

CONCLUSION

None of this will be easy. Environmental issues involve difficult technical and economic questions. They are politically contentious, with workers often caught between their employers and environmentalists. We do not claim that it will be a simple matter to add the environment to the long list of issues with which the USWA must contend. We do, however, believe it is essential to our survival as a union.

More important, it is an essential part of our moral responsibility as union leaders, charged with defending the interests of working people. It has been said that we inherit the Earth from our parents. But in reality, we borrow it from our children. It is our children's world. We must not fail to protect it.