent offenders.

The Green Party opposes privatizing of prisons. We support alternative sentencing for non-violent crimes (i.e. community service) and guaranteed education within prison - G.E.D. courses and college courses as well as skill training. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-32 RE Community Involvement

The Green Party supports "community radio", particularly those rulemaking petitions before the F.C.C., which allow for a new service of small, locally-owned FM stations.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-33 RE Land Use Planning

[note that bracketed language is proposed to be added to the current Platform] (parenthesis indicates language has been deleted or edited)

Greens are advocates for the Earth. All the rivers, lakes, [landscapes, forests,] and wildlife. This is our birthright and our home - the green Earth.

When we see the first picture ever taken of our green oasis from space, photographed from the window of the Apollo flight, we marvel at the preciousness of life.

We remember John Muir's and Edward Abbey's call to protect what is critical to our spirit. Experiencing the wilderness calls us to preserve pristine nature. We are advocates for our home. Our advocacy is based on our love of nature and our recognition that it is beyond us.

(Greens look to the future and support "conservative" conservation practices as well as "liberal" approaches and programs, both having a place as long as good land stewardship is in evidence.) Greens take a BIOREGIONAL VIEW of the ecosystem, acknowledging political boundaries while noting that the land, air and water, the interconnected biosphere, is a unique and precious "community", deserving careful consideration and protection. (We encourage social ownership and use of land at the community, local and regional level, particularly in the form of community and conservation land trusts, under covenants of ecological responsibility.) [We feel that, just as the planetary ecology consists of nested systems at various scales, so must our programs and institutions of ecological stewardship be scaled appropriately.]

[Guided by our sense of stewardship, we feel that all land use policies, plans, and practices should be based on sustainable development and production, the reduce-reuse-recycle ethic, and the encouragement of balance between optimum and diverse use of land. They must recognize the natural character of the land, for example, fertile soil, wetland, aquifer recharge area, and critical habitat, the intrinsic value of Nature in and of itself, and the assurance of social justice in the formation and implementation of land use policy. We believe that planning and implementation of land use policy at all levels-local, regional, and multiregional-should occur through democratic, participatory public processes.]
[1. Land Ownership and Property Rights]

[America has a long and deeply rooted tradition of property ownership by individuals and families. Greens affirm the right of individuals and families to hold title to land, with the corresponding responsibility of ecological stewardship. We distinguish between individual and family rights of property and rights granted to corporations. Greens believe strongly that community rights ultimately supersede property rights claimed by corporations.]

[Wealth in land created by the community should support the community, while recognizing the legitimate right of individuals to retain the wealth in land created by direct investment. We believe in strongly discouraging and eventually eliminating land speculation, that is, the purchase of land to sell in the future for profit at the expense of the community or the environment.] *

(We encourage the social ownership and use of land at the community, local, and regional level, for example in the form of community and conservation land trusts, under covenants of ecological responsibility.)

[2. Communities and Urbanism]

[Greens find inspiration in building healthy, livable communities. Communities must be designed or redesigned so that they are built with energy efficiency in mind, on a human scale, with integrated land uses. Such integrated land uses should provide, for example, ready access between home and work, and to schools, a local supply of food, shopping, worship, medical care, recreation and natural

areas. Integrated land use should also de-emphasize individual motorized transport and place more emphasis on ecologically responsible mass transit, bicycling, and the pedestrian.]

[We promote urban design and architecture that does not alienate, but fulfills, the spirit and that is compatible with human, social, artistic, and environmental values. Greens support the concepts advanced by the NEW URBANISM movement. As there is much to learn about human-scale development and neighborly social interaction from historical patterns of urbanism, we support historic preservation.]

[Recreational opportunities are the beginning of lifelong appreciation of our natural environment. We should all have opportunities to experience nature firsthand.] The "call of the wild" is in all of us. Outdoor recreation, sports, hiking, adventuring, educational programs for children, nature study -- these are essential to the wholeness of life.

[3. Land Use Planning]

[It is imperative that we as a nation find a means to CONTROL URBAN SPRAWL. The ecological, social, and fiscal crises engendered by sprawl are becoming ever-more apparent. Greens enthusiastically endorse the Metropolitix movement, which seeks to control sprawl by integrating such measures as urban growth boundaries, tax base sharing, fair housing, and metropolitan transportation. Urban areas can be revitalized through "brownfields" redevelopment although standards for the clean up of contaminated sites must not be lowered. Rural areas and farmland should be preserved, through such measures as purchase of development rights.]

[WATERSHED PLANNING should be undertaken to mitigate the impacts of urban development on our streams, rivers, and lakes. Storm water management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, the establishment of vegetative buffers, and performance standards for development are appropriate measures in this area.] Special attention must be given to the restoration and protection of riparian areas, which are critical habitats in healthy ecosystems.

4. Natural Resource Management

Greens believe that effective land and resource management practices must be founded on stewardship, such as incorporated in a "land ethic" as articulated by Aldo Leopold.

[Stringent natural resource management should serve to prevent activities that adversely affect public and adjacent lands. For example, mining operations and oil and gas extraction cannot be permitted to cause water pollution and timber cutting cannot be allowed to destroy habitat and streams, while producing severe soil erosion.]

We call for repeal of the "Mining Act of 1872". We demand a halt to federal mineral, oil and gas, and resource giveaways, "royalty holidays", and flagrant concessions to the mining, energy and timber industries; and an immediate crackdown on their evasions and reporting fraud draining billions of dollars annually from the public treasury.

We call for strict CLEAN-UP ENFORCEMENT of industrial-scale natural resource extraction activities, for example, of tailings, pits and run-off from mining operations via agreement with companies that can include posting of site-restoration bonds prior to commencement of operations. The regional long-term environmental and social impacts of any resource extractions should be minimized, and the land restored to a healthy ecological state.

We call for a halt to all current international funding policies that promote destruction of forest ecosystems and we call for an end to the trade in endangered hardwoods. We support laws that promote paper recycling and mandate SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY practices. We urge protection of "old growth" forests, careful restrictions of commercial cutting on federal and state lands, a ban on all clear-cutting, and a reduction of road building on public lands. We are sensitive to the needs of local and rural communities and do not endorse overly restrictive or punitive restrictions on local logging. We support restoration of degraded forest ecosystems through the development of "value-added" economies, second-growth logging, and certified wood products.

We advocate raising grazing fees on public land to approximate fair market value and encourage GraZING REFORM that brings together traditional users and concerned local citizens in new working relationships. We support policies that favor small scale ranchers over corporate operations (which are often used as tax write-offs, a practice which undermines family ranches.) Eliminating large corporate allotments will ensure more sustainable levels of grazing, benefiting the land and community.

[We must promote the preservation and extension of wildlife habitat and biological diversity by creating and preserving large continuous tracts of open space (complete ecosystems so as to permit healthy, self-managing wildlife populations to exist in a natural state.) We oppose any selling off of our

National Parks, the commercial "privatizing" of public lands; and/or cutbacks or exploitation in our national wilderness areas.

Public involvement in decision making via active and well-funded RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS and COUNCILS will aid a long-term process on the use of federal and state trust lands which are currently controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Forest Service, National Park Service, and State Land Offices.

We support state bans on [the renamed] ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC), the federal agency that has been killing wildlife indiscriminately in the West since 1931. We urge comprehensive, base-line mapping of our nation's biodiversity resources; consideration of "wildlife ranching" and policies that desirably increase native big-game populations.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-34 RE Energy Policy

Extensive "conservation" measures will bring huge resource savings for both the economy and the environment. Conservation, along with energy efficiency and renewables is an essential part of an effective energy policy. The Greens call for pervasive efforts on the energy conservation front.

On a related front, Greens support enacting mandatory carbon reduction measures and setting the bar for carbon emissions at a percentage well below the best appropriate technology.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-35 RE Trade

The Tobin tax, named for the Canadian economist who first proposed it, calls for a small sales tax on cross border currency transactions. The purpose is to suppress market volume and volatility and help restore national sovereignty over monetary policy. In view of the growing disparity between the rich and poor in the US and the world, and in light of the negative impacts of monetary speculation in the "Asian crisis" of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Russia, as well as similar crises in Brazil, Mexico and many other countries in the late 90's, the Green Party urges that state and international governments work together to impose an effective form of Tobin tax.

In the last ten years international money changing has grown in volume from \$200 billion to \$1.8 trillion daily with dangerous consequences for countries caught in a speculative rip tide. Even a small tax of .01%-.05% would cool the speculative fever and raise between \$75-\$250 billion dollars annually. While reigning in grievous financial abuses, the Tobin tax receipts could be devoted to reducing world poverty, funding international peacekeeping, and attacking environmental problems.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-36 RE Civil Rights

Recently proposed bills that encroach on civil liberties, such as the Crime Bill of '96 and the Terrorist Bill of '97, as well as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which circumvents the 4th Amendment and opens the door for CIA to spy domestically on US Citizens, are of special concern to the Green Party. The Bill of Rights must remain a fundamental touchstone in defense of our civil rights.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-37 RE Foreign Policy

The War Powers Act is unconstitutional. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-38 RE Political Reform

Political profiles of all candidates for office (that will reduce need to advertise on TV) should become a regular part of all campaigns. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-39 RE Political Participation

Under "B Political Participation" paragraphs 5&6 [below] add nothing substantive; delete.

Individual participation in the life of our local community - in community projects and through personal, meaningful, voluntary activity - is also political and vital to the health of community.

We support citizen involvement at all levels of the decision-making process and hold that DIRECT ACTION can be an effective tool where peaceful democratic activism is appropriate. We support the right to non-violent direct action that supports green values. Greens believe in building community as a personal step each of us takes in our own way.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-40 RE Community

Add "neighborhood schools" under "A Children's Agenda" [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-41 RE Education

Delete "restoring community is central to expanded opportunity".
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-42 RE Education

The use of computers in the early grades should be carefully considered, given the need to develop basic skills, perceptual and motor skills as a foundation for learning.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-43 RE Education

Dispute resolution is an important part of resolving classroom or after-school disputes, and a life skill that all children should learn. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-44 RE Health Care

Delete the first paragraph.

Fundamental reform of our nation's health care system is necessary to provide affordable, quality and accessible health care for all Americans. Currently, we are the only industrialized country without a national health care system. Unfortunately we have a private insurance system that insures only the healthiest people, systematically denying coverage to individuals with "pre-existing" conditions and routinely terminating coverage to those who become ill. The bad faith of the health insurance industry remains a scandal - and recent Congressional action dealing with "portability" (coverage carrying over from job to job) and pre-existing conditions (preventing arbitrary denial of insurance) only begin to address the seriousness of our health care crisis.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-45 RE Criminal Justice

Insert "Alternative Sentencing for non-violent crimes." [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-46 RE Criminal Justice

G.E.D. and college courses and dispute resolution and/or mediation should be available in all prisons.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-47 RE Criminal Justice

Professional qualifications are critical to determining judicial competence. In general, we oppose the popular election of judges where elections based on money and influence becomes more important than demonstrated skills and quality of jurisprudence.
[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-48 RE Tax Justice/Fairness

Delete second paragraph.

We call for SYSTEM-WIDE TAX REFORM that acts to simplify the tax system. We call for a tax policy that moves to eliminate loopholes and other exemptions that favor powerful interests over TAX JUSTICE. Small business, in particular, should not be penalized by a tax system which benefits those who can "work" the legislative tax committees for breaks and subsidies. We support substantive and wide-

ranging reform of the tax system that helps create jobs, economic efficiencies and innovation within the small business community. We believe fiscal and tax policies should confront and end destructive large "corporate welfare" and subsidies. Smaller businesses are America's great strength; Greens believe government should have a tax policy which encourages small- and socially responsible business. Where corporations act with corporate citizenship, that is, with "fiduciary responsibility" that includes the interests of their community and employees as well as shareholders, we support appropriate tax incentives. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-49 RE Economic Justice - Social Welfare

It is crucial that mothers of young children have the choice to stay home in the early years. The tying of this choice and children's well being to women's personal relationship to individual men has been one of the most obscene aspects of the welfare "debate" and the "family values" lobby.

"Guaranteed Income" must recognize the importance of mothering, of care giving to the young and the needy. The minimum income must be at (or above) the poverty level. In addition, the poverty level must be calculated with realistic factors, to bring it to the actual poverty level.

Guaranteed income should not be called "supplemental" income, for the above reasons. This implies that a guaranteed income is a "handout", when we need to come to an understanding that it is an inherent right.

Different names have been used over the years. Guaranteed Income is the most common. Guaranteed Adequate Income. Guaranteed Annual Income. Guaranteed Minimum Income or simply Guaranteed Income, which has been traditionally used by its main advocates, welfare rights groups.

Instead of hundreds of billions a year going to corporate welfare, it is time to pay attention to children's welfare. The Greens support "children and mothers first". [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-50 RE Criminal Justice

The Green Party abhors punitive discrimination in any form, and thus condemns the practice of those law enforcement agencies in the country which are guilty of discriminatory "racial profiling," stopping motorists, harassing individuals, or using unwarranted violence against suspects with no other justification than race or ethnic background.

We also favor strong measures to combat official racism in the forms of police brutality and racial profiling directed against people of color. We agree with groups such as Amnesty International, which has recently said that police brutality has reached epidemic levels in the United States and we call for effective monitoring of police agencies to eliminate police brutality and racial profiling. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-51 RE Civil Rights

As Greens, we uphold the key value of respect for diversity. We recognize that the development of the United States has been marked by conflict over questions of race. Just as we acknowledge that our Nation was formed only after Native Americans were first displaced, we also acknowledge that the institution of slavery had as its underpinnings the ideology and practice of white supremacy, which we as Greens condemn. We know that, in slavery's aftermath, discrimination and racial violence against people of color continues to be a social problem of paramount significance, even today. We condemn discrimination and violence against anyone but also recognize that people of color have borne the brunt of racial violence and discrimination throughout the history of the United States.

Therefore, we call for an end to official support for any remaining badges and indicia of slavery and specifically call for the immediate removal of the Confederate battle flag from any and all government buildings because we recognize that, to many, this remains a painful reminder of second class status on the basis of race.

In addition, we support efforts to overcome the aftereffects of over two hundred years of discrimination and, hence, support affirmative action. Furthermore, we recognize that people of color have legitimate claims in this country to reparations in the form of monetary compensation for these centuries of discrimination. We also uphold the right of the descendants of the African slaves to self-determination, as we do for all indigenous peoples.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-52 RE Health Care

We support scientifically proven policies for intervening in public health problems such as substance abuse and addiction, and will work to promote safer, less discriminatory and more humane programs that will reduce the harmful effects of these diseases.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-53 RE Health Care

We oppose the arrest, harassment or prosecution of anyone involved in any aspect of the production, cultivation, transportation, distribution or consumption of medicinal marijuana. We also oppose the harassment, prosecution or revocation of license of any health-care provider who gives a recommendation or prescription for medicinal marijuana.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-54 RE Corporate Accountability

Subsidies, export incentives, tax loopholes and tax shelters that benefit large corporations now amount to hundreds of billions of dollars each year and must be cut to the bone. The high price of corporate welfare corrupts the political process by encouraging the exchange of political favors for campaign donations. While corporate tax breaks are ultimately paid for by higher taxes on the middle class, they distort the rules of the marketplace and seldom serve a larger public purpose.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-55 RE Education

In an economy that demands higher skills and in a democracy that depends on an informed and educated electorate, the opportunities for universal higher education and life-long learning must be vastly expanded. Student-loans should be available to all students attending college, and they should be repayable as a proportion of future earnings, rather than at a fixed rate. On the same terms, individualized training accounts should be made available to students who choose to pursue vocational and continuing education. [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-56 RE Waste Management

Environmental justice demands that poor communities, minority and under-represented communities not bear an unfair burden when it comes to disposal of toxic wastes.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-57 RE Waste Management

The environmental problems associated with the personal computer and electronics industry are growing worse. The Green Party believes that these environmental issues must be identified and addressed:

1) Pollution. The manufacture of computer chips, computers and peripherals involves a host of chemicals that end up in our water, air, and landfills. Cleanup is a major cost, an 'externality' that must be addressed. Health costs associated with the use of computers and electronic devices are not insignificant and range of work-related injuries and illnesses. At work, at home and on the road the digital era is ubiquitous. The shift mandated by the FCC from analog to digital communications systems (including HDTV), as just one example, will produce tens of millions of out-of-date televisions and monitors over the next decade. The chemicals in these devices are dangerous and should not be allowed to simply be deposited in land fills or disposed of in a way that will produce long-term health damaging and adverse environmental effects.

2) Power. Energy bills associated with the electronics industry are rising and alternative sources of power are needed. Cleaner, cheaper 'green' energy has to become a universal goal. 3) Paper consumption. The demand for printing paper puts pressure on dwindling forests. Clear cutting continues with all the attendant environmental damage. The pollution caused by mills is considerable, and the production of white paper is particularly damaging. Alternative paper stock, and recycled papers, should become the norm.

- 4) Packaging. The excessive amounts of plastic, cardboard and Styrofoam many manufacturers use to package computers and software are an increasing problem. These non-biodegradable materials contribute layers to landfills. It's time to have a complete makeover of the electronics packaging industry.
- 5) Recycling. All the materials associated with the personal computer and electronics industry must be identified as recyclable and recycled wherever possible as part of a closed-loop system.
- [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-58 RE Land Use

(from the Platcom; note need to conform language) Suggested comments for changes [in brackets] to the Land Use section of the Green Platform:

H. LAND USE

We remember John Muir's and Edward Abbey's call to protect what is critical to our spirit. Experiencing the wilderness calls us to preserve pristine nature. We are advocates for our home. Our advocacy is based on our love of nature and our recognition that it is beyond us.

[Unfortunately, there is no longer "pristine nature" on planet Earth. Pollution pervades all parts of our globe's surface now. Also, the Wilderness Act does not require that designated Wilderness areas be "pristine." As Dave Foreman notes in the Summer 1999 issue of "Wild Earth," "For example, there is no requirement that candidate Wilderness Areas have to be roadless or unlogged, but Section 4(c) holds that they must be managed as roadless after they are placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System. In other words, existing roads must be closed and no further commercial logging allowed after designation of an area as Wilderness. There are many cases of once-roadless or earlier-logged areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System--including some of the classic big Wilderness Areas in the West. By clearly wording what wilderness means and what the Wilderness Act says, many misunderstandings about wilderness should melt away." We unwittingly exclude areas that should be designated protected Wilderness if we use terms like "pristine." So please change this passage accordingly, changing "pristine nature" to, perhaps, ("natural areas.")]

1. Greens look to the future and support "conservative" conservation practices as well as "liberal" approaches and programs, both having a place as long as good land stewardship is in evidence. [I'm not sure what this is supposed to mean. "Liberal" and "conservative" don't apply well to conservation issues. I'd drop this sentence altogether.]

2. We take a BIOREGIONAL VIEW of the ecosystem, acknowledging political boundaries while noting that the land, air and water, the interconnected biosphere, is a unique and precious "community", deserving careful consideration and protection.

[I suggest adding "Greens support restructuring institutions to conform to bioregional realities."]

5. We call for repeal of the "Mining Act of 1872". We demand a halt to federal mineral, oil and gas, and resource give-aways, "royalty holidays", and flagrant concessions to the mining, energy and timber industries; and an immediate crackdown on their evasions and reporting fraud draining billions of dollars annually from the public treasury.

[I'm not sure what the "evasions and reporting fraud draining billions" refers to.]

9. We support laws that promote paper recycling and mandate SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY practices.

["Sustainable forestry practices" is a vague term, used all sorts of ways. Unless you define what it means, I'd drop the term from the sentence.]

10. We urge protection of "old growth" forests, careful restrictions of commercial cutting on federal and state lands, a ban on all clearcutting, and a reduction of road building on public lands.

[Can't we be at least as strong as the Sierra Club and call for No Commercial Logging, or better yet No Commercial Extraction from public lands and manage them for ecological restoration instead? Commercial considerations have driven the management that has wrecked the national forests, and will continue to do so as long as they are in the equation. We should call for no more road building in roadless areas (I think that's what you're trying to get at) and removal of eroding and obsolete roads to protect water quality and wildlife habitat and improve recreational conditions for non-motorized users. You might even want to say something about the aesthetic and spiritual value of natural areas.

Moses and John the Baptist went to the wilderness for inspiration, not to the off-road-vehicle area!]

11. We are sensitive to the needs of local and rural communities and do not endorse overly restrictive or punitive restrictions on local logging.

[What does this mean? Extremely vague. Living in a "conservative" rural area heavily influenced by extractive interests, I can guarantee you that even the Forest Service's new roadless areas protection plan is seen by many as "overly restrictive or punitive restrictions on local logging." I suggest you drop this altogether and replace it with something like economic support for communities and individuals affected by the end of commercial logging on public lands. Destruction of our national forests ecosystems should not be used as an economic support for local communities.]

12. We support restoration of degraded forest ecosystems through the development of "value-added" economies, second-growth logging, and certified wood products.

[The idea of logging for the "restoration of degraded forest ecosystems" comes from the timber industry! There does need to be some thinning of brush and small trees from below the canopy in some western forests that have been damaged by fire suppression, grazing, and big tree logging, but that is not commercial logging because it will not pay for itself.]

13. We advocate raising grazing fees on public land to approximate fair market value and encourage GRAZING REFORM that brings together traditional users and concerned local citizens in new working relationships.

[We should phase out grazing on public land and manage public land for ecological restoration.]

14. We support policies that favor small-scale ranchers over corporate operations (which are often used as tax write-offs, a practice which undermines family ranches.) Eliminating large corporate allotments will ensure more sustainable levels of grazing, benefiting the land and community.

[Is this referring to public lands grazing allotments? If so, drop the point altogether in favor of phasing out public lands ranching.]

17. We support state bans on ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC), the federal agency that has been killing wildlife indiscriminately in the West since 1931.

[Why not just say we support the abolition of ADC (now renamed Wildlife Services!)?]

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-59 RE Nuclear Issues/Foreign Policy

The Green Party, recognizing the need for de-escalating the arms race which continues unabated in spite of the end of the 'Cold War", strongly opposes putting nuclear weapons, lasers and other weapons in space in a new militarization policy that is in clear violation of international law.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-60 RE Political Reform

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: Recognizing the need and public demand for bold and comprehensive electoral reforms, [the Green Party of Tennessee proposes changing the current platform proposal's call for further limits on campaign contributions to] we support a system of full public financing for all federal elections and a ban on all "soft" money contributions to political parties by corporations, labor unions and other non-voting entities. [note previous proposed electoral reform proposals] [recommend] [not recommend] [return]

PRA-61 Education

METRIC SYSTEM: Recognizing that the United States lags behind the rest of the world in the adoption of the metric system, and further recognizing that the world's various Green Parties are able to take a larger view of seemingly small issues by virtue of their global connections, the Green Party urges Congress to enact legislation to speed the adoption of the metric system in the United States and to stimulate the education of schoolchildren and business leaders on the metric system itself.

[recommend] [not recommend] [return]

Green Party Resolutions (June 2000)

(NOTE: See text of Proposed Key Areas for the text of resolutions not detailed here.)

Resolution 1: Proposed Resolution to endorse the Labor Party's "Call for Economic Justice"
[support] [do not support]

Resolution 2: Proposed Resolution - "A Blue-Green Agenda"
[support] [do not support]

Resolution 3: Proposed Resolution - "A Human Rights Agenda"
[support] [do not support]

Resolution 4: A Proposed Resolution re Community-based Economics

Capitalism is an economic system where the means of production are for the most part privately owned and controlled; socialism is an economic system where the means of production are for the most part publicly owned and controlled. Most Green Party programs do not advocate either system. Greens in the U.S. characterize their economic orientation in a phrase: "community-based economics."

Community-based economics constitutes an alternative to both capitalism and socialism; that it is

very much in keeping with the Greens' valuation of diversity and decentralization. In terms of developing economic policy, Greens should understand that communitarian social relations are more important than economic property relations.

If Greens advocate regionalization of economic activity and hold out a vision of a world of diverse and decentralized communities, it would be contradictory for us to advocate uniformity in regard to property relations or a single economic system as "best" for all communities/regions/bioregions.

Diversity in terms of economic relations would mean that in some regions the preponderance of the means of production might be publicly owned and controlled. In other regions only the "commanding heights" of the economy might be socialized. Some communities might opt to hold most things in common, going far beyond socialization of just the means of production. Others may disavow public enterprise, preferring an economic model based on locally owned private businesses. In other cases there may be a tradition of co-ops (which are private). Most likely, varying mixtures of public and private enterprise would be the rule.

The communitarian perspective of Greens can encompass market relations here and economic planning there. It can encompass the profit motive and the desire to "start one's own business," or municipal socialism with workers control. What it cannot encompass is unlimited accumulation of capital.

Community-based economics implies that economic activity be local and humanly-scaled. The building of far-flung economic empires (epitomized by modern transnational corporations) and the concentration of wealth and power are anathema to this vision.

In his Introduction to E. F. Schumacher's *Small Is Beautiful* (1973), Theodore Roszak provided a good description of what would later be called community-based economics. "A libertarian political economy that distinguishes itself from orthodox socialism and capitalism by insisting that the scale of organization must be treated as an independent and primary problem. This tradition, while closely affiliated with socialist values, nonetheless prefers mixed to "pure" economic systems. It is therefore hospitable to many forms of free enterprise and private ownership, provided always that the size of private enterprise is not so large as to divorce ownership from personal involvement, which is, of course, now the rule in most of the world's administered capitalisms. Bigness is [its] nemesis ... whether the bigness is that of public or private bureaucracies, because from bigness comes impersonality, insensitivity, and a lust to concentrate abstract power."

This vision seems fairly simple and straightforward, but its implications are quite radical. For one thing, it is subversive in regard to the cherished "developmentalist" orientation of our civilization -- which so highly values economies of scale, technological progress, and ever-increasing "productive throughout."

The question arises: how can the accumulation of capital be restrained? This is reminiscent of another, more commonly asked question: how can the proliferation of nuclear weapons be curtailed and reversed? More generally: how can we put certain "genies back in their bottles" - - to ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons, deconcentrate wealth, devolve power? Part of the answer is that humanity must come to recognize that there are artifacts, processes, technologies, and institutions of our own construct which are inherently anti-social and/or anti-ecological. Nuclear weapons fall under this category. So does bioengineering. So does the building of economic and political empires. The latter invariably usurp, exploit, and destroy the foundations of what constitutes our natural, healthy environmental and social habitats.

So, just as the manufacture or possession of nuclear weapons must become proscribed under international law and abjured as a cultural value, likewise any attempts to build economic or political empires must not be tolerated. The drive to accumulate power and wealth must become recognized for what it is, a pernicious characteristic of a civilization headed, ever more rapidly, in a pathological direction.

Economic relations must change, but at this point of historical crisis our overarching objective must be to consciously and deliberately (albeit gradually) shift toward a *different way of life* -- characterized by sustainability, a more harmonious balance between the natural ecosphere and the human-made technosphere, a recognition of limits, a restoration of community. a Green "movement".

How to restore lost community? For most of human history, the locus of production, healthcare, welfare, education, etc. was either the (extended) family or the community. Both family and community have become impoverished as these essential life functions/responsibilities have been shifted "out" to institutions and external agencies such as the state and the corporations.

The family has become just a consumption unit, the community merely a residential unit. Bringing production and care "back in" may be the single most important factor in terms of fostering the renewal of real community.

Community-Based Economics vs. Socialism

Socialism was mistaken in predicating its conception of human liberation on the achievement of generalized abundance, the material basis of which must be a high level of "development of the productive forces." The emergence of the Green movement and a post-socialist radicalism during the 1970s was based on, among other things, a recognition that (a) we have to look deeper than the level of capitalist property relations to understand the forces that have been degrading the biosphere and destroying organic community, and (b) counteracting these forces will require a break with the trajectory of developmentalist civilization more radical than that envisaged by the socialists.

It follows that the new radicalism has a different historical perspective from that of classic socialism. It certainly does not view capitalism as a "higher stage" establishing the material basis for the potential emergence of a classless society! rather, it sees capitalism as the current manifestation, in the industrial era, of an unecological, exploitative way of living that dates back millennia. Whereas socialists asserted that capitalism had "played a progressive role" by spurring the development of the productive forces, Greens are more apt to feel that the "development of the productive forces" has been a disaster, a ruinous acceleration of the process of grinding nature into commodities.

Communitarian Social Relations Mitigate Against Exploitation of Labor

Exploitation of labor has been an issue since the Neolithic revolution. A way of life based on clearing the land and constructing a human-made artificial environment in place of natural climax ecosystems is problematic due to the amount of work it entails. At the basis of social stratification/class division of society is the issue of who will do the enormous amount of odious work. [Exploitation of labor and our relationship to the land are just some of the problematical aspects of the Neolithic revolution with which humanity has never fully come to terms.]

Face-to-face communitarian relations mitigate against Exploitation of Labor.

When there is real community we don't generally see neighbors exploiting neighbors. Throughout history it has been others who have been made to toil. Ancient empires were based on slave labor -- the conquered Others were put to work. After the fall of the Roman Empire there was a nearly thousand-year period during which the mode of life in Europe became more locally oriented, more cyclical, less expansionist. Historians in the modern era, their perspective skewed by the ideology of progress, originally conjectured that the medieval peasantry had been more exploited than the modern working class.

But closer examination showed that within the context of the manorial system the peasantry toiled less than had been thought -- Sundays were truly a day of rest and additionally there were over 100 holy days during the year when work was proscribed.

The modern period has been characterized by expansionism on a scale never seen before. With visions of empires far grander than those of the ancients, the Europeans sailed and conquered on a global scale. Upon encounter with the Other, the Other was invariably put to work if at all possible. When Amerindians did not make good slaves because they lacked certain antibodies and died of European illnesses, Africans were imported to the New World to bear the harshest brunt of the subjugation of the vast "undeveloped" double continent.

By the dawn of the industrial era, the acceleration of the process of development, with its centralization, urbanization, and hypermobility, had for the most part destroyed organic community. As social relations became increasingly more impersonal within the context of mass society and economic relations increasingly characterized by external (distant) ownership and control, the general population, rather than just conquered or imported outsiders, became subject to being treated as mere factors of production.

During the 20th century, the misguided belief in the liberatory potential of developmentalism characterized the Communist/socialist societies as much as the capitalist ones. The socialist movement, in its preoccupation with property relations and economic growth, failed to resolve the problem of the exploitation of labor, both in theory and in practice.

Alternative: The Greens

Greens who reject socialism find themselves being labeled "middle class" or even "right wing." This indicates a lack of comprehension regarding the new alternative we are presenting. More than just an alternative to the Republicans and Democrats, it is also an alternative to capitalism and socialism. It is antithetical to both big business and big government because it stands for the renewal of real local community. This perspective is one that distinguishes the Greens and will enable us to make a unique contribution toward deriving political and economic solutions for the 21st century.
[support] [do not support]

Resolution 5: A Proposed Resolution on Biological Diversity

Crisis of Biological Diversity

The expansion and intensification of human activities as a result of industrial development, natural resource exploitation, urbanization, population growth and sprawl have calamitously degraded and extirpated habitats and ecosystems on a global scale and severely impoverished wildlife and plant species and populations. Many leading scientists believe that the continued loss of biodiversity through habitat destruction, enhanced often by poaching, pollution and over harvesting, and often the introduction of alien species, is the gravest ecological crisis facing humanity. They argue that the normally rich resilient web of life has started to unravel and that the consequences for human life on earth are unpredictable and most likely dire.

For those who believe technology will find the answer, the Green Party remind us that the evolutionary history of life on earth reveals that humanity is but one species in the continuum of life. As part of the web of interlocking interdependent natural systems, our species depends upon the preservation and rehabilitation of these deteriorating relationships, not on speculative claims about the power of technology.

There are several levels of diversity: genetic, population, species and ecosystem diversity. Genetic diversity is already threatened by biotechnology, which seeks to reconfigure genes and genomes for human profit and benefit regardless of the ecological consequences. Diversity within a species, which confers the ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions, is dependent upon diverse populations within a species (interbreeding groups residing in specific areas of the broader habitat, which in turn requires the preservation of sufficiently large areas for replenishment of individuals. Protection of large contiguous areas of habitat guarantees a variety of biological niches that can support population diversity as well as other species within smaller biotic communities.

Each species, through its component populations, contains the necessary genetic reserves that will allow unimpeded evolutionary processes to take place. Diversity of species indicates the general health of the planet; the more species there are, the more different habitats we know exist. If species or populations disappear, it signifies that ecosystems, which are the earth's life support systems, are also threatened.

While evolution does involve extinction of species over vast time periods, it also means speciation and, over time, more new species evolve than go extinct. The result is that since life began there has been increased diversification of life forms. But human-induced change, whether by bulldozers, over harvesting, chemicals, or pollution, is on a vastly more intense scale than the slow transmutation of one species into another, or speciation through geographic isolation of populations. While evolution can repair local ecological upheavals, human-directed change is easily outpacing the snail's pace of evolution and weakening the very foundations of life on earth.

The threats to biodiversity are innumerable: over-harvesting of fisheries and forests; poisoning and pollution by toxic chemicals, radioactivity, heavy metals and acid rain, monocrop agriculture; desertification, aquifer depletion, hydroelectric and water development projects, coastal and estuarine degradation, deliberate or accidental introduction of alien species that outcompete native ones. But the definitive irreversible threat is habitat destruction which, when compounded, destroys ecosystems that provide the basic life services of our planet. Modern technology, agribusiness, and industry have not freed us from dependence on specific climatic and atmospheric conditions, biological cycles involving nutrient recycling, need for decomposition of organic matter, pollination services provided by animals for flowers, trees and crops, healthy predator-prey relationships, pest and blight control, abundance of species for food,

medicines and other needs, and so forth. All of these services arise from the richness and complexity produced by evolutionary processes whose very foundations rest on biodiversity.

As Greens, we stand as a voice and conscience to represent the right of all of Nature's creatures, communities and ecosystems to exist and evolve without impairment or impediment. If we cut a branch-too-many off the evolutionary tree, we may discover too late that we are on the wrong side of the branch. Without the diversity of nature we would, even if we survived, be trapped forever in a universe of our own making, one of uniformity, the antithesis of evolution. To allow the trend of habitat destruction to continue means the burning of evolutionary bridges that can never be reconstructed. We must recognize that biodiversity is both a precondition for and a product of evolution. To save our planet only to serve human needs is to negate our own evolutionary role as living creatures with a conscience.

We therefore commit ourselves to supporting and working for policies that will preserve the maximum biological diversity through habitat and ecosystem preservation, while recognizing the need for subsistence cultures to continue using sustainable traditional methods of fishing, hunting, gathering, livestock and agriculture. It is arguable that the highest morality lies in recognizing our ties to and dependence upon Nature. The clearest way of expressing this moral responsibility is to put preservation of species and habitats at the top of our political agenda.

[support] [do not support]

Resolution 6: A Proposed Resolution on Biotechnology

Nowhere do science, ethics and public policy intersect and conflict more than in the expanding field of biotechnology, which seeks to monopolize, commodify and commercialize the products of genetic research and manipulation. The raw materials needed for such commodification, however, do not belong to biotechnology corporations; they reside within the living human genome, in living and natural resources traditionally owned and utilized by indigenous peoples, and in humankind's precious global biotic heritage.

Recent developments in economic globalization such as the multinational World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) make it alarmingly clear that one of the major intents of such agreements is the suppression of demands for protection of the environment, food safety, human health, workers' rights and human right, which are viewed as major constraints on the development and sale of biotechnology processes and products. But nowhere are such demands more necessary than in this field of endeavor, whose advent has introduced serious and possibly irreversible, threats to biodiversity, public health, world food supplies, the labor movement, consumer protection, family farms, the organic food movement, human rights in indigenous communities, the cultural and intellectual properties developed and presumed by centuries- long traditions of rural, agrarian and hunter-gatherer communities, and, not least, to democracy itself.

Biotechnology corporations, aided by the WTO, are taking aggressive action to patent genetically modified life forms, prohibit labeling of foodstuffs containing genetically modified components, prevent farmers from harvesting their own seeds for future crops, gather and utilize human genetic material from indigenous peoples, create transgenic organisms using species that may contain hidden lethal or toxic traits, disseminate genetically engineered plants in the wild without clear proof of safety, promote the use of growth hormones in dairy cows despite known health risks, illegally mix genetically modified crops with unmodified ones to avoid consumer detection, overturn food safety laws, and in general to manipulate genetic materials so as to threaten the evolutionary integrity of genes, genomes, species, populations and ecosystems.

In addition, the advent of cloning techniques and other mechanisms such as in vitro fertilization raises once more the fearsome spectre of eugenics, the ostensible "improvement" of individuals and the human germ line and the abolition of hereditary disease and disability, raising concerns over the ethical implications of such technologies.

Most if not all of the above corporate biotechnologies are being used without the knowledge and informed consent of or benefit to those who are the rightful owners of these genetic resources or those at risk. Indeed, essentially all biotechnology work that now takes place constitutes a worldwide ecological and human experiment whose resolution could mean not a new era of biotechnology but biocide. But even if this does not occur, the concerted efforts of the giant biotechnology corporations are already undermining the foundations of democracy itself and the right of the public to understand, regulate or restrict such work.

as it sees fit. In the first line of fire are traditional and indigenous cultures and communities and the living and natural resources upon which they depend, these are now being looted by the biotech corporations in unremitting acts of biopiracy. The next line of fire is the developed industrialized world which is seen as the major potential consumer for genetically modified foods. Finally, small farmers, ranchers, food processors and retail distributors will be sucked into the biotechnology swamp with the promise of lower costs and more profits.

The ability to manipulate DNA, the genetic material of life on earth, confers on select groups of society the power to not only redirect evolution and society but to ultimately control the most basic necessities of life: food, medicine and energy. This control constitutes worldwide biopiracy, the theft of the very underpinnings of life and nutrition. While the stated intent of such groups - pharmaceutical manufacturers, agribusiness, medical and scientific research institutions, corporations and government regulators - is to solve problems of world hunger and disease, the reality of the situation is that the purported "cure" is worse than the disease. The fact that biotechnology proponents are already fending off consumer inquiry and opposing consumer demands for even minimal oversight such as labeling of genetically engineered foods clearly indicates that these proponents have no intention of abiding by any land of ethical or social contract, much less any democratically determined or formalized consumer-based regulation.

For this reason, all biotechnology applications should be regarded as suspect until the citizenry of all nations has put in place democratically based mechanism to determine the need for and desirability of the various genetic manipulation technologies now used or being proposed. The single exception that we would envision as ethically acceptable would be the use of such technologies to alleviate or cure somatic illness in single individuals, that is, disease or infirmity whose cure would not involve any manipulation of the germ line (eggs or sperm). With these principles in mind, we affirm the need to protect the diversity of the world's crops and agriculture, defend the rights of local and indigenous cultures and rural communities to control over their resources, demand the termination of agricultural practices and policies that undermine biodiversity and indigenous rights, and urge a shift away from cash crop export in poor nations to ecologically sound, locally based and controlled subsistence food raising and distribution, including access to land and appropriate technology.

[support] [do not support]

Resolution 7: A Proposed Resolution regarding Open Government

In Section I, the Green Party Platform states that "At every level we support 'Sunshine Laws' that open up the political system to access by ordinary citizens."

Section 2 further states: "An informed electorate is critical to good government. The scope of the First Amendment is extensive and prohibits any law which would abridge the freedom of speech, or of the press, most clearly in reference to political matters. Our legal right to criticize government is essential to the effective working of democracy. We support openness in government, not secrecy, and endorse the 'FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT' (FOIA) as a way of guaranteeing access to government decision-making."

Across the country, and at all levels of government, there is unrelenting pressure to restrict citizen access to information that is crucial to the "effective working of democracy." This pressure occurs in each branch of government executive, legislative, and judicial. Greens resolve to oppose every effort to restrict access to public information, and to work to expand such access.

Executive Branch

At the federal level, the gratuitous use of "national security" as a shield against the release of public information must be vigorously confronted. While there unquestionably exists information the release of which would damage national security, too often national security is invoked to cover up illegal activity (e.g., the Iran-Contra scandal). Further, classified information remains secret long after secrecy has any meaning whatsoever (e.g., intelligence on troop movements in Europe during World War I).

At the state level, many governors have blanket exemption from freedom of information laws, and thus are shielded from public scrutiny of the formulation of their decisions. Many executive branch officials, and particularly big city mayors, transfer city planning functions to nonprofit associations or corporations whose boards consist of business executives. One of the express purposes of these transfers is to avoid public disclosure laws.

Legislative Branch

Congress and state legislatures have the primary role in determining what information the public has access to. Legislatures, in enacting freedom of information laws, invariably allow some information to be exempt from disclosure to the public. Certain of these exemptions are legitimate, such as those prohibiting the release of information which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy. Other exemptions are clearly not warranted, and impinge on the public's ability to hold their elected representatives accountable. Typical of such exemptions are public universities ability to conduct presidential searches in secret. Many states restrict information outside of freedom of information law exemptions. One of the most egregious examples is the right in many states of polluting industries to "police" themselves without public disclosure or reporting to the government. Greens unequivocally oppose these polluter secrecy laws.

Legislatures often try to emasculate freedom of information laws by making them difficult in practice to enforce. Michigan's Freedom of Information Act, for example, imposes a penalty of only \$500 in punitive damages on public bodies for failure to comply with the FOIA. Greens advocate stiff punitive damages, and attorney fees, as part of enforcement of freedom of information laws.

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch of government restricts citizen access to government information through the formulation of common-law "privileges". A very threatening privilege that was originally formulated in the federal court system and has since worked its way into state courts is something called the "deliberative process" privilege. This was formulated ostensibly to allow government employees to be frank and honest in their advisory, pre-decision memoranda, and to keep employees from being dissuaded from such frankness by public scrutiny. However, the potential for abuse, corruption, and lack of accountability engendered by such a privilege is manifest and Greens resolve to dismantle such privileges.

The judiciary also controls the procedural aspects of freedom of information laws, because public bodies which deny the public information must be taken to court. Judges aligned with politicians can slow the release of public information through the entertaining of frivolous motions, lengthy, often multi-year appeals, etc. until that information is no longer timely. Further, legislative attempts to mandate a speedy adjudication in the courts of freedom of information disputes are spurned by courts, on separation of powers grounds, as a legislative encroachment on the judicial branch of government. The Greens support a judiciary that will mandate the speedy adjudication of freedom of information disputes.

Conclusion: The Fifth Amendment and Public Information American courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have long held that citizens seeking public information rely on a statutory entitlement (as narrowed by statutory exemptions) provided by freedom of information laws, and not on a constitutional right to free speech.

The time has come to correct this situation. The Fifth Amendment's right of free speech is diminished if citizens do not have access to the information necessary to prove or justify what they say or opine. Their ability to criticize their government is eviscerated. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the corresponding provisions in state constitutions, should be amended to refine the right of free speech so as to include the right to timely-acquired public information which supports that speech.

The stakes are too high to do otherwise. As James Madison wrote: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives. A popular government without popular information or the means of accruing it, is but a prologue to a farce or tragedy or perhaps both."

[support] [do not support]

Resolution 8: A Proposed Resolution on a Definition of Sustainability

Environmental and Economic Sustainability

In the late 20th Century, with ecosystems around the world unraveling, and more and more people living in poverty, a Green proposal that is rapidly coming into popular consciousness involves creating a sustainable economy. The problem with this is not that a sustainable economy is a bad idea or goal, but that the descriptions of sustainability being circulated are fuzzy, inaccurate, and generally do not lead to good policy decisions. A clearer definition of sustainability then, integrated into policy decisions, needs to be understood and adopted.

The working definition of sustainability here is that any harvest or take of biologically renewable

resources must be less than the natural production of the resource. Examples make this much easier to explain.

The annual catch of fish must be less than the reproduction and growth of fish. If on a year to year basis fish populations that are being harvested remain stable or increase, the harvest is sustainable. If fish populations or biomass decrease, then the harvest is not sustainable. This applies on both the ecosystem and species level and harvesting is only considered sustainable if every species in the ecosystem is maintaining its population.

When harvesting the forest by cutting trees, harvesting is considered sustainable if the volume of wood in the forest increases from year to year and there is no reduction in the biodiversity or stability in the system.

The other aspect of sustainability that we must consider is the amount of waste that sinks can absorb. The sustainable use of sinks means that the ecosystem can absorb a given amount of waste each year without any impact on either the ability of the system to continue to absorb waste, and there are no rises in the amount of the waste in the system. We may be able to continue to put carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, and the atmosphere continues to absorb it. But the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere continues to rise, and it is therefore definitely NOT sustainable.

A more general way to measure sustainability is to look at the amount of the world's primary productivity (the amount of solar energy converted to green plant growth) that is absorbed by humans. Looking strictly at terrestrial systems, humans absorb about 40% of the primary productivity of the planet. We are all aware that with humans absorbing 40% of the primary productivity ecosystems are crashing and plants and animals are becoming extinct at an alarming and accelerating rate. When we consider that the amount of primary productivity that humans are absorbing has more than doubled in the last 50 years, and even at a 20% rate ecosystems were crashing, it is obvious that the amount of the primary productivity of the planet that humans can take must be dramatically reduced if we are to approach sustainability. We must reduce the amount of productivity that we utilize and we must engage in serious ecological restoration as a part of any plan to achieve sustainability.

Part of the misuse of the term sustainability is that economists and civic leaders regularly refer to sustainable growth. When we consider that ecosystems are already crashing from overuse and that natural sinks are already being overwhelmed, and that it is impossible to grow the economy without using up resources or putting more stress on sinks, sustainable growth is a term that is completely meaningless and should be eliminated from the lexicon.

Agricultural sustainability is a category that falls between the cracks of the above definitions. It is not harvesting wild resources, and it is not necessarily excreting waste products to sinks. Truly sustainable agriculture uses only products derived from the farm to maintain soil fertility and uses no chemical inputs other than natural products for either fertility enhancements or the control of pests. Farm derived animal and plant wastes are composted and used to maintain soil fertility, there is no off farm runoff of organic wastes, soil erosion is kept below the level of soil building, and neither hybrid or genetically altered seeds are used.

We don't want workers to pay the cost of declining environmental industries. It should be the responsibility of the corporations and their owners, who profited from the environmentally damaging industry.

[support] [do not support]

Resolution 9: A Proposed Resolution on Youth Rights

All human beings have the right to a life that will let them achieve their full potential. Young people are one of the least protected classes of human beings, yet they represent our future. We must ensure they have an upbringing that allows them to take their place as functioning, productive and self-actualized members of their community.

The Green Party supports the rights of youth:

- Recognize that young people have the inalienable right of independent existence. Youth are not the property of their parents or guardians, but are under their care and guidance.
- Recognize that youth have the right to survival through the provision of adequate food, shelter and comprehensive health care, including prenatal care for the mother.

- Recognize that youth have the right to be protected from abuse, harmful drugs, violence, environmental hazards, neglect and exploitation.
 - Recognize that youth have the right to develop in a safe and nurturing early environment provided by affordable child care and pre-school preparation.
 - Recognize that youth have the right to an education that is stimulating, relevant, engaging and that fosters their natural desire to learn.
 - Encourage the creative potential of young people to the greatest extent possible.
 - Allow young people to have input into the direction and pace of their own education , including input into the operation of their educational institutions.
 - Provide young people, at the earliest time appropriate, with education regarding their own sexuality.
 - Give young people the opportunity to express themselves in their own media, including television, radio, films and the Internet. Young people should also be given skills in analyzing commercial media.
 - Keep young people as free as possible from coercive corporate advertising at their educational institutions.
 - Recognized the importance of parents, teachers and other allies of young people. Ample support must be provided for their work.
- [support] [do not support]

Resolution 10: A Proposed Resolution to Endorse a Statement by the International Forum on Globalization

The Green Party endorses the International Forum on Globalization's statement of purpose as follows: [We] advocate equitable, democratic, and ecologically sustainable economics. [We oppose] a globalized economic system dominated by supranational corporate trade and banking institutions that are not accountable to democratic processes or national governments.

These current trends toward globalization are neither historically inevitable nor desirable. Globalization policies lead to a number of negative outcomes, including: The rapid diminishment of the powers of local and indigenous communities, states, and even nations to control their futures as economic and political power is transferred to global and transnational institutions.

The acceleration of modes of economic development that give scant attention to issues of equity, or the health of the natural world, and that have already brought the planet to the brink of economic, social and ecological catastrophe.

The reinforcement and expansion of the economic colonization of southern countries by northern countries, while widening the gap between rich and poor in all countries.

A sharp increase in unemployment in both the North and the South, as work is increasingly mechanized and automated, as corporate farming and biotechnology replace traditional small-scale agriculture, and as corporate activity becomes more mobile, unrestricted, opaque, and unaccountable.

Massive population shifts from rural to urban areas, with commensurate poverty, famine, ethnic friction, and degradation of living and working conditions and human rights.

The accelerated invasion of the earth's remaining wilderness, bringing a loss of biodiversity, depletion of natural resources and the breakdown of the planet's life support systems, as is already evident in ozone destruction, global warming, loss of species and habitat, depletion of forests and oceans, and the loss of the lands and rights of native peoples.

Worldwide homogenization of diverse, local and indigenous cultures, social and economic forms, as well as values and living patterns that reflect the efficiency needs of the new global monoculture; simultaneously, the homogenization of diverse landscapes, as they are transformed to suit the global market. [We] view international trade and investment agreements, including the GATT, the World Trade Organization (WTO), Maastricht, NAFTA and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), combined with the structural adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to be direct stimulants to the processes that weaken democracy, create a world order that is under the control of transnational corporations, and that devastate the natural world.

We advocate the following principles:

- Revitalization of local communities by promoting maximum self-reliance, economic and political control, and environmental sustainability.

- Establishment of economic enterprises and accompanying institutions that enhance people's abilities to exercise democratic control over all decisions that affect them, while promoting meaningful and sustainable livelihoods for all.
- Replacement of economic policies based on such concepts as "comparative advantage," which have destroyed local economies through emphasizing regional specialization and environmentally disastrous global transport activity. We urge emphasis on the use of local resources for local production and consumption to produce a better balance between local commerce and long-distance trade.
- Abandonment of the paradigm of unlimited economic growth, which is blind to ecological limits and seeks to maximize consumption and material output.
- Recognition of the rights and sovereignty of indigenous peoples.
- Encouragement of biodiversity, cultural diversity, and diversity of social, economic, and political forms.
- Development of autonomous, regional and local cycles of production and consumption based primarily on renewable resources of energy and raw materials, and recycling all types of wastes, thus preserving natural resources for future generations, as well as the wisdom and beauty of nature.

[support] [do not support]

Resolution 11: A Proposed Resolution on Reform of the Internal Revenue Code

The pervasive, corrupting and degrading influence of money in the political process; the prevalence of corporate welfare, the need for campaign finance reform and/or term limits, are manifestations of the deleterious effects of the present tax collection system. We cannot continue to deplore the manifestations while we neglect to address the causative factor.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spends millions of dollars every year to maintain an inadequate and complicated tax collection system. The seven million word tax code is so convoluted the Internal Revenue Service itself has trouble understanding it. Corporations spend millions of dollars on tax compliance, much more than they actually spend on taxes. Many millions more are spent on lobbyists to secure passage of favorable tax legislation and/or subsidies. More millions are donated to political parties and candidates for the same purpose, contributing to the moral morass that encouraged the sale of access to the White House to monied interests and foreign investors. Billions of dollars are wasted on non-production related activities which in turn, increases the cost of production of consumer goods, and, in the final analysis, consumers eventually pay for all these expenses because they are included in the price of merchandise and services.

The deficiencies of the present incomprehensible, convoluted and loophole-riddled tax code is obvious, many attempts have been made to simplify, rectify or amend it, but no substantial improvements have been achieved. In 1997, a Heritage Foundation study found there are more than 577 billion reasons to reform the Internal Revenue Service. In 1998 they found more than 159 billion new reasons to reform the Internal Revenue Code, bringing the total number of reasons to more than 737 billion.

Pandering to the misconception that the accumulation of wealth automatically stimulates the economy and creates jobs, the basic difference between the current tax initiatives revolve around the amount of anticipated budget surpluses that should be returned to taxpayers. Unfortunately, the posturing of the presidential candidates does not effectively address the real issue, tax simplification.

In recent years several regressive tax systems have surfaced, including: a flat tax, a value added tax, a consumption tax and/or a national sales tax, these taxes would unfairly burden low-income and moderate-income families and would not effectively address elimination of the national debt (debt service on the national debt consumes more than 25% of the budget). While a flat tax on wages would simplify individual tax returns, it does not address the complex, expensive and corrupting aspects of the current system. Sales taxes and property taxes are extremely regressive and should be repealed.

In theory, a truly progressive income tax is the best system. In practice, we have the attempt at progressivity of the present system which has evolved into the massive and complicated system we have today. In the words of the Kemp Commission, the present tax code "is beyond repair - it is impossibly complex, outrageously expensive, overly intrusive, economically destructive, and manifestly unfair.... We believe [it] cannot be revised, should not be reinvented, and must not be retained."

Apparently, the favorite pastime of our legislators is to dream up tax collection schemes that will not arouse too much opposition from a usually apathetic electorate. If this trend continues we may soon pay taxes for the air we breathe. Ridiculous? Remember, once water was free for the taking. Today, because of pollution and urbanization - in the name of progress - we are compelled to pay taxes for the water we use. The time has come for the repeal of both the sales tax and the property tax. Middle-class citizens and the poor are the ones most adversely affected by these regressive taxes while the rich are not paying a fair share.

We propose a three-tiered tax system for individuals and corporations that is neither truly flat nor truly progressive but truly simple, and introduces into the economic system, the principle of checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution. It also provides the mechanism to eliminate budget deficits and pay-down the national debt

In this simplified system, all personal income such as, wages, interest earned, dividends received, bonuses, gifts etc. are taxable. And as long as corporations are granted personhood, their income is also taxable at the same rate as personal income. Assets and/or property is not taxable.

In The First Tier: Individuals with an income that is less than the designated Federal Poverty Level pays no tax. The current operating expenses of corporations, excluding their public relations, advertising and interest expenses are deductible.

In The Second Tier: Individuals pay a 25% tax on personal income above the designated Federal Poverty Level. Corporations pay a 25% tax on net income after deducting current operating expenses as defined in Tier One.

In The Third Tier: Individuals who receive more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) a year after taxes, and corporations whose net income after taxes exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.000) pays a surcharge on excess income at a rate that will provide for a balanced budget and pay-down the National Debt.

Addenda

The Federal Budget will repeal all subsidies and tax incentives, fund Social Security based on income under \$100,000, extend the benefits of Medicare (regardless of age) to all residents with a valid Social Security Card, compensate for all revenue lost by the repeal of sales and property taxes, and provide at least 50% of the funds needed to build and maintain public schools and not-for-profit medical facilities.

The mandating authority must contribute at least 75% of the cost of all mandated programs.

Explanations

Individuals - For income tax purposes, married couples may file as an individual or separately to eliminate the marriage penalty and, hopefully, return to the days when a single wage earner can support a family.

Corporations as Individuals - To discourage the merger- mania and the concomitant downsizing that reduces the payroll for employees, and to encourage small business enterprises.

After Taxes - Individuals and corporations would deduct previous year taxes before computing present year tax. Net Income - Corporations would deduct all expenses excluding interest, public relations and advertising expenses from gross income to arrive at net income. The general public should not subsidize the interest on loans, public relations and advertising expenses of corporations.

Surcharge - The percentage of the surcharge would be established by Congress annually to provide for a balanced budget and pay-down the national debt. The individuals and corporations subject to this surcharge are the ones best qualified to monitor and check the excesses of Congress, hence the checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution.

[support] [do not support]

Resolution 12: A Proposed Resolution regarding Direct Democracy

We support more direct democracy because increased people power leads to better laws and policies, more responsible and involved citizens, and even a better representative democracy! We mean to make it easier for us all to propose and vote for the laws we want, modernizing the initiative power now enjoyed in 24 US States. We should use telephone and Internet voting and petitioning, extend initiatives to the other states and to the federal level, and institute quarterly voting as the Swiss have for their initiative process. We want to decrease the power of money, and increase the power of people, in both direct and representative Democracy.

There are 4 main reasons why this is important:

1. As folks like Ralph Nader, Medea Benjamin and Michael Moore have noted, the majority of Americans largely support Green values and vote for them when they can, while representatives mostly vote the way their corporate contributors want.
2. Because implementing our values by initiative will be so much less frustrating than by lobbying legislators or by litigation, people will vote and participate more, becoming more responsible citizens.
3. People will compare initiative legislation to our representatives' legislation. We hope the competition will encourage better representation from our representatives. The people will make the key policies, and legislators will carry out the more technical details.
4. Direct democracy is an educational and evolutionary process: Educational, because We the People have to live with any legislative mistakes we make, and so we have the incentive to correct those mistakes. Representatives on the other hand, usually try to cover up their mistakes, because their careers and egos are on the line. Direct democracy is evolutionary because the initiative process can be used to improve the initiative process in ways we haven't even thought of yet.

Here are steps we can take towards a more direct democracy:

1. Encourage Green candidates to make this a top talking point of their campaigns.
2. Encourage people to read and comment on the draft of the Direct Democracy Initiative (<http://vote.org/us>) proposed by former U.S. Senator Mike Gravel and the non-profit Philadelphia II. The DDI would extend the initiative process to all government jurisdictions in the U.S., allow initiative campaign contributions only from individuals, and establish an Electoral Trust. The Trust would promote universal lifetime voter registration and "contemporary technology" for voting. It would administer the initiative process, providing a legislative drafting service, hearings, contribution reports, Initiative pros & cons, etc. Philadelphia II does not intend to enact the Direct democracy Initiative by begging Congress to share their power! They intend to use "first principles" - the fact that the people, not the state legislatures, ratified the Constitution- to hold a popular vote on the Direct democracy Initiative. James Madison said "first principles" was the right of the people to "just do it." We should.
3. Encourage people to learn more about how direct democracy has worked in the 24 States with it, in Switzerland, and in other cultures, starting with the Government by the People web site at <http://vote.org>. Initiatives have brought us women's suffrage, better labor conditions, the Nuclear Freeze, direct election of US Senators, campaign finance reform, direct primaries, etc. In Switzerland, initiatives motivate better voting turnout four times a year than American turnout once a year!
4. Pass a petition to modernize and ease Colorado's initiative process, which has not changed significantly for almost a century. Ballot access should be facilitated by lessening the number of signatures required and/or allowing signatures on petitions from newspapers, the internet, etc. Elections by telephone and internet should be held quarterly to accommodate the expected increase in citizen legislation. Broadcasters should be required to air the issues on the public airwaves, for free. Campaigns using only volunteer signature gatherers should get on the ballot with half the signatures required of those with paid petitioners. This avoids an outright ban on paid petitioners, which the Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional.

[support] [do not support]

A GREEN TAX POLICY -- Local-to-Global Public Finance

Taxation not only raises money necessary to fund government services; it also reflects the overall value system of a society. The goal of GREEN TAX POLICY is to create a system of public finance which will strengthen and maximize incentives for:

- Fair distribution of wealth
- Environmental protection
- Basic needs production
- Provision of adequate government services
- Peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts

Green tax reform makes a clear distinction between private property and common property. Private property is that which is produced by labor. Common property is that which is provided by nature. Green tax policy removes taxes from wages and other private property and increases taxes and user fees on common property. Reducing taxes on labor increases purchasing capacity, while reducing taxes on capital encourages efficiency. Shifting taxes to land and resource use curbs speculation and private profiteering in our common property and is a practical way to conserve and fairly share the Earth.

Captured in brief soundbites, "tax waste - not work," "tax bads - not goods," "pay for what you take - not what you make," and "polluter pays," become tax shift principles readily translated into voter-friendly policy recommendations with broadbased political support.

Green tax policy CUTS taxes on:

- Wages and earned income
- Productive and sustainable capital
- Sales, especially for basic necessities
- Homes and other buildings

Green tax policy INCREASES taxes and fees on:

- Land sites according to land value
- Lands used for timber, grazing, mining
- Emissions into air, water, or soil
- Ocean and freshwater resources

- Electromagnetic spectrum
- Satellite orbital zones
- Oil and minerals

Green taxers want to ELIMINATE SUBSIDIES deemed no longer necessary, environmentally or socially harmful, or inequitable and unfair. Slated for drastic reduction or complete removal are those for:

- Energy production
- Resource extraction
- Commerce and industry
- Agriculture and forestry
- Weapons of mass destruction

LOCAL-TO-GLOBAL PUBLIC FINANCE TIERS

Imagine the shape of the emerging order as a pyramid with three basic levels: a small tier at the top for global institutions, a greatly slimmed down second band of national governments, and a vast sturdy base of local governance.

Green tax reform has the potential for becoming a comprehensive and universally accepted approach to public finance policy that can readily be integrated into such a three-tier system of local-to-global governance. Percentages of total resource revenues collected could be disbursed up or down these several tiers based on criteria of equity, as some nations and regions of the earth are better endowed with natural resources than others. Freedom to live or work in any part of the globe would also further equality of entitlement to the planet.

Suitable tax bases for the funding of cities, regions, states and at the global level can be clearly delineated as follows:

LOCAL: Surface land values, such as sites for homes, business and industrial activities, are well-suited to finance cities and towns. Progressively shifting taxes OFF OF productive efforts such as building homes, working and organizing businesses, and ON TO land site values prevents land speculation and monopoly, thus keeping land affordable while at the same time enabling workers to keep what they have earned. This type of green tax shift also would be recommended for rural areas where it has potential for non-coercive land reform which could underpin the transition to organic farming and a revitalized rural "eco-village" culture.

REGIONAL: State, regional, or national bodies may be best constituted to collect user fees for forestry, mineral, oil and water resources. Precise configurations for the allocation of resource rentals between the state, regional and federal levels would vary according to particular situations.

GLOBAL: Urgently needed is the establishment of a Global Resource Agency to collect user fees for transnational commons. This would include parking charges for satellites placed in geostationary orbits, royalties on minerals mined or fish caught in international waters, charges for exploration in or exploitation of Antarctica, and use of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Other significant global revenue sources are taxes or fees based on the polluter-pay principle, such as international flights or aviation fuel, international shipping, or dumping at sea. Proposals are being developed to place a tax on currency speculation. To be considered is whether international arms trading should be heavily taxed or completely abolished.

The Global Resource Agency could also be responsible for monitoring the global commons (e.g., the ozone shield, global forest reserves, fish, biodiversity) determining rules for access, issuing permits and collecting resource revenues. Such a body could assume substantial authority for levying fines and penalties for the abuse of common heritage resources.

Revenue raised from access fees for the use of global commons could fund sustainable development programs, environmental restoration, peacekeeping activities, or low-interest loans for poverty eradication. Funds are also needed on the global level to finance justice institutions such as the World Court and the International Criminal Court and to facilitate policy convergence in areas such as trade, currency exchange, and human rights.

The Global Resource Agency could also be mandated to distribute resource revenues equitably throughout the world as calculated by formulas based on population, development criteria and

currency purchasing capacity.

THE EARTH BELONGS TO EVERYONE

It is overly simplistic to view the world as being divided between the rich North and the poor South. In the North there are significant numbers living in poverty and despair while in the South there are those with the riches of royalty. The structural systemic problem of the maldistribution of wealth is a global phenomenon. Taxes structured along the proposed lines would do much to level the economic playing field worldwide, both within and among nations. A coherent and integrated local-to-global green public finance system would fundamentally alter the status quo and would give every person a stake in the planet as a birthright. With basic needs securely met for all, humankind would be free to advance to a higher dimension of expression and realization.

#