**Environmental Policy Final Examination**

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# Environmental Policy Final Examination

Imagine that you have just been elected President of the United States. How would you deliver green technologies and protection of the environment, while ensuring that the economy does not tank due to shortage of electricity and transportation fuel?

When tackling any large problem the first step is to break it into workable smaller components. For this issue those components would be: identifying problem areas then reducing pollutants and increasing output in a long term sustainability manner.

# Identifying Problem Areas and Reducing Pollutants

The first step toward correcting a problem is admitting that there is a problem. In terms of environmental pollution this identifying the hot spots that impact air, water, land, and wild life.

Consider an independent study showed deforestation is the number 1 cause of soil corrosion and unacceptable reductions in wild life. We can target that specific problem through regulation and legal requirements. For instance a law could be put in place that for every tree cut, one needs to be planted. Another might be limiting the amount of lumber that can be cut per year.

Not all of our problems will be are clear cut (pun intended), such as the challenges of global warming. We need to identify what part America is responsible for, not as a witch hunt exercise, but too limit what we directly cause. This requires grant money for independent organizations to do the research and come back with the areas.

Planning and making sure the right future actions take are correct, but we live in the present. There is low hanging fruit that we can address today, an example being the emissions from older cars and trucks. During the Obama administration they took on these challenges with the *Cash for Clunkers* program. That addressed both the pollutants of these old vehicles and also helped stir the American automotive industry.

While cars and trucks are a common scapegoat, they are not the only goat that needs to be examined. Another area is the use of nonrenewable energy to fuel our homes and businesses. A tax should be imposed on their use and the money invested in transforming those facilities into leveraging renewable energy.

# Sustainably Increasing Energy Output

Since the 1950s nations dreamed of nuclear power both as a clean energy source and also a means of reducing need on foreign nations. However it has been a controversial topic due to incidents like Chernobyl and in Japan, where the plants became run down and eventually fell apart.

Nuclear energy can still one of the tools in our energy tool box, provided there are safe guards and sufficient funding to keep it running well. By creating these safety regulations nuclear power could be widely used. Where these regulations are not met, governmental funding needs to be provided to get them and keep them up to code.

America is a large country with different areas possessing different structural benefits. Across the Great Plains, where high speed winds are common more wind turbines need to be provisioned. There needs to be incentives for private businesses to erect these and sell the energy back to power plants. Similarly other parts of the country need to be incentivized into hydroelectric and solar energy.

# Technological Advances

A third area that any good national policy requires is a mechanism to advance technology used to solve these problems. Even with as advanced as our current systems may be they are not sufficient to meet the growing demand from our growing population.

For example electric cars provide an environmentally friendly way to get from point A to B. However they have not yet been widely adopted due to many shortages; short driving radius and limited re-charge facilities to name a few. The government needs to invest in the private sector to ensure building these solutions takes place.

Another area is the growing Internet of Things (IoT), which are huge sensor networks that can span the entire nation. These sensors can be connected through cloud platforms, to emit the data required to better model the human ecosystem interaction. The government needs to expedite this work by provisioning these sensors then making the data freely available to researchers. Once the information is freely available universities and private businesses can leverage it to produce innovative insight into global warming and other sources pollution.