

# 1981 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

Conducted by  
The Environmental Task Force

Dear Friend,

Please take a few minutes to complete and return the 1981 National Environmental Survey I've enclosed for you.

These survey issues involve the personal health and safety of you and your family.

Only a small group of specially selected Americans is being asked to participate in this nationwide survey. That's why your opinion on these critical issues is so important.

By telling me which key issues concern you most we expect to identify trends and priorities that require immediate action.

This valuable information will be shared with environmental leaders and decision makers across the country. We want to help them be more effective in solving important local and national environmental issues.

Even as I write you this letter, toxic chemicals are contaminating our water supplies, industrial pollutants are making our air unsafe, and valuable natural resources are being depleted at alarming rates.

These are not scare tactics...tragically, they are true facts occurring daily in every state across the country.

In the past we have been able to look to the Federal Government for help. But now, with severe budget and agency cutbacks, the Government won't help us. For example, already the Administration has cut \$600 million from energy programs and lifted many of the environmental safeguards that protect you and me from harm.

And James Watt, Secretary of the Interior, has begun to systematically destroy every significant environmental gain of the past 15-20 years. Daily our newspapers tell of the severe threats to local environments that Secretary Watt's policies have set in motion. It is clear he favors commercial exploitation without environmental and wildlife protection.

Despite the fact the large majority of Americans wants stronger environmental protection, we are losing ground. And we must be alarmed. Right now the efforts of many conservation groups around the country are too fragmented and uncoordinated to successfully battle the mounting anti-conservation opposition. We must strengthen and unify our approach immediately to preserve the gains achieved so far, and win further protection of our environment.

What's needed? A new cooperation of effort, new and more

(see next page)

effective techniques, and of course, the renewed dedication and support of all of us concerned about human and animal survival.

By working together in unison, eliminating duplication of efforts, and avoiding wasted time and money, we will achieve so much more. What's needed is a common link between all conservation organizations.

That's where the Environmental Task Force comes in.

ETF was formed specifically to meet these new challenges by providing small and large organizations alike with the information and assistance needed to solve crucial environmental problems that affect you.

Using ETF's "Information Resource Center", individuals and diverse groups from all across the country will have access to valuable "case studies" about environmental problems similar to those they are facing. You can find out where to go for help, what your rights are, and answers to other important questions.

Battles to save our environment from destruction are being waged increasingly on State and local levels. Frequently, groups of citizens join together for the sole purpose of fighting a single neighborhood threat. Unfortunately those efforts often fail simply because they don't have any help or know how to combat the well-financed developer or polluter.

Just imagine for a moment how you and your neighbors would react if a chemical dumping site was threatening your water supply. You would want to do something fast to stop it...but what would you do? Who would you complain to? Who is responsible? Who has the authority to do something? How can a coordinated and responsible effort be developed to respond effectively to the crisis? Wouldn't you like to just pick up the phone to get the answers?

ETF can provide the answers to these and other vital questions such as: How have other communities solved this problem? And how do you get the legal, professional or technical assistance you need?

In short, ETF will keep you and citizen groups around the country from "reinventing the wheel" each time a critical issue or problem arises.

ETF also organizes regular leadership conferences where top leaders and key staff from citizen and environmental groups share valuable information and strategies. This further strengthens the common link between organizations.

We're just getting started, but after just one year we've already earned the encouragement and cooperation of leaders from environmental organizations across the country.

Here's what former Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, said

in a recent letter to environmental leaders:

"Of the numerous efforts I have seen over the years, I can think of none which has offered more creative and practical ways of strengthening environmental organizations at every level than ETF."

But we need to do much more. We must reach out immediately to link up the efforts of diverse grass-roots groups across the country. Only then can we together guarantee a healthier environment for our children and grandchildren...before it's too late.

Quite frankly, ETF simply doesn't have the funds to continue this important work without your help. Our money must come from your donations, because we receive no Government or sustaining foundation support.

The need is great...and we urgently need your help!

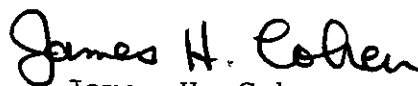
So please, act now by:

- 1) Answering your survey questions to let me know where you stand on these key environmental issues. Your answers will help ETF and decision makers across the country focus efforts on the issues most important to you.
- 2) Send the largest tax-deductible contribution you can to ETF today. Your help is desperately needed. Please consider a contribution of \$15 or \$20, more if you possibly can.
- 3) Inform others about the work of ETF and the need to get involved at the state, local or community level. During the 1980's this is where the battles for our environment will be won . . . and that's where ETF can help most.

It's important that you do all you can to help . . . it may literally mean the difference between success and failure; between economic progress with environmental protection, or without it!

What's at stake? Literally our quality of life itself.

Sincerely,



James H. Cohen  
President

P.S. When you return your survey, I will keep your individual answers confidential. Only total results will be released. Please mail in time to meet the deadline on the front of your envelope. And I hope you will send the largest contribution you can today. Anything you send will help in the fight for a safer and healthier life for each of us.

Thank you.

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please mark your answers to the following questions by placing a ✓ in the appropriate box. Please return your completed survey as soon as possible. Your name and address will not be used when the results of this survey are released.

This Survey is to be answered by:

Do you wish a copy of these survey results?

YES  NO

2070A  
MR. JOHN HENNING  
  
CHARLOTTSVILLE, VA

Please Do Not Write in This Space

Date Received:

Survey #:

Tabulated By:

## PART I ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Your opinion is essential to establish environmental priorities. Listed below are some of the most crucial issues facing our Nation today. Which do you consider most important? (Please check 3 that concern you most).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> air pollution           | <input type="checkbox"/> toxic and hazardous substances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> energy conservation     | <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and wilderness        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public lands protection | <input type="checkbox"/> water pollution                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nuclear power           | <input type="checkbox"/> acid rain                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> farmland preservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____                    |

## PART 2 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1. Do you believe that federally protected public lands (National parks, wildlife refuges, etc.) should be opened up to oil, gas, and mineral exploration?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED
2. Do you think it's possible to make nuclear power safe enough for use as a major energy source?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED
3. Do you believe that Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, is sensitive enough to the need for environmental and wildlife protection?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED
4. Do you feel that Federal legislation is an effective way to safeguard the public from environmental abuses?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED
5. Do you believe that stronger conservation measures and increased use of solar power will help this country deal more effectively with the energy crisis?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED
6. Do you feel that the environmental movement will benefit from a more unified response to critical environmental issues?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED
7. Do you consider air and water pollution as potential threats to your health?  YES  NO  UNDECIDED

## PART 3 PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE SURVEY FORM

- Yes, I've completed my survey and am returning it for tabulation.
- Yes, I want to help. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to meet the challenge of these critical issues in 1981.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ other    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$15

Please make your check payable to: Environmental Task Force and return it with your survey.

**Environmental Task Force, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., #918, Washington, D.C. 20036**



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