### 1NC

#### Text – The United States federal government should initiate an environmental impact assessment regarding the consequences of

#### [PLAN TEXT]

#### and adopt such a measure if, and only if, it meets compliance requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act.

#### It competes-

#### “resolved” means “to make a firm decision”,

#### “should” is “used to imply obligation or duty”

(American Heritage Dictionary at dictionary.com)

#### Environmental assessments are key to maintain US environmental leadership

Purvis 03 (Nigel is a Nonresident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institute, “Greening U.S. Foreign Aid through the Millennium Challenge Account” June 2003, www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2003/06/energy-purvis)

Importantly, both the environmental and business … institutions to conduct their own environmental assessments.

#### Environmental leadership checks extinction – it’s key to warming, biodiversity, oceans, soil, and the atmosphere

Khosla 09 (Ashok Khosla, International Union for Conservation of Nature President, 1/27/09, “A new President for the United States: We have a dream”)

A rejuvenated America, with a renewed purpose, commitment and energy to make …our wasteful industries, construction, agriculture and transport systems.

### Overview

#### Environmental assessments don’t cause delays and are modeled internationally

Lovaas 12 (Deron is the Federal Transportation Policy Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, 6/14/12, “Earth to Congress: We Need Environmental Stewardship not Streamlining” http://switchboard.nrdc.org)

I started by pointing out that …. advocates support more infrastructure investment.

#### Only have 8% of transportation projects are required to conduct environmental assessments now – and, they aren’t the source of delays

Deacon 03 (Whitney is a member of the Association of Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, “The Bush Administration’s Attack on the Environment; Target: NEPA’s Environmental Impact Statement” Missouri Environmental Law & Policy Review, Lexis)

Are These Criticism's Founded? NEPA may be … projects are required to do the full EIS. n91

### AT: CP is Normal Means

#### Current environmental assessments are non-binding and occur too late to have an effect - prior assessment is key to NEPA success

Council on Environmental Quality 97 (January, “The National Environmental Policy Act: A Study of Its Effectiveness After Twenty-five Years” http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/nepa25fn.pdf)

Study participants found that … strategic choices are foreclosed.

### AT: Textual / Functional Competition Stuff

#### “Should” means “must” and requires immediate legal effect

Summers 94 (Justice - Oklahoma Supreme Court, “Kelsey v. Dollarsaver Food Warehouse of Durant” 1994 OK 123, 11/8, www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn13)

2 The turgid phrase - "should be and … become effective in the future [in futurol]. See Van Wyck v. Knevals, 106 U.S. 360, 365, 1 S.Ct. 336, 337, 27 L.Ed. 201 (1882).

### Brink

#### Environmental leadership is high now but *perception* is key to maintaining it

Hayward 08 (Steven F. Hayward is the F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellow at AEI, “The United States and the Environment: Laggard or Leader?” 2/21/08, www.aei.org/article/energy-and-the-environment/the-united-states-and-the-environment-laggard-or-leader/)

To borrow the blunt language of Generation X and … This perception is more strongly held abroad than here in the United States.

#### NEPA is the biggest internal link into environmental leadership

Council on Environmental Quality 97 (January, “The National Environmental Policy Act: A Study of Its Effectiveness After Twenty-five Years” http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/nepa25fn.pdf)

Worldwide, the United States has been … measure ever enacted by Congress...."7

#### The Bush administration put environmental leadership on the brink, showing a commitment to the environment is key to solve

Walter 02 (Norbert, Chief Economist at the Deutsche Bank Group, “An American Abdication” New York Times, 8/28, LexisNexis)

At present there is much talk about the … and economic -- if not existential -- conflict.

### Leadership K2 Relations

#### US environmental leadership is the only way to increase relations – that means the CP solves better than the aff

Ivanova and Esty 08 (Maria Ivanova, Assistant Professor of Government and Environmental Policy at the College of William and Mary and the Director of the Global Environmental Governance Project at the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Daniel C. Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy at Yale University, “Reclaiming U.S. Leadership in Global Environmental Governance” Summer-Fall 2008, Volume 28, Number 2, pg 69, Project Muse)

In this article, we address these core questions. We … even those related to protecting the planet.

### AT: Delay

#### Environmental assessments are quick and efficient

Lawrence 03 (David Phillip, Governance Director – Diageo Global Procurement, Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Solutions to Recurrent Problems, pg. 251)

EIA Expediting and Focusing Approaches All four … efficiency of the EIA system.

### AT: Theory

#### It’s fair - tons of ground exists

Gaines and Lurie 07 (Lisa and Sue, Ph.D., Associate Director and Consultant in the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University, “NEPA for the 21st Century: A Comparative Analysis of Other Organizations’ Environmental Review Structures” 5/16, www.fs.fed.us/pnw/about/programs/fsd/NEPA/Final%20Draft%20 Report-160507.pdf)

Since NEPA’s passage more … studies are particularly instructive.