



**Al Gore
Statement of Priorities to
Friends of the Earth Action
July 2000**

Thank you for sharing your Earth Action Priorities with me. Let me reciprocate by sharing with you my priorities for our environment – and my agenda to make the next decade the Environmental Decade.

1. BUDGETARY ISSUES

Goal: *Increase Spending on Environmental Programs*

A. Budget Increases. *Commit to increasing spending on environmental programs at the rate of other domestic spending increases.*

I am very proud to be part of an administration that has consistently backed substantial investments in environmental protection. Since the beginning of the Clinton-Gore Administration, funding for key discretionary environmental spending has grown by a remarkable 32.5% – from an enacted level of \$29.6 billion in FY1993 to a proposed level of \$39.3 billion in the FY2001 budget request. This record is even more impressive when you consider the success of the Administration in eliminating the deficit and in overcoming the opposition of the Republican Congress to environmental initiatives. During this period, other nondefense discretionary funding increased from \$219.8 billion to \$276.6 billion or 26.4%. Thus, the increase in support for environmental priorities during this Administration has increased by 23% more than other domestic spending.

As President I will continue to support significant increases in funding for environmental programs, as measured as a percent of nondefense discretionary spending, at a rate at least equal to other domestic spending. I have already proposed several major initiatives as part of this campaign that will commit significant new resources to the environment.

I have proposed to dedicate a substantial portion of the projected budget surplus to create a new National Energy Security and Environment Trust

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
501 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.algore2000.com

Fund. The Fund will support private and public efforts to develop and deploy new technologies that will reduce America's dependence on big oil companies and on unreliable energy, clean up our environment, grow our economy, and create new jobs. The Fund will also focus on reducing greenhouse gas and air pollutants from older coal-fired power plants. In addition, I have pledged substantial new funds for land conservation.

To address the problems of climate change and air pollution, I will commit \$150 billion in new funds from the budget surplus over the next ten years for a mix of tax incentives, along with loans, grants, bonds and other financial approaches. With a commitment of \$68 billion in new funds, the largest component of the Fund is my Technologies for Tomorrow Program to fund a wide variety of new technologies for the energy sector.

My overall proposal marks an average of \$15 billion in new funds per year for environmental and energy programs. These new funds constitute a substantial increase over the Administration's current spending for environmental programs, which is approximately \$40 billion this year. Through the Energy Security and Environment Trust Fund, we will substantially increase the federal commitment for clean energy and environmental programs, which will be among my top domestic priorities.

The Trust Fund will focus on three sectors responsible for the most pollution – transportation, electric power generation and industrial production. Through this initiative, we would promote a whole new generation of clean cars, trucks, buses, light rail, mass transit and other new transportation technologies. We would also develop an integrated multi-pollutant approach to address the challenges to our environment and energy security posed by old power plants and large industrial energy users. For the energy and industrial sectors, we would work to develop efficient new technology and clean distributed energy generation.

To ensure that substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are achieved by projects funded under this initiative, we will measure, monitor and verify these reductions. We will keep an inventory of such reductions and make the inventory available to the public.

Improving Air Quality. In addition to stimulating new climate technologies, I will work to strengthen the Clean Air Act by developing new, market based solutions for an integrated and enforceable multi-pollutant approach to control emissions from older, coal-fired power plants through tough air quality standards for power plants and other pollution sources. Through the Technologies for Tomorrow Challenge, I will propose legislation that will offer a menu of financial mechanisms that promise to substantially reduce climate and health-threatening

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 340-2000

www.algore2000.com

2

pollution. Financial support will be pegged to actual progress, based on competition for emissions reductions which will be overseen by a Board of Governors, including environmental leaders.

We are also fighting a recent U.S. Circuit Court decision that would block the implementation of the Administration's 1997 comprehensive standards to reduce soot and smog levels. We are appealing this issue in the Supreme Court next year. An adverse ruling on this case could have a profound impact on both air quality and the entire structure of environmental regulation for years to come.

Conserving Lands. In addition to climate change and clean energy, I have worked to increase funds for land conservation through the Lands Legacy initiative. I have supported and will continue to support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. And I propose to build on LWCF by raising federal royalties for hard rock mining on federal public lands to provide \$2.0 billion in new funding to support local conservation initiatives to enhance the quality of life and to fight sprawl.

B. Sprawl. Specifically, commit to fighting sprawl by reducing funds available for highways and increasing spending on mass transit and passenger rail.

For the last few years, I have led the federal effort to promote livable communities and to fight sprawl, through partnerships with state and local governments and other stakeholders. In the Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty-First Century (TEA-21), we were able to provide communities with the flexibility to transfer funds from highway construction to transportation alternatives, such as public transit. In addition, we helped secure \$1.6 billion for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, which supports state and local efforts to ease congestion and reduce air pollution through high-occupancy vehicle lanes, improved mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, and other measures.

To leverage funds through local partnerships, in 1999, I proposed the Better America Bonds program which will help provide \$9.5 billion in funding to combat sprawl, as part of the Livable Communities initiative. I have also worked to promote environmentally sound brownfields legislation and to secure funds for the Lands Legacy initiative to protect sensitive land from development and provide state and local governments with needed funding for local parks, greenways and open space conservation.

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 340-2000

www.agoore2000.com

3

With regard to the transportation sector, in my "Keep America Moving" initiative, I will commit \$25 billion for major new investments in light rail, high-speed rail, mag-lev technologies, and cleaner, safer buses to make our neighborhoods more livable and to create jobs for American workers. As the transportation component of the Energy Security and Environment Trust Fund, I will work to keep America moving in local communities by:

- Spurring new rail starts by providing additional federal grants to local communities to build new rail systems or extend existing systems.
- Converting to cleaner buses by providing federal funds to help convert municipal and school bus fleets to clean burning fuels.
- Improving passenger safety on buses through advanced mapping systems, emergency road service, and other safety measures.
- Modernizing existing rail systems through federal grants to improve the quality of service as ridership increases.
- Encouraging transit-oriented development by supporting local governments that encourage the revitalization of neighborhoods around transit stations.
- Meeting rural transportation needs by moving people from welfare to work, ensuring mobility for the elderly and people with disabilities and other unique needs.

At the same time, we can help keep Americans moving between communities by:

- Building high speed rail to address the growing congestion on highways and airports by increasing federal funding to build high-speed rail systems in major transportation corridors across the nation.
- Improving existing track through new grants to Amtrak and states to improve existing passenger rail routes.
- Renovating rail stations through new grants to Amtrak and communities for rail station improvements and the revitalization of abandoned rail yards.

Our goals to improve the industrial, residential and transportation sectors can be met by spurring private investment in new and innovative technologies. Accordingly, I will commit substantial new, targeted funding for the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) to provide businesses with incentives to develop innovative transportation and energy related technologies.

C. Green Scissors. Commit to cutting environmentally harmful programs

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.gore2000.com

that waste U.S. taxpayers dollars, which today total at least \$50 billion as reported in Green Scissors.

America's natural resources, public lands and taxpayer receipts are a public trust that should be managed wisely for both their ecological value and for their fiscal importance. During my years in Congress and as Vice President, I have fought harmful riders and pork barrel spending that harm the environment, waste taxpayer money and give away valuable, public resources. In keeping with goals outlined in the Green Scissors report, I will continue this fight to protect our environment and save taxpayer funds by:

Preserving our National Forests. As part of my commitment to protect roadless areas in our National Forests, I will fight to ensure that there is no road construction, timber harvest or other development in roadless areas -- both in the lower 48 states and in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. Setting aside 50 million acres of roadless areas -- forever -- from subsidized road construction will protect the ecological health of our forests and avoid fiscally-unsound Forest Service road construction.

To address concerns raised about the fiscal and environmental impacts of Forest Service road construction in other areas, I also support the proposed "roads rule," and the work of Mike Dombek to turn the Forest Service away from building new roads to maintaining existing roads and, where necessary, retiring roads that are no longer needed.

Reforming 1872 Mining Law. Last year, I pledged to fight to increase the royalties for hard rock mining on federal land by \$2.0 billion over ten years or \$200 million annually to ensure that taxpayers get a fair return for minerals extracted from public lands. I have committed these savings to fight sprawl by adding \$100 million per year for ten years to the Lands Legacy initiative to increase funds for local parks, greenways and other open spaces. The balance of the increased royalties would be used to provide targeted conservation tax cuts to encourage landowners to sell or manage private land for conservation purposes. (Source: Remarks at November 1999 Environment Speech in California.)

Ensuring Fair Valuation of Oil Royalties. I commend the work of Friends of the Earth and countless other groups in highlighting the harmful fiscal impacts of the oil royalty valuation rider in last year's appropriations bill. I was pleased that we succeeded in weakening this harmful rider and that we published a final rule,

5

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.algore2000.com

Our nation's energy resources should not be overly reliant on big oil and foreign oil and that is so subject to shortages, or so vulnerable to big oil interests trampling on the public interest. We need to end monopolies and instead let competition bring us clean energy and smaller energy bills.

To reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we must work even more closely with industry and labor to bring cleaner cars, trucks, and buses to showrooms and streets around the world.

Through tax cuts, we can help families start buying cars that get 80 miles per gallon as they hit the showrooms. Tax credits can make these new cars competitive and then mass production will bring the prices down even further. I support giving consumers a tax credit of up to \$6,000 to purchase more fuel efficient cars and other vehicles, as well as larger tax credits for both light and heavy duty trucks. These tax credits build on my work to promote the Partnership for a Next Generation of Vehicles and the 21st century truck initiative.

For the industrial sector, I support providing special incentives to companies that want to use renewable energy, such as wind and solar power.

To reduce reliance on oil, I support tax credits to help America's working families buy energy efficient new homes or to upgrade the efficiency of their current homes. I also support tax credits to partially reimburse consumers for the costs of cleaner energy, to help businesses purchase energy efficient water heaters, heat pumps and other building equipment, and to promote solar energy use for both businesses and households. In addition, I would expand the federal government's weatherization programs to help low income families save money and reduce their energy consumption by installing insulation, upgrading heating and cooling systems and eliminating air leaks.

I also support the expanded use of domestically-produced, cleaner burning natural gas.

B. Clean Industry and Environmental Technologies. Promote tax incentives for the development of clean industry and environmental technologies.

I believe that tax incentives are among the most powerful tools to encourage the development and deployment of environmental technologies for the transportation, energy, industrial and residential

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 340-2000

www.algore2000.com

7

effective June 1, 2000, to establish a more accurate valuation system that will provide an extra \$67 million annually in royalty payments to American taxpayers.

Collecting Fees from Filming in Parks. I was proud of our work with Congress to enact legislation this year to authorize the Interior and Agriculture Departments to establish fee systems for commercial filming in National Parks, National Forests and other public lands. The National Park Service is working to issue regulations to protect our parks and establish the fee program to ensure cost recovery and a fair return on the use of National Parks for commercial filming.

Fighting Giveaways of Federal Lands in Alaska. For the last few years, we have succeeded in blocking harmful legislation that would give away 500,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska for development. We have threatened to veto this special interest give-away which would harm some of our most cherished natural areas and deprive the American public of access and enjoyment of these valuable public lands. If elected President, I will veto this bill, if it crosses my desk. I have also opposed and will continue to oppose the giveaway of land to the city

Protecting North Carolina's Fragile Outer Banks. I strongly oppose, and if elected, will veto a special interest rider that would transfer land from Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge to build a jetty at Oregon Inlet.

2. Tax Policy

Goal: Reform the Tax Code to Promote Environmental Protection and Reduce Pollution.

A. Cut Tax Subsidies for Corporate Polluters. Commit to revising the tax code to eliminate subsidies to corporate polluters, particularly the fossil fuels industry.

I believe that we must reduce America's dependence on big oil and imported oil in the long term -- by finding new and better ways to produce clean affordable, and reliable energy here in America. In addition, we must ensure a fair return on royalties on public lands through such initiatives as updating our system to value oil royalties, as described above.

6

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.algore2000.com

sectors. That is why my proposed Energy Security and Environment Trust will:

- Provide tax cuts to help families and businesses purchase energy and money-saving cars, trucks and sport-utility vehicles.
- Provide tax credits to promote energy efficient new homes, energy efficiency upgrades to existing homes, and the expanded use of cleaner energy, more efficient building equipment and solar power.
- Extend and modify the tax credit for producing electricity from renewable and alternative sources, such as wind, biomass, and landfill methane – to help level the playing field with other sources of energy.
- Provide tax incentives to encourage distributed power technologies to place electrical generation assets in, or adjacent to, commercial, residential and industrial establishments.

C. Payroll/Pollution Taxes. Working together with the environmental and labor communities, commit to reducing payroll taxes and establish pollution taxes to generate lost revenue.

America's working families bear a disproportionate burden of energy costs from buying gasoline, heating and cooling their homes and running household appliances. By developing new technologies through the Energy Security and Environment Trust Fund, we can help reduce the burden of high energy costs on working families, small businesses and electricity ratepayers and consumers. My proposal to expand home weatherization programs is geared directly to helping low-income families.

To expand opportunities for cheaper, cleaner transportation choices, I support providing substantial tax credits to those families who purchase fuel efficient cars and other vehicles. At the same time, through my Keep America Moving initiative, I will provide working families with more and better choices for public transportation, such as light rail, high speed rail, cleaner and safer buses and other improved technologies.

3. Trade and Globalization

Goal: Democratize the trade process and promote responsible corporate behavior internationally.

Proposed Action:

A. Trade Advisory Committees. Open up the trade advisory committees

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.algore2000.com

to include equal representation of industry and public interest groups and make more information publicly available.

I support a trade policy that promotes free trade and protects the environment and the rights of workers. We can help ensure that labor and environmental concerns are factored into the fabric of trade agreements by promoting greater openness in the development of trade policy. That is why I was proud to announce an historic executive order last year that would require environmental reviews of all major trade agreements.

While we implement this executive order, we have actively sought public involvement to develop draft guidelines for environmental reviews. Following an initial opportunity for public comment this winter, the Administration has recently released detailed draft guidelines for public comment and review.

With respect to trade policy advisory committees, I believe that relevant public interest groups and other stakeholders should be fairly represented on all appropriate policy advisory committees.

In terms of the World Trade Organization, I have advocated a range of initiatives to improve the transparency in WTO decision making, by creating greater opportunities for public information and involvement, including urging the WTO to consider public amicus briefs and open proceedings.

In addition, I supported the development of the White House Policy Declaration on Environment and Trade, which included a set of principles to guide U.S. negotiators and to ensure that the work of the WTO is supportive of sustainable development and environmental protections at home and abroad.

B. Public Notice for Trade Challenges. Establish a public notice and comment period before the United States proceeds with formal or informal challenges against another country's environmental or health laws using the trading system. These changes will result in more balanced and environmentally sound trade policy for the U.S.

I envision an enhanced role for the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Council (TEPAC) in decisions by the U.S. to challenge a foreign country's policies. And I appreciate the work of Brent Blackwelder in representing the concerns of the environmental community on trade policy.

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 340-2000

www.alagore2000.com

In the case of any given trade dispute, I believe that we must develop appropriate mechanisms to engage members of the public in the process of determining whether a certain measure taken by a foreign government protects the environment or whether it is designed with an undue trade protectionist intent. A combination of enhanced public input through restructured advisory committee mechanisms and a rolling process of environmental assessments will help ensure our trade policy supports strong environmental measures both at home and in other countries.

C. International Community Right to Know. Support legislation and aggressively push to apply community right to know laws to U.S. companies internationally. The global economy lacks rules that hold corporations accountable to basic standards of operations, such as environmental protection, human rights and labor rights protections. At a minimum, U.S. companies should provide citizens in other countries with the most basic right to know about pollution in their community.

I strongly support community right to know provisions.

Under the Toxic Release Inventory, we've expanded the number of chemicals that have to be reported and the number of businesses that have to report, here in the United States. At the federal level, we can and will widen public access to environmental data on the Internet. The Environmental Protection Agency's web site alone is now being accessed by 600,000 people a year. In the years ahead, we have to expand the right to know where every area where pollution of any kind threatens public health.

With regard to expanding community right to know abroad, I support efforts to facilitate exchange programs with foreign governments and non-governmental organizations to provide information about our commitment to community right to know here in the U.S. If elected, I will direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to prepare recommendations for me on this issue within six months after inauguration. These recommendations will be developed in consultation with the Department of State and Commerce and the Council on Environmental Quality. In addition, I will encourage companies to adopt the U.S. program in their operations abroad, on a voluntary basis, while considering your suggestion to require such reporting.

4. Climate Change and Ozone Protection

Goal: Eliminate U.S. subsidies to climate change inducing projects financed by U.S. Export Credit Agencies and the World Bank.

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 340-2000

www.algore2000.com

10

A. Export Credit Agencies. Cease funding for climate change inducing projects supported by the U.S. Export-Import Bank and OPIC since the use of these public funds is at odds with U.S. foreign policy objectives to reduce worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases, as laid out in the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, work to establish a similar policy at the World Bank Group.

To address the real threat of global climate change, I am committed to promoting the export of clean energy technologies and to raising environmental standards for development finance and export credit agencies.

Through the Energy and Environment Trust Fund, we can promote export of clean technologies by modernizing our power systems and reducing pollution at home, while at the same time, aggressively pursuing the global market for new energy technology. This global market is expected to reach \$10 trillion in the next two decades, as other countries also take steps to overcome pollution and the threat of global warming.

I was proud of my role in negotiating the Kyoto Protocol which includes a legally-binding emission reduction target for the United States of 7% below the 1990 levels by the years 2008-2012. Ratification of this historic agreement will require that key developing countries participate in this effort in a meaningful way and that all developed and developing nations do their part. It will also require the expanded use of market based mechanisms. Promoting exports of clean energy technologies can help developing nations achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

With regard to export credit agencies, we have worked to strengthen environmental standards in international lending, including at U.S. export credit agencies, to provide for full accounting of greenhouse gas emissions for project and to promote targeted programs for clean energy. I have also promoted similar efforts at the World Bank and other international financial institutions, including establishing targets for clean energy lending. To improve the environmental performance of export credit agencies worldwide, we recently secured a commitment to develop common environmental guidelines for export credit agencies from our G-8 partners by 2001. We have also made accelerating work on this critical issue our top environmental priority in the upcoming Okinawa Summit in July.

Goal: Protect the Ozone Layer by Fully Implementing the Montreal Protocol

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
 Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
 601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
 (615) 340-2000
www.algore2000.com

11

B. Montreal Protocol. Support increases to the Multilateral Protocol Fund for phase out and transition away from ozone-depleting chemicals.

As I wrote in Earth in the Balance, the depletion of the ozone layer poses a strategic threat to the ecological fabric upon which we depend and to people directly through exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays. That is why I have worked to promote U.S. leadership with regard to implementing the Montreal Protocol, one of the most successful environmental treaties ever signed. We have worked to phase out CFCs by 1996 and other major ozone-depleting substances by 1994. We have also invested over \$300 million in research into atmospheric chemistry and ozone depletion and approved the introduction of over 300 safer alternatives.

Over the last decade, we have dramatically increased funding levels from \$15 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 1992 to a request in the FY 2001 budget for \$49 million for the Montreal Protocol Fund. This reflects a three-fold increase, through our leadership.

With regard to the Multilateral Protocol Fund in future years, I support funding increases to continue the phase out and transition away from ozone-depleting chemicals.

These efforts and investments have benefited -- and will continue to yield benefits for -- our environment. The Montreal Protocol and our work to implement and expand on the Protocol both at home and abroad are beginning to heal the delicate stratospheric ozone layer. In the last two years, we have measured an actual decrease in these substances in the stratosphere.

C. Methyl Bromide. Commit and maintain the 2005 phase out date for methyl bromide and seek an agreement with other member parties on accelerated phase out of HCFCs in developing countries.

I support the phase-out schedules as negotiated in the Protocol, including the 2005 phase out for methyl bromide. As President, I will continue to support an aggressive research program to develop and commercialize new tools for U.S. agricultural producers as alternatives for methyl bromide.

I was pleased that the Administration recently submitted the Montreal and Beijing Amendments to the Senate for consideration. The Beijing Amendment would add trade and production controls on HCFCs to the Protocol and include reporting requirement on methyl bromide for quarantine and preshipment uses

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal Income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000

www.algore2000.com

12

5. Genetically Engineered Foods

Goal: Increase consumer information and safety of genetically engineered foods.

Commit to a mandatory labeling program for genetically engineered food and establish an effective pre-market safety testing program for genetically engineered organisms before they enter the marketplace. Until consumer labeling and adequate health and safety testing programs are in place, announce a moratorium on approvals and new releases of genetically engineered organisms.

To increase consumer information, I support new guidelines for voluntary labeling of bioengineered products to facilitate consumer choice.

After a comprehensive review, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommended additional regulatory safeguards and research to identify and control any potential risks to the environment and to food safety.

I strongly favor implementing the NAS recommendations and continuing to evaluate and improve our regulatory system, on an ongoing basis, to ensure that we can realize the benefits of biotechnology while guarding against undue risk to food safety and to our environment.

As with any new technology, we must carefully weigh the risks and benefits of genetically modified organisms, particularly with respect to food safety and potential environmental impacts.

In regard to testing, the Administration announced in May 2000 that it will work with stakeholders to create reliable testing procedures and quality assurance programs for differentiating non-bioengineered commodities to better meet the needs of the market.

6. Environmental Restoration in Our Nation

Goal: Restore damaged and degraded ecosystems and species, including endangered salmon.

Proposed Action:

Announce a decision to remove Snake River dams, which act as a barrier to the restoration of the Northwest salmon. In a Gore Administration.

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.

Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 340-2000

www.algore2000.com

13

convene a Salmon Summit to address the problems and threats to the salmon.

I have made restoring injured ecosystems a central focus of my environmental policy – from the Everglades in south Florida, to the Great Lakes, to California's Bay Delta region, to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program in Prince William Sound.

With regard to salmon, I am deeply committed to saving and restoring salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Extinction is not an option, nor is massive economic dislocation. If elected, I will convene a Salmon Summit to bring together all interested parties to find a real solution to restore salmon while avoiding massive economic dislocation in the region. My approach will be based on solid science and include states, tribes, local governments, private landowners and other stakeholders, along the lines of our work to restore salmon on coastal rivers in Oregon and Washington.

To promote the recovery of salmon populations in the Columbia River basin, I support the Administration's effort to launch a comprehensive strategy addressing habitat, hatcheries, harvest, and hydropower operations. This strategy will include scientifically-based performance measures to help gauge the status of stocks across the basin and the success of recovery efforts by federal, state and local authorities. These performance measures will help determine whether more aggressive recovery efforts, such as dam breaching, are needed.

I wish to thank Friends of the Earth for their important role in securing funding to help restore salmon runs to the Elwha River on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. I was proud and pleased to have worked with you on this very important effort. Currently, we are conducting engineering studies on the best way to remove the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams. This engineering effort will help restore the once prodigious Elwha River run and provide important information on dam removal.

However, addressing the hydropower issue is only one of several critical components for salmon recovery. Protecting and restoring habitat for salmon spawning and rearing is also a critically important component of salmon recovery. As part of my commitment to protect habitat for salmon and other species, I was pleased to announce two new National Monuments to protect the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and the Cascade-Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon. And, as you know, I have announced my intention to fully protect the last wild places in our National Forests. I believe we must prohibit logging and other development in inventoried roadless areas. If we do so, we will also help

14

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.alsore2000.com

protect the headwaters of rivers that are important for coastal salmon and Columbia and Snake River runs. In Oregon and Washington State, the roadless initiative will protect approximately 3.5 million acres of National Forest lands.

In addition to protecting federal lands, I support a comprehensive five-year initiative announced by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to improve and restore salmon habitat on federal lands in twelve watersheds in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Another important opportunity to recover salmon is to restore the lower Columbia River estuary, which includes the lower 46 miles of the Columbia. The Columbia River estuary is a critical corridor for salmon populations. That is why I support an interagency initiative involving the National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies to accelerate work on a major restoration program to rebuild the health and productivity of this important area for salmon.

To address the overall management strategy for Pacific Salmon, we also worked to conclude the historic Pacific Salmon Treaty with Canada last year. This important treaty will help improve management of Pacific Salmon runs in U.S. and Canadian waters.

We can also restore salmon through budget initiatives, such as the Administration's new Pacific Coastal Salmon Fund. Last year, we proposed \$100 million in grant assistance to the states of Washington, Oregon and California. This year's budget continues this important initiative as part of the Lands Legacy Initiative.

In addition, I have pledged to provide funds to acquire sensitive lands for salmon recovery through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and voluntary programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. If elected, I will include funds in my first budget request for the innovative Cascades Conservation Partnership to acquire lands in the central Cascade Mountains, to protect salmon and roadless areas and to expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

15

Paid for by Gore 2000, Inc.
Contributions to Gore 2000, Inc. are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.
601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 340-2000
www.aldore2000.com