

Below you will find part of Tristin Mock's environmental policy. She is a native of rural Oregon and an environmentalist. Dr Mock is an active member of the Sierra Club and enjoys spending time in the wild regions of Oregon. She understands that balance can and must be reached between conservation and economic goals. If you have any further questions about Dr Mock's environmental policies please contact her campaign at 541-306-3940, or e-mail votemock@gmail.com.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is closely linked to social justice issues. Low income and minority groups often are expected to work dangerous jobs, or not work at all. Many steps need to be taken to establish environmental justice.

First, we must put full effort into enforcement and prosecution of environmental crimes. Creating legislation to protect the environment is useless if violators are not punished for their crimes. Areas with significant pollution problems should be granted higher funding to maintain an adequate enforcement level.

Counties that are already overly toxic should no longer be used as dumping grounds; a moratorium on all new waste facilities in these areas should be imposed. We must try to improve the health of the environment, and thus people, in these areas. Workers should no longer be forced to choose between a hazardous job, or no job at all. Action must be taken to prevent governmental agencies coercing communities into accepting environmentally hazardous industry for the sake of jobs. When new HAZ-MAT sites are being determined community meetings should take place with language services available for all who will be directly affected.

The US should withdraw from the so-called “free” trade deals. These programs cost many Americans their jobs, and are contributing to environmental destruction in other countries.

Energy Management

We must focus on energy conservation, efficiency, and clean renewables. We must learn to wisely use our energy, conservation programs must be the central aspect of our energy policy. Subsidies, and other policies, that benefit nuclear and combustion technologies must be eliminated. These benefits should then be transferred to developing and advancing the efficient use of clean energy technologies.

Cap and auction carbon policies must be instituted to prevent further global climate change. We must begin making these changes now! It is not acceptable to wait to implement these changes until the current legislature is out of office. Protecting the global environment is more important than protecting political careers.

Nuclear power is not a clean source of energy. To date there still is no proven safe method of nuclear waste disposal, despite the health and security threats that it poses, and the billions of dollars spent on development.

The moratorium on offshore drilling should not be lifted. Offshore drilling will not solve our energy crisis, and will in fact do very little to provide relief for ordinary consumers. Offshore drilling will improve the already record profits of energy companies. These record profits should be subject to taxation and all subsidies should be removed on fossil fuels.

Agriculture

Agriculture is an important part of the lives of all Americans, rural and urban dwellers alike. As a former FFA officer, I have an understanding of the industry from the inside.

Small and medium sized farms and ranches must be supported through legislation. Large agribusiness is often environmentally and economically destructive. Anti-trust laws must be enforced to limit the consolidation of agricultural lands into the hands of a few multi-national corporations and redistribute americas lands among her people.

Local markets maintain the health of communities, environmentally, economically, and physically. Locally produced foods are healthier, and tastier, for consumers. Local crops reduce reliance on oil as they do not need to be transported over such long distances.

Reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides must be reduced and eliminated to protect the health of our environment and consumers. CAFOs provide a serious threat to our environment and health and must be eliminated. Animal husbandry must be practiced in an ethical and environmentally sustainable way.

The precautionary principle must be applied to all GMOs. Long-term studies by independent agencies should be conducted before these organism are released into the environment. Life should not be able to be patented, although products containing GMOs should be clearly labeled. Labels should also include information about irradiation, pesticides, and country of origin.

Forestry

Proper forestry management is essential for economic, environmental, and recreational needs. Current US policy needs to be overhauled to promote sustainable forestry practices. To protect local economies the export of raw and minimally processed logs should be banned.

Water Protection

The US should sign the Laws of the Sea Treaty which establishes shared rights to ocean resources. Marine reserves should be established to protect ocean life. Drift-net and long-line fishing indiscriminately kill marine life; these practices should be banned.

Potable water is valuable and must be protected. Congress should restore protection for such bodies of water as headwaters streams, isolated wetlands, and prairie potholes.

Waste Management

Waste water should be managed in ways that reduce volume, including permeable paving and bioswales. Combined sewage and storm drain systems must be separated to protect waterways. The use innovative wastewater management systems, such as phytoremediation, needs to be encouraged through further funding options. To these ends, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund requires increased funding.

Recycling facilities must be developed in all areas, with ease of use in mind. It is absurd that most people in rural area must drive long distances to reach recycling centers, and then must sort their recycling into many different categories, while city dwellers can simply put out a bin of mixed

recycling at the curb. Congress must work to make recycling an easy option for all Americans. Also manufacturers must be responsible for the full life cycle of their products, including accepting the return of products and packaging for reuse/recycling.

Waste disposal sites must be properly managed to promote the decomposition of their contents without leaching toxic compounds into the environment. Proper waste management should also include plans for bio-gas energy production.

The economy, public health, and environment are all inextricably linked. We must maintain a balance of these in order to insure prosperity for future generations. The choices we make are our responsibility, and the ramifications of those choices are key to our survival. The government must be responsible for providing safeguards for the environment, educating its citizens, and rewarding those who are committed to conducting their affairs in an environmentally sustainable way .