

Phillies 2008

Energy and the Environment Market Solutions to National Problems

We face several overlapping challenges. On one hand, since the industrial revolution the carbon dioxide content of the air has increased by a third. The processes that determine our earth's temperature are clearly responding. On the other hand, natural reserves of oil, natural gas, and coal show clear signs of exhaustion.

I have proposed that the Federal government should preferentially choose to buy its energy via long-term contracts in the form of electricity from new renewable sources, at no more than a modest premium over conventional sources. The government leaves to private industry all research, construction, and risk. My purchasing plan is a national security measure, reducing dependence on foreign energy sources. It also reduces the rate at which carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere, and moves us toward the circumstances we will inevitably reach with respect to energy supplies.

We the American people own vast amounts of land in the form of National Forests, National Wildernesses, and other Federal lands. Few Americans wish to sell their partial ownership of these lands. We should be its stewards, leaving our descendants a patrimony that is more valuable than the one we inherited from our forefathers. In some states, the amount of Federal Land exceeds all reason or need, has no unique beauty or value, and should gradually be auctioned off.

We Americans own the air we breathe. There is no more a right to vent poisons into our air than there is to dump toxic waste on your lawn. When someone poisons your lawn, they have committed crimes and torts. The same goes for our air and water. It's a property rights issue. Only a Libertarian President will protect your property in the air above your house.

Phillies for President

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