



# LIBERTY MATTERS NEWS SERVICE

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## ENCOURAGING NEWS ON H.R. 701

Don Young's "Road to Socialism" bill, H.R. 701, is facing two new challenges in Congress. At the beginning of the year, the bill was referred to the House Budget and Agriculture Committees and last week more members of Congress decided it should also be reviewed by both the House Commerce and Government Reform committees. Keep up the pressure!

## HEARINGS HELD ON ESA REFORM BILL

On February 2nd, the House Resource Committee heard testimony on H.R. 3160, the ESA reform legislation filed by Rep. Don Young (R-AK). Rep. Helen Chenoweth-Hage (R-ID) offered blunt advice on how to fix it. "Repeal it," she said, "it doesn't work and it has never worked." *Doc. # 2106*

## "LAME DUCKS HAVE WINGS"

The White House has announced which states are targeted for federal lands purchases as part of the "historic" Lands Legacy Initiative. Only 16 states have land that the federal government doesn't covet. Arkansas will receive \$1 million, Arizona \$6.8, Colorado \$14.4, Florida \$80.8, Texas \$9.8 and \$8.7 for Idaho, where government already owns 2/3 of the land. On Feb. 8th, Babbitt announced the Administration will also be making several more monument designations saying: "our motto for the year 2000: Lame ducks have wings." This administration seems determined to reverse two hundred years of private property ownership in less than a year. *Doc. # 2107, 2108*

## GREENING THE GLOBE

The Clinton Administration has announced yet another of its unending "initiatives" called "Greening the Globe" and pledges 150 million tax dollars "to fight logging practices that each year lay waste to an area the size of North Carolina." George Frampton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, predicts Republicans will "enthusiastically" endorse the initiative because last year they approved \$80 million for the efforts. By strange coincidence, Indonesia will receive some of the \$100 million set aside for countries whose forests are most endangered. Through a \$37 million "debts for nature" program, the U.S. will forgive the debts of nations which promise to create new sanctuaries.

*Doc. # 2109*

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## EARTH NEVER WAS IN BALANCE

A fashionable cause of the environmental elite is to "save the tropical rain forest," but Paul Stott, author of "Tropical Rainforest: A Political Ecology of Hegemonic Mythmaking," says there has never been a "tropical rain forest," adding, "these forests are not a million years old, in fact they have existed a mere 12,000 years." The environmentalists' demands to leave the forests in a "virgin" state is a dangerous concept that threatens the ability of the world to adapt to change. "The world functions largely in non-equilibrium, with its biological components being endlessly remixed in response to change, so the forests ebb and flow, with the world surviving unharmed. This is not a fragile Earth, it is an intrinsically restless Earth, flexible but ever tough."

## UNACCOUNTABLE, UNAUTHORIZED, IRRESPONSIBLE

Politicians might talk about cutting government spending, but last year Congress squandered \$129 billion on 137 programs that weren't even authorized. For example: The Legal Services Corp., which advocates far left-wing legal agendas and hasn't been authorized since 1979, received \$305 million. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, together received \$213 million and neither has been authorized since 1993. The kicker is the Justice Department, the one that turns a blind eye to the President's scandals, was awarded a whopping \$14 billion.

## PRIVATE \$\$ INFLUENCES U.S. ENVIRO POLICY

On Tuesday, February 15th, the House Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, chaired by Rep. Helen Chenoweth-Hage, will hold a hearing on the growing relationship between large foundations, national environmental organizations and the federal government in the development and implementation of U.S. environmental policy. The hearing will be the focus of a book written by Ron Arnold, executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, entitled *Undue Influence*. Foundations invest over \$400 million a year in environmental advocacy and research.

*Doc. # 2110*

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