Albert Gore, Jr., a Democrat from Tennessee, has been in the U.S. Senate since 1984, having previously served for eight years in the U.S. House of Representatives. He ran for the presidency in 1988 and finished third among the Democratic primary candidates. Sen. Gore is a strong international environmental advocate. He chaired the first congressional hearings on the greenhouse effect and has led the fight in responding to climate changes and the threat of ozone depletion. He is the author of the World Environmental Policy Act of 1989 and legislation calling for the Nobel Prize Commission to create a Nobel award to recognize achievements in the field of environmental preservation.

Sen. Gore is the sponsor of a Senate bill designating April 22 as Earth Day 1990.

On April 22, 1970, 10,000 schools, 2,000 colleges and universities, and virtually every community in America took part in Earth Day, the event that helped launch the environmental movement. Congress stood in recess so that members could devote the day to discussing environmental concerns in their states and districts. All three major television networks devoted substantial coverage to events around the country, and the Public Broadcasting System devoted its entire daytime programming to Earth Day coverage. More than 20 million people used Earth Day as a vehicle to demonstrate their environmental concerns.

The enthusiasm for environmental protection that emerged from that first Earth Day led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

The environmental issues addressed by that first Earth Day were mostly local and national in scope. Today, we still face those original environmental problems, but we also face new, global challenges that were virtually unforeseen twenty years ago. The global cooperation required to address these challenges will be unprecedented.

Earth Day 1990 is being organized to overcome the sense of helplessness that many people feel in the face of these global challenges. It will span nations, economies, and cultures and address scores of important issues. It is rooted in a belief that people—working together—can accomplish extraordinary things.

As we begin the last decade of the century, humankind is suddenly entering into a brand new relationship with Planet Earth. The world's forests are being destroyed at the rate of one acre per second. An enormous hole is opening in the ozone layer. Living species are dying at an unprecedented rate, one thousand times faster than at any time in the last 65 million years. Chemical wastes, in growing volumes, are seeping downward to poison groundwater, while huge quantities of carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons are trapping heat in the atmosphere and raising global temperatures.

From the time of Christopher Columbus to the beginning of this century, world population tripled, to 1.6 billion. In only the last seventy-five years, it tripled again, to 5.2 billion. We are told that, in the next seventy-five years, it will double, and perhaps even triple, again. Nearly every index of the environmental impact of modern industrial society follows the same pattern of sudden, unprecedented acceleration. U.S. production of synthetic organic chemicals has gone from almost nothing to 225 billion pounds per year—half a ton for every American. The world's fossil fuel use has increased ten times over, and with it, the flood of carbon dioxide into the Earth's atmosphere. Other greenhouse gases have soared upward at similar rates: U.S. nitrogen oxide emissions are up 800 percent since 1914; methane concentrations have nearly doubled; and the world's emissions of chlorofluorocarbons, which had not yet been invented in 1914, have increased by eighty times since World War II and are still doubling every decade, posing a deadly threat to the Earth's protective ozone shield.

These dramatic changes are taking place not only because the human population is surging and the environmental impact of our economic activities has increased, but also because we tolerate self-destructive behavior—environmental vandalism on a global scale.

The pattern of our politics has to change in the 1990s. In the last decade, we learned the hard way that the fate of our economy depends more than ever before on global forces. In this decade, we must come to recognize that our very survival is inextricably tied to the fate of the Earth's environment. Indeed, the environment has become a question of national security, which directly threatens the interests of all nations and the welfare of all peoples. Now, more than ever, the United States must lead the fight to secure the planet.

We need to deal comprehensively with global warming, stratospheric ozone depletion,
SDI to see that it drew together Initiative (SEI). The obvious par­
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allels with the Strategic Defense 
many of us now believe that the 
must find and disseminate increas­
are well understood in principle, 
consequences, must be regarded 
served for national defense, but 
some need further work, though 
resources required to mount such 
some are already well in hand, 
and some are revolutionary ideas 
life, and air pollution, and other threats to the 
and increased use of renewable energy. We need to approach the technologi­ 
with at least the same intensity—and with compar­ 
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our future, a new faith in the future of life on 
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That is why Earth Day 1990 is 
important. In confronting the 
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mental philosopher Ivan Ilych, it 
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we once again see ourselves as a 
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we will be happy to send informatio11 abottt()llf
animal programs and material which will assistjn 
commitment to animal welfare and strengthen
Society for this task.

Reflect for a moment...

how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States. 
Your will can provide for animals after you're gone. 
Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. 
We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will. 

Please send: Will information

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______
Mail in confidence to: Murdough S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.