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Comments: The National Environmental Policy Act was passed by Congress in 1969 and signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1970 as the first key environmental statute . The Act reflected a widespread public desire to address concerns over the worsening state of the environment. Today, environmental impact statements and environmental assessments are a routine part of the planning for any project undertaken by the Federal Government or that requires Federal approval. the economic considerations are not always (should be) a major factor as agencies evaluate NEPA and the other environmental Acts. The environment has become a battleground of activists from big cities where you cannot drink the water or trash on enter city streets or foreign nations trying to stop American workers . Somehow we have become a country in receivership, with the courts managing our forests, our rivers and our range lands. it's not just that the courts are directly involved in managing many of our resources, they are indirectly managing all of them in our states because of the fear of litigation, not just because of actual litigation. It is not a good environmental policy where the courts make decisions on how to use the lands of America. The original goal of NEPA and many other environmental statutes was to forge a Federal/state partnership in protecting the environment. In NEPA, state and local governments were to have an essential part in determining the environmental and societal impacts of Federal actions. States have often found themselves at odds with the Federal Government when the issue involves public land, an issue that is critically important to western states. This is not what Congress intended when it began the environmental decade. It asks and calls on the agencies to look before they leap, to plan and make decisions in a sound and wise way, with the stated purpose of understanding the interrelations of all components of the natural environment, taking words from the purpose clause. It goes on to say that it's the policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with state and local governments and other concerned public and private organizations, to create and maintain conditions under which we can exist to fulfill social, economic and other requirements of the present and future generations. The impact and the intent have been diminished considerably over the years. we have much to gain in finding common ground to find a stable economic future our people. NEPA was a good piece of legislation that has lost its way during implementation. NEPA is not the problem so much as the implementation of the Act. It takes too long, it costs too much, it's spawns unending litigation, and it is so inconsistently implemented that each agency of the Federal Government has its own custom tailoring of an approach. if we could simply require the Federal Government to be consistent and speak with one voice. We have to change the confusing and contradictory regulations used by the Federal agencies to implement NEPA. In other words, it's not the Act, it's the actors. The Act is intended to require Federal, state and private actions that are comprehensive, with better planning, that have an intergenerational view in their effect and strike a wholesome balance between the environment and the economy. Quoting from the Act itself, 1022(a), which discusses the fact that we are looking at the impact on the human environment, the human environment is cited several times in the regulations of the CEQ and the economy has to be a factor in that overall human environment; after all, poverty and loss of community are definitely part of the human environment. the importance of a stronger role for state and local governments is what I would emphasize. Somehow the past administration twisted the meaning without regard to local community economic damage of bad rules.Regulations implementing the Act at CFR 1508.5 are clear that a state or local government may, by agreement, with the lead agency, become a cooperating agency. Frankly, considering NEPA's mandate and the authority granted in Federal regulation to allow state and local cooperation through agreement, cooperator status for state and local governments should occur routinely.' In fact, in past administration it did not, total lack of consideration. Two sections of the CEQ regulations that allow for the appointment of joint lead agencies with the states as a joint lead agency and also a reference in 1506.2(c) that says , State and local governments shall be designated as joint lead agencies in those appropriate areas. In fact, that did not occur at all, let alone routinely. Clearly, the shortcomings with NEPA are in the application, not in the purpose. Agencies have much too much of their focus on fake science, rules producing litigation- proof documents, and not enough concern about involving people in the process.