

## Declaration of Awareness

***I, James Buchanan, having now survived my first 50 years on this planet, make this declaration;***

I have *observed, questioned, failed, learned, adapted, succeeded, lived, loved, won, lost and won* again. I have *experienced* the process of discovery through periods of introversion and extroversion alike.

I *recognize* that a combination of both supports a balance of personal growth both from within as well as from without.

I *recognize* that a deep spiritual connection to whatever energy embodies our creation provides clear guidance in life if we endeavor to channel it. Genius and creation in all things is the inspiration that comes from exploring and strengthening this connection. This connection does not require a name, nor does it fit conveniently into the doctrines of any religion (although most religions recognize many of the truths basic to it). What becomes clear when we tap into the fundamental spirit of this connection is that we have an obligation of stewardship to our Planet and all that permeates her. We have a responsibility to protect and nurture her resources as they are not only our heritage but the heritage of our future generations.

I *assert* that it is a crime against future humanity to ignore this responsibility.

I *recognize* that an unfamiliar measure of gratitude for the sum of nature's gifts is necessary and fundamental to developing a full understanding of our oneness on earth. Only when we truly understand that oneness, will we begin to forge policies and regulatory systems that are in harmony with natural systems.

I *believe* that our bodies are creation's most unique gift to us and that our high reverence for that gift is pivotal to our understanding and treatment of the rest of life. The level of stewardship we have for our own bodies is an outward expression of the level of stewardship we have for the rest of creation so an adherence to regimens of the best nutrition, exercise and mental clarity pays proper homage to that gift.

A by-product of a healthier body and mind is a sharper set of senses through which we can observe and enjoy our world. Greater strength and endurance enables us to go farther, faster and to accomplish more in our finite time on this planet.

I *affirm* that truths change with the times and circumstances for everyone, for no two people share the same experiences from which these truths are drawn.

I *understand* that not all people share in my truths and that they may be unaware of the severely negative impacts we have on our planet. Additionally, people who *are* aware of these impacts may feel they have limited ability to affect positive change where our environment is concerned. The global media are primarily responsible for this lack of understanding or involvement. They should have their fingers on the pulse of the scientific knowledge being derived from these critically important issues and ensure that the information is reported to the people.

This lack of attention or knowledge however, is unforgivable in anyone involved in our governance or leadership for it should be their sworn duty to first and foremost, uphold our naturally instinctive precept of long term survival.

I *affirm* my natural right to protect and honor the air, land, and waters that are our heritage.

I *concede* that I was indoctrinated to a culture of ignorance and a system rife with obscene greed and an often blatant disregard for earth's finite ability to heal herself of our environmental transgressions. Our capitalist profit paradigm has promoted processes and products that have desecrated our ecosystem for many years.

I further *concede* that I have willingly participated in that desecration through selective and blissful ignorance. To that extent, I owe an apology... to nature, to future generations, to displaced and endangered wildlife, to starving human populations that suffer unnecessarily at the hands of the ruling elite who, in the pursuit of profit, unscrupulously perpetrate a myriad of catastrophes upon man and nature.

I *submit* that history has recorded our species as a whole has made very few decisions collectively. I *assert* that the past does not equal the future. The environment is a nonpartisan subject and it will take the cooperation of all parties and politicians to drive necessary shifts in policy to resolve our crisis. Collective will of the people will compel that cooperation.

I further *submit* that the substantial task of diverting from environmental disaster will be difficult... many even claim improbable. However, it is passive and dangerous to confuse 'difficult' and 'improbable' with 'impossible'. We can't afford to despair in the undertaking of solutions to our crisis. We must act now.

I *proclaim* that I will work with diligence to reduce the negative impacts I place on the environment.

Furthermore, I will *strive* to inform others to a new paradigm of higher respect and improved stewardship of natural habitats.

I will *endeavor* to share my appreciation for the simple beauty and brilliant complexities of nature for they are life's greatest stimulant and its most endearing entertainment.

If we are brave enough to push the reset button on our priorities and habits... relinquish our need for instant gratification and our vain subservience to commerciality we've regrettably come to accept as 'the norm', we will breathe a vitality and sense of purpose back into our lives that we as a species have forgotten how to appreciate. The rewards we reap may be difficult to measure but when we achieve this goal, we will know we did the right thing - because we will still have a beautiful planet to call home.

This Declaration was produced on 100% recycled electronic documentation ;-)