

# THE NATURE AMENDMENT

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*history:* The earliest version of this proposal was put forward in May, 1989. It has undergone one major and three cosmetic revisions since that time.

**Section 1.** No action, policy, or pattern of neglect shall be taken or permitted by the United States or any State, which would have a significant adverse effect:

- (a) on the atmosphere, waters, soils, or other physical resources on which life depends;
- (b) on the integrity, diversity, or continuing viability of plant or animal species of known or potential, direct or indirect value to humanity; or
- (c) on the integrity, diversity, or continuing viability of a wild ecosystem.

**Section 2.** All public authorities shall nurture the social foundations of a sustainable human relationship with the natural world:

- (a) by preserving natural features of outstanding beauty;
- (b) by facilitating ecological research and popular understanding of ecological principles and concerns;
- (c) by promoting and facilitating the practice of pro-environmental disciplines, such as conservation, recycling, pollution control and sustainable technology; and
- (d) by promoting respect for the welfare of non-human creatures, and protecting them from unnecessary suffering at human hands.

**Section 3.** The preservation of ecosystems being necessary to the future of humanity and all life on Earth, the right of citizens to bring suit on behalf of the provisions of this Article, or in direct defense of the entities protected by Section 1 above, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State.

**Section 4.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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It should be understood that these people's assistance did not, and does not, equate to an endorsement of the amendment.