



CASSE
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Response to “For green movement, a change in climate.”
Washington Post August 30, 2010

Letter to the editor appeared September 5, 2010

As a mid-career wildlife biologist with the U.S. government, I think I know what ails the environmental movement. In the Aug. 30 front-page story “For green movement, a change in climate,” David A. Fahrenthold noted that “environmentalists say their problem was timing; once the economy perks up, their logic goes, prospects will improve.”

So they’re waiting for economic growth to save the day, and therein lies the problem. The big environmental organizations have been selling their souls for decades and buying the rhetoric that there is no conflict between growing the economy and protecting the environment. Their talk of “green growth” rings hollow because, if anything, it’s only “less-brown” growth. If they would provide frank, honest leadership on the tradeoffs that society faces between a growing economy on the one hand and a dwindling natural environment on the other, they would merit the public’s respect.

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