

Democracy in Action

Position Statement on the Environment

America's dependence on oil and other fossil fuels is unhealthy, both for us as a nation and for our environment. The more we feed our addiction, the more difficult it will be to break. Instead, Democracy in Action (DIA) believes that we should strive to conserve energy, make conservation a habit, and invest our energy dollars in research and development of renewable energy technologies.

DIA supports development of a comprehensive energy policy for the State of South Dakota, including:

- an emphasis on, and incentives for, conservation of energy.
- research in and development of renewable energy through wind, solar and other non-food renewable sources.
- legislation that requires a specified percentage of energy used in South Dakota to come from renewable sources.
- a commitment to clean groundwater, including careful evaluation of residential expansion and the proliferation of septic systems.
- mandatory recycling by residential, commercial, industrial and government entities.
- increased, not decreased, environmental protection as new and expanding industries move into South Dakota.
- legislation to increase severance taxes and reclamation bonds for South Dakota mines.

In light of our position on fossil fuels, we believe that refineries and coal-fired power plants are not a good investment. Therefore, DIA DOES NOT support:

- the construction and operation of the proposed Hyperion Energy Center near Vermillion.
- expansion of Big Stone coal-fired power generation facilities.

In addition, DIA does NOT support:

- construction and operation of nuclear power plants in South Dakota because of waste disposal and water consumption issues.