

## Udall Essay Sample 1

### **"Energy, Economics and the Environment: The Old Order is Breaking Down—The Old Rules Don't Work Any More," Yale Political Union, December 3,1976 Morris K Udall**

It is important to draw the line between friends and enemies. One of Morris K Udall's strong suits throughout his political career was his ability to make this distinction and use it to pass important legislation. Drawing strict partisan lines is a universal problem that as a nation we must overcome. Preserving the environment should be a priority among all people and should not be subjective to partisan lines. The economy in the United States is based on the assumption that we have unlimited natural resources. We believe the more we consume, the better we are doing according to our Gross National Product, which does not take the environment into account. Udall has established a need for cooperation between business and the natural world. In a market-based economy, it is necessary to offer businesses strong economic incentives to achieve this alliance. Businesses must be aware of their environmental impact and be financially capable of making improvements. In Morris K. Udall's speech "Energy, Economics, and the Environment: The Old Order is Breaking Down—The Old Rules Don't Work Any More," delivered to the Yale Political Union on December 3,1976, he expressed the need for a transition: a change from the old way of abusing resources to a new, sustainable system that will accommodate future generations. This mentality is imperative for further environmental and economic improvements that I am committed to implementing in today's changing world.

Preserving the environment is a strong partisan issue that causes conflict between interest groups and party leaders. Due to negative connotations indicating environmental regulations are economically problematic, environmental protection has been placed at the bottom of the list of important matters. Although many Americans may see themselves as environmentally conscious, automobile and energy consumption rates continue to increase dramatically. Recycling is not enough. An entire system of government based on an alliance between our economy and nature is essential to provide us with a sustainable situation that will continue to work for generations. Udall

said, "...we must develop a whole new ethic of resource conservation, with the legal and social institutions to support it." We must develop a methodology where it is easier to recycle than to throw away, where it is more profitable to conserve than to waste, and where innovation is crucial and sufficiently funded to help meet these needs.

The 1970's and the early 1980's are said to have birthed current environmental trends. For example, the Clean Water Act was endorsed by President Nixon, a Republican following trends to improve water quality by passing legislation. Morris K. Udall was pivotal in the adoption of pieces of legislation that continue to shape environmental trends today. The Alaska Lands Act of 1980, one of his greatest accomplishments, doubled the size of the national park system. While in Congress, Udall initiated the Tongass Timber Reform Act, protecting over one million acres of wild Tongass watersheds while finding a compromise with companies holding long-term pulp contracts. This compromise is one of the most important aspects of the environmental movement in order to accomplish long-term goals.

Compared to the fast-paced progression of environmental legislation of the 1970s and early 1980s, the United States has reached a lull where addressing legislative change on environmental problems is difficult and slow. The primary reason for this is economically problematic environmental legislation. However, there is a solution to this problem, and that is sustainability. Sustainability is an ideal that finds a balance between the environment, equity, education, and the economy. Udall gave a speech thirty years ago advocating the four principles that form the basis of sustainability. My goal is to educate businesses, government organizations, institutions, and non-profits on becoming simultaneously sustainable and profitable. The innovative technology needed to find this balance has existed since the 1950s and innovation paves way to greater efficiency. Energy conservation can be cost-efficient along with waste prevention and emission control. Companies need guidance to utilize the correct technology that will work to their advantage to create a sustainable balance.

Transition to greater environmental responsibility is imperative if the US is to remain a functioning nation for future generations. Cooperation between economic endeavors and the

environment is essential for change to happen as the United States has such a market-driven economy. Movement from short- to long-term, sustainable solutions is important for both our financial and natural welfare. As Morris K. Udall argued in 1979, we have a decision to make on "...whether we face years of increasing polarization, of war between man and nature and between haves and have-nots, or whether we can move toward a genuine society, a genuine community, living in harmony with each other and nature."