

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:Kameran L. Onley (CN=Kameran L. Onley/OU=CEQ/O=EOP [CEQ])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 1-JUL-2003 09:07:02.00

SUBJECT:: Re: Whitman Op-ed

TO:Bruce Yandle [REDACTED] (Bruce Yandle [REDACTED])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Dr. Yandle,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Whitman op-ed is good, I wish she had defended us a little more on the climate statement, but oh well.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bruce Yandle [REDACTED]

06/30/2003 09:02:04 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kameran L. Onley/CEQ/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Whitman Op-ed

Thank you for sending this, Kam. A powerful statement from a voice that has a chance of being heard in the green camp.

I hope all is well with you.

We are on our way from Bozeman to Clemson.

Life in Casper is good!

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2003 8:20 AM

Subject: Whitman Op-ed

>
>
>
> Greens Just Keep Singing the Blues (WPost)
> Op-ed By Christine Todd Whitman
> Washington Post, June 28, 2003
> If anyone doubts that the tone of the debate over environmental
policy in
> this city is in serious need of improvement, he or she need only look
at the
> reaction to the release this week of the Environmental Protection
Agency's
> first-ever "Draft Report on the Environment."
> This report, the product of more than two years' work collaborating
with more
> than two dozen federal departments and agencies and state and
private-sector
> contributors, is designed to help answer a question I posed at my
confirmation
> hearing 21/2 years ago: Are America's environmental policies making
our air
> cleaner, its water purer and its land better protected -- or not?
> But judging by the reaction of some professional environmentalists
to our
> report, you'd think we had tried to pass off "The Skeptical
Environmentalist" as
> "Silent Spring."
> To some, it doesn't seem to matter that our report uses sound,
sophisticated
> scientific data to measure how far we've come and to suggest where we
still have
> room to improve. The report looks at the actual health of our
environment and
> helps us measure where our 30 years of effort have made a positive
difference
> and where they have not met our expectations.
> Some have condemned the report because it doesn't discuss global
climate
> change. It doesn't, but the report does include dozens of
science-based
> environmental indicators for air, water and land. The report shows us
where we
> are, so we have a better idea of what we must do to get where we want to
be.
> For too long the environmental debate has centered on counting the
number of
> new laws we've passed and new regulations we've written, on tallying up
how much

> in fines, fees and penalties we've levied on polluters. Focusing on those aspects -- measuring process instead of progress -- may be easier, but it has made it difficult to adapt environmental policymaking to changing times and challenges.

> When the environmental debate turns on questions of process, attempts at innovation have a hard time getting out of the starting gate. An attempt to modernize a law is cast as an effort to undermine it. A good-faith effort to try new methods of achieving better results is characterized as a retreat from existing commitments.

> That is why I was disappointed that so many of those people who make their living as Washington environmentalists immediately and instinctively attacked our report. Because it contradicts their public stance that the state of our environment, without exception, is bad and getting worse, they apparently found it important to shoot the messenger before they could even digest the message.

> But facts are stubborn things, as John Adams said, and the simple fact is that the health of America's environment has improved considerably over the past several decades. The modern, bipartisan commitment to environmental protection -- inaugurated by a Republican president, Richard Nixon, 33 years ago and sustained by six presidents from both parties ever since -- has produced real, measurable results. That news should hearten all those who care about the environment.

> I wonder, sometimes, why the environmentalists find it so hard to admit that they really have made a difference. As our report relates, by many measures our air is cleaner, our drinking water purer and our land better protected than it was -- and those in the environmental movement can take some pride in that.

> But our report also shows that some real challenges remain, including sometimes unhealthy air in large parts of the country, pollution in thousands of waterways and an increasing volume of waste materials. These are challenges on which we should all be working together.

> Unfortunately for the tenor of the public debate over environmental policy,

> too many in the environmental lobby want to hear only the bad news --
> they see
> only evil, hear only evil and speak only evil. That is why we are
treated to
> bizarre spectacles such as what happened this spring when the Natural
Resources
> Defense Council praised a Bush administration proposal to limit
emissions from
> diesel engines on tractors, bulldozers and other off-road vehicles.
"Heresy,"
> cried their allies, who were appalled at the thought that any
environmental
> group would actually support something the Bush administration was doing.
> One of the lessons I learned during my 29 months at the EPA is that
until the
> tone of the debate over environmental policy changes, the next
generation of
> environmental progress will be made more difficult than it should
be. If
> environmental groups are truly interested in progress, not politics, they
should
> let the facts speak for themselves and look for ways to support efforts
to get
> to a cleaner environment.
> Our "Draft Report on the Environment" does just that by giving us a
factual,
> nonpolitical look at where we are and where we need to go.
> Thoughtful criticism is always welcome and productive.' Mindless
attacks are
> not.
> The writer ended her tenure as administrator of the Environmental
Protection
> Agency yesterday
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>