

President Clinton: Protecting Our Communities from Toxic Pollution

August 28, 1996

President Clinton is announcing today a new national commitment to protect communities from toxic waste cleanup by the year 2000 -- by accelerating toxic waste cleanup, by expanding families' right-to-know about toxic pollution in their neighborhoods, and by getting tougher on criminal polluters.

Accelerating Superfund Toxic Waste Cleanup

- Nearly doubling the pace of cleanup
- By 2000, approximately two-thirds of the priority sites will be cleaned

Expanding Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative

- Promoting the cleanup and reuse of contaminated industrial and commercial facilities

Getting Tough on Criminal Polluters

- Strengthening penalties for the worst illegal dumpers
- Ensuring that courts can secure polluters' assets in order to restore the communities they victimize

Expanding Americans' Right-to-Know About Toxics In their Community

- Giving people more information about toxic threats to their families.

Making Water Safe and Clean for All Americans

- Better protecting drink water sources
- Reducing toxics in the Great Lakes
- Making polluters pay to clean up their water pollution

PROTECTING AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT

Compare The Public Record -- President Clinton Vs. Senator Dole

-- KEEPING AMERICA'S WATER SAFE FROM POLLUTION --

President Clinton... YES

On August 6, 1996, President Clinton signed a bill reforming the Safe Drinking Water Act which requires drinking water tests to eliminate dangerous contaminants such as cryptosporidium. President Clinton also vetoed the extreme GOP VA, HUD, EPA Appropriations bill which cut safe drinking water funding by 45% from his request. [EPA, 5/2/96; AP, 5/2/96; HR 2099 Veto Message, 12/18/95; CEQ Fact Sheet, 11/22/95; OCRA 96, HR 3019]

Senator Dole... NO

In December 1995, Dole voted for the extreme GOP VA, HUD, EPA Appropriations bill, which would have cut safe drinking water funding by 45%. Dole's 1995 "regulatory reform" bill -- which was written by lobbyists for polluters -- would have prevented the EPA from instituting effective safety regulations for drinking water. [Statement of Admin. Policy on H.R. 2099, 12/14/95; H.R. 2099 Veto Message, 12/18/95; Environmental Info. Center, "Dole/Johnston Regulatory Reform"; CQ, 5/6/95]

-- KEEPING AMERICA SAFE FROM TOXIC WASTE --

President Clinton... YES

Since taking office, the Clinton Administration has cleaned up more toxic waste dumps than in the first 12 years of Superfund -- increasing the pace of Superfund cleanups by 20% and reducing costs by 25%. In December 1995, President Clinton vetoed the extreme GOP Appropriations bill, which cut Superfund toxic dump cleanup funding by 25% from his request. [Statement of Admin. Policy on HR 2099, 12/14/95; HR 2099 Veto Message, 12/18/95; OCRA 96, HR 3019; EPA Const. Completion/Deletion Tracking System]

Senator Dole... NO

In 1965, Dole was one of only four Representatives to vote against the Clean Air and Waste Disposal Acts which authorized \$92.5 million during fiscal 1966-69 for research and development of methods to dispose of solid wastes. The bill passed 294-4. Dole also supports repealing the Superfund provision which forces polluters -- not taxpayers -- to pay for toxic waste cleanup. Dole supports repeal of retroactive Superfund liability which is also supported by Dole's political contributors. [National Journal's Congress Daily, 5/17/95; Greenwire, 10/20/95; Crain's New York Business, 10/16/95; 1965 CQ Almanac, p. 1008, vote #169, 9/24/65]

-- ENFORCING LAWS THAT PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT --

President Clinton... YES

The Clinton Administration has initiated hundreds of charges and has levied tens of millions of dollars in fines against polluters for environmental crimes. President Clinton vetoed the December 1995 GOP Appropriations bill which would have cut environmental enforcement funding by 25% from the President's request. [EPA FY '95 Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Accomplishments Report, 7/96; Statement of Admin. Policy on H.R. 2099, 12/14/95; H.R. 2099 Veto Message, 12/18/95]

Senator Dole... NO

Dole voted for the 1995 GOP VA, HUD, EPA Appropriations bill which would have cut environmental enforcement funding by 25% from the President's request. The New York Times wrote that Dole's regulatory reform scheme "would sharply limit the Federal Government's authority to enforce regulations under laws that protect health, safety, and the environment." [L.A. Times, 12/17/95; CQ, 12/16/95, Vote #606, 12/14/95; Statement of Admin. Policy on H.R. 2099, 12/14/95; Veto Message on H.R. 2099, 12/18/95; NYT, 6/23/95]

-- DOLE'S RISKY ECONOMIC PLAN WOULD CAUSE 40% CUTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS --

Dole's risky economic scheme will cause 40% cuts in environmental programs. Analysis of Dole's plan by BusinessWeek, & the Concord Coalition has shown that Dole's plan would require 40% cuts in a broad range of domestic programs -- including environmental programs. In addition, the "regulatory reform" portion of Dole's plan would "gut" the government's environmental enforcement and rule-making ability. [NYT, 5/1/95; BusinessWeek, 8/19/96; Concord Coalition, "Supply Side Tax Cut," 8/14/96]