

Madeline E. Yearwood

Constitution Essay: Adding a Pollution Cap

April 15, 2011

The year is 2030, plastic and other non-perishable items are still sitting in a land field from the year 2011. When people have to walk outside they are wearing a breathing apparatus because the air is so toxic it is unbearable to breathe. I was asked to add or delete an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; I chose to add an amendment regarding pollution and the way waste is disposed in developed countries. Future generations will not want to breathe in the mistakes of past generations. I believe that by adding this amendment to the Constitution would be a great way to show that we as Americans care about our nation and our future generations. This amendment will cap the level of pollution produced by Americans each year at the 2011 level and require decreases of 2% a year until our pollution is at 50% of the current levels.

The first reason I chose to write about this topic was because Americans throw away waste that could be recycled. I propose that we as Americans should at least "go green" in at least one way whether it be; recycling, having an electric vehicle, commuting with a bicycle, or contribute in their own way of "going green." This would help our earth, and also us as a nation. It would reduce the amount of land needed for a land-field, and allow us to put that land to use in a productive way such as parks or other outdoor activities. By laying waste to that land with plastics and aerosol cans that will never decompose we could recycle them and save many of the earth's resources when we need them. Keeping the Earth clean will benefit that will last for generations to come and they will thank you until the infinite hour.

The second reason I chose this was because of the pollution that is emitted into the air on a daily basis. It is unhealthy for any being to breath in this unhealthy air that is even affecting us today, and will be worse in the future. I believe that if we were to enforce the law about filters for the factory stacks the air wouldn't be as bad as it is. Putting a cap on our pollution from factories and cars would greatly benefit us in ways we couldn't imagine. We would breathe better, unhealthy kids who have asthma or other breathing problems would appreciate it and not have to worry about this sort of

pollution in the future. Also, vehicles contribute a enormous part to air pollution, by passing an amendment that stated we should contribute a little part of everyday life "going green" many people would possibly turn to electric cars. This would help out a great deal. The third and final reason I have selected to add this amendment is because, I as one of the future generations that will be part of the decisions that will impact everyone. I want as well as others a clean and environmentally functional world to live in. Many of our past generations haven't thought of present generations and the consequences they will face if something isn't done, now. Earth is the only inhabitable planet we know of at this point and time; we need to keep it as clean and healthy as possible. "Going green" would make a huge impact in ways that are unexplainable. The world and the people that inhabit earth are important and make an effort to work with each other, so help anyway you could.

"For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today", an African Proverb, there is much power that stands behind that proverb, such as the pollution cap I would like to amend. If we would all turn our attention to the future and sit back and think I believe it would do more good than people think it would. Putting a cap on our pollution would be a great way to minimize the pollution and help us live a greater and healthier life for us and for future generations to come. Everyone will thank you just for one small little change that will make a huge impact.