OPPORTUNITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Improved energy efficiency is our cheapest and least environmentally damaging domestic energy resource. We already have the insulation, lighting, heating, air conditioning, variable speed motors and other technologies to greatly reduce U.S. energy use per unit of output.

Democrats must make the following concrete environmental commitments:

1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES

At a minimum, the United States should achieve a pattern of energy efficiency that by the year 2000, primary energy use will not exceed its 1992 levels. The federal government should redirect energy funding away from failed nuclear technologies and toward energy efficiency and renewable technologies like solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. As minimum targets, we should aim for having renewable resources provide 30 percent of our energy by the year 2010 and 50 percent by 2030.

2. NUCLEAR POWER AND NUCLEAR WASTE

We must phase out nuclear power within ten years. Dangerous, radioactive waste in the form of spent fuel rod from all civilian nuclear reactors should be stored on site, above ground, as safely as possible, until better technology for waste storage is found. The Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) site in New Mexico and all proposals for deep geological and marine dumping of radioactive wastes must be cancelled. We should research new methods of radioactive waste storage.

3. MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL EFFICIENCY

We should establish an increasing fuel efficiency target for motor vehicles, raising them to a minimum average of 45 miles per gallon by 2005. The government should require an increasing percentage of the Federal fleet to be pollution free over the next two decades.

4. FOSSIL FUEL POLICY

The government must eliminate subsidies to expand the development and use of oil as an energy source.

There must be no new offshore oil drilling or mineral exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other environmentally critical areas.