



Earth Manifesto

PRESS RELEASE

Revolutionary Earth Manifesto Mysteriously Materializes - A Potential Game Changer

HANNIBAL, MO. --- February 4, 2026

A foresight-honoring Earth Manifesto has been launched into the public arena that contains many wide-ranging understandings designed to spark positive change in the world. All of the more than 150 essays in these writings can be found online, and are also contained in one of the handsome Twelve Books of the Earth Manifesto. These books are available right now from the print-on-demand publisher Lulu Press. This constellation of ideas and insights has been set forth by Dr. Tiffany B. Twain, an admirer of Mark Twain who fancies herself to be his philosophic soul mate in many respects.

Tiffany Twain passionately articulates an extraordinary worldview in this manifesto, and she believes these ideas and proposed plans for improving our country and the world could help transform our societies into fairer, safer, healthier, saner, happier and more free and peaceable ones.

Some of the most important ideas in this manifesto are found in *Common Sense Revival - Book One of the Earth Manifesto*. These perspectives are a distillation of forceful ideas that echo the plain truths expressed by Thomas Paine in his influential 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense*. They present comprehensive and overarching views, bringing together wiser, more farsighted policies and priorities that would help ensure a more salubrious future.

A core idea of this manifesto is that humanity must begin to show far greater respect for the living Earth by making courageous commitments to protect the environmental commons, conserve the resources essential to human flourishing and survival, and safeguard biological diversity. It also proposes practical ways to secure the long-term sustainability of the vital services that healthy ecosystems provide.

Accordingly, a *Bill of Rights for Future Generations* is set forth to help guide our activities and ensure that present choices do not sacrifice the foreseeable needs of people in the future. It also articulates *Intelligent Precautionary Principles* to discipline national priorities and give us clearer guidance toward a future more humane and sustainable than current trends portend.

Some of the most urgently important perspectives in this manifesto address politics and are developed in *See Clearly: Sanity in Insane Times -- Book Twelve of the Earth Manifesto*. This compendium of understandings spells out how large-scale swindles have been perpetrated on the American public, and analyzes, in deliberative detail, the bizarre nature of these conniving con jobs. Among the subjects explored are what is described as "the biggest financial fraud in world history", and *The Con Goes On: A Triumphant Coup by Crooked, Conniving Crony Capitalists*.

These ruses undermine democratic fairness and betray the well-being of both present and future generations. They include more than \$37 trillion in public borrowing since 1980 to finance tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy, along with other misguided priorities. The resulting debt deepens inequality and magnifies social harm. Compounding this damage are corporate schemes that allow giant corporations to socialize costs and risks by externalizing them onto taxpayers and countless numbers of individuals who suffer harms as a result.

See Clearly also includes a powerful essay titled *My Country, Right or Wrong*. It explores the meaning of true patriotism, drawing on Mark Twain's insights and my own reflections on loyalty, conscience, and responsible love of country. It argues for a patriotism guided by the values Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature."

These understandings have been evolving for many years, and have assumed greater urgency in light of crucial needs to clearly understand how seriously the political establishment in the U.S. has betrayed the American people in the past few decades by allowing institutional bribery, Big Money and Dark Money to make it easier for leaders to engage in a long train of despotic abuses in national policies on issues related to taxation, fairness in governing, political representation, and personal liberties. These big issues were the main ones our Founders regarded as being most important when they admirably declared independence from Great Britain almost 250 years ago, boldly launching our great American experiment in democratic representative governance.

This manifesto contains farsighted blueprints on how to improve our societies for all by taking our country back from today's opportunistic profit-prepossessed establishment and the power-abusing political right wing. Such "conservative" factions pose grave threats to unity, equal justice, domestic tranquility, the general welfare, and the blessings of liberty by pushing a Project 2025 agenda that undermines the Constitution and dismantles checks and balances. It is appropriate for the vast majority of Americans to feel indignation at the current state of affairs, and it is our right, indeed our duty, as our Founders asserted in the Declaration of Independence, to throw off despotic rule and take courageous steps to provide new guarantees for the general welfare of the people, and to safeguard our current and future freedoms and security to create truer liberty, fairness and justice for all.

Mark Twain loved to spin greatly exaggerated yarns, and Tiffany Twain uses her own rich imagination to tell some tall tales of her own. Some years ago she took particular pride in *Tall Tales, Provocative Parables, Luminous Clarity, and Evocative Truths: A Modern Log from the Sea of Cortez*. The great philosophic writer John Steinbeck, with his naturalist's attentive gaze on human nature, would likely have approved!

There is a wonky side to Tiffany Twain's introspections into existence, as epitomized by her creation of a 45-parameter *Sustainability Index*. This Index was developed to provide a clear snapshot evaluation of the status of the sustainability of human activities. It measures progress or regress with regard to hopes for humanity to live in sustainable ways on our home planet. This Index began flashing an ominously cautionary red warning signal in May 2013 when measurements of the concentration of heat-trapping carbon dioxide gases in Earth's atmosphere exceeded 400 ppm for the first time in human history, as recorded by sensors on remote Mauna Loa Observatory high atop a towering volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. This milestone tipped the Status Evaluation rating of the Index to a more dangerous level. Only twelve years later, in May 2025, this measure reached 427 ppm, a level that has not been as high for about 3 million years, and it has been increasing faster than ever recorded. See the Sustainability Index online for relevant perspective, commentary and existential considerations.

We Americans have been experiencing epic times of trouble with the pandemic, inflation and political turmoil in recent years, and public attention is riveted on the urgent and the immediate, and is being diverted from critical issues by divide-to-conquer rogues. In the blinding storms lashing out around us, we must not lose sight of crucial big picture perspectives.

The many essays in the Earth Manifesto contain philosophic explorations, incisive insights, penetrating political and economic analyses, creative proposals, feminine perspectives, poetic appreciations, and many deep ruminations and introspections. Most of these ideas are at least tangentially oriented toward a good marriage of humanism and awareness of human responsibility, and of smart long-term understandings with a clear focus on the ecological importance for us to act as better stewards of Earth's ecosystems and wildlife and habitats.

Perilous times require big ideas, higher purposes, broader perspectives, more responsible leadership, and honest action. The essays in this manifesto grapple with the most important issues that face our nation and the world today. The views they convey serve to creatively combine economics and politics with common sense, progressive thinking, philosophy, psychology and spiritual illumination to propose auspicious ways forward.

A revolving focus has created many entertaining and enlightening essays in these writings. One of the best is the insight-filled *Huckleberry Finn, the Forty-Niners Gold Rush, and Sensational Related Reflections*. Check it out, and be sure to contemplate the riff on hydraulic mining and environmental legal precedents in the United States.

In light of the economic, social, political, financial and ecological challenges that confront us today, many Earth Manifesto essays explore comprehensive understandings of these dilemmas. One of these essays is a clarion call

for smarter planning in *Climate Change Considerations, Carrying Capacity, and Ecological Overshoot*. Provocatively creative explorations of big issues and entertaining ideas are also made in *Revelations of a Modern Prophet*.

Ultimate mysteries permeate existence, so it is appropriate that this manifesto has mysteriously materialized in our midst, springing forth as if fully formed, similar to how Athena, the Greek Goddess of Wisdom, is said to have sprung forth from the forehead of Zeus. In actuality, these writings have been evolving continuously since before Sept. 11, 2001, and have incorporated unfolding events and new perspectives and developments as they take place.

The eminently respect-worthy Dalai Lama said at a Vancouver Peace Summit in 2009, "The world will be saved by the western woman." Many well-qualified women have answered this call to action in American politics, but too many of them have been cheated by the diabolically cunning and corruptly well-financed Republican political machine in recent elections. Let's give females much better chances in all future elections! Women should have genuinely fair opportunities to lead, compete, and shape decisions in the institutions that govern our political and economic life. Our leaders must learn to see and address challenges with greater foresight, fairness, and common sense. It is unacceptable that fewer than one-third of our representatives in Congress are women. This imbalance reflects entrenched gender discrimination embedded in our political system, corporate-dominated Big Business, cultural biases, media coverage, and fundamentalist religious movements.

It would be wise for us to respect the healthy condition of Earth's ecosystems and adopt an every-day-is-Earth-Day attitude. Policies and behaviors are needed that are more considerate of the general good and broadly-shared prosperity in the long run. Unfortunately, "Change you can believe in" is being subverted by the powerful influence of entrenched interest groups and the overriding influence of dominion-demanding conservatives. It is becoming increasingly clear that our healthcare system, economic institutions, and trade agreements should be restructured to eliminate perverse incentives and misguided policies that have been put into place to give an immorally large proportion of the benefits of the economy to the few, to the severe detriment of the many. Our system of democratic governance itself should be re-invigorated to purge it of dysfunctional aspects that give overweening power to influence-peddling politicians and big corporations, lobbyists and the wealthy.

Regulations that are merely bureaucratic should be reduced, but fair-minded rules and regulations that protect people from pollution and adverse health impacts should be strengthened. Smart new incentives and disincentives should be implemented that will serve to foster the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest period of time. The basic criteria for determining what contributes to the public good and the best interests of society should be an honest assessment of what is consequentially fairest, wholesome and sustainable. This is clearly set forth in the essay, *The Common Good, Properly Understood*.

One compelling line of thought that underlies the ideas in many of these writings is that the human race is ill advisedly "fleecing the future" with our short-term oriented and unsustainable activities. Powerful interest groups are converting natural resources to cash as quickly as they are able, despite the fact that common sense tells us we should be responsibly treating our home planet like a thriving and lasting concern, and NOT like a business in liquidation. We are collectively acting as if we are unaware, or in denial, or lacking in the most basic tenets of conscience and morality. Must we not tread on the Planet more gently? Must we not treat other people more fairly? Wouldn't it be wisest for us to strive with more sustained commitment to finding ways to protect people's civil liberties? Shouldn't we be demanding that our businesses and governmental institutions give fairer consideration to the common good and the well-being of people today, as well as in future generations?

Insightful entrepreneur and billionaire Nick Hanauer made it crystal clear that adopting "middle-out economics" would be a much more secure and positive plan of action than pushing deceitful trickle-down policies, as expressed in his provocative TED talk and article, *The Pitchforks Are Coming ... For Us Plutocrats*. Hanauer states: "You show me a highly unequal society, and I will show you a police state. Or an uprising. There are no counterexamples. None. It's not if, it's when."

The Earth Manifesto commemorates the wonders and beauty of our home planet, striving to advance a bold revolution against the subtle madness that characterizes the world in its wasteful consumerism, foolish cost externalizing, laissez-faire exploitive capitalism, excessive risk-taking, bubble economic policies, harsh inequities,

reactionary religious fundamentalism, wrongheaded goals, stoked fears, unsustainable population growth, and policies that provoke terrorism and encourage aggressive militarism and repression in reaction.

We must move past the "good-old-boys" culture and the endless ideological standoff between left and right. We should look deeper than competing conflicts between stereotypically strong, authoritarian, paternalistic and domineering father-figure worldviews, on the one hand, and more cooperative parental instincts oriented around fairness, sensible protections and empathetic understanding, on the other. Where should we look? -- directly to the core principles set forth by our Founders.

Our true American values are those that have been cherished since the original 13 colonies declared independence from Great Britain. Colonial imperialism by the British had given our forbearers a powerful motive to establish a democratic republic that more fairly represented all citizens, so a new nation was brought forth upon the American continent that was to be governed by rules of law and a Constitution and Bill of Rights that maintain idealistic and humanistic principles of liberty, justice and the promotion of the general welfare. These great founding documents included powerful protections of free speech and freedom of worship for all people, and other guaranteed rights. They also reflected a valid distrust of despots who abuse power, so the Constitution included a robust system of checks and balances within the federal government, and between it and the States.

Many years have passed since the Constitution was ratified. In this eventful interregnum, a commendable number of progressive advances have been made to protect citizens from the worst characteristics of ruthless capitalism. Laws and regulations have been established, agencies created and reforms made to ensure vitally important protections of privacy, public health, safety of the food supply and pharmaceutical drugs, workers' rights, investor protections, civil rights, and the health of our enveloping environment. These progressive advances stand above the opposing influence of entrenched interests vested in the status quo. The purposes of these advances have been to remedy social ills associated with modern urbanized and globalized industrial civilization, and to mitigate corrupting influences of rich people in our economic and political systems.

Many forces are working against these advances, including unethical dirty tricks in elections, the drumbeat of ideological brainwashing, legalized institutional bribery, misleading information, deceptive disinformation and shrewdly manipulative micro-targeted propaganda on social media, along with the emotional hijacking of millions of people who cling to indoctrinated beliefs. In particular, the insecurities and fears of the American people have been manipulated by "movement conservatives" and the rise of "populist" Donald Trump, who exploited the fears, grievances, frustrations, prejudices, nationalistic impulses, and sheepish gullibility of many people in order to "own the libs" and advance a retrogressive, oppressive and dangerous agenda in both domestic and foreign policies.

We simply must begin to heed the best interests of the great silent majority of persons in future generations. We are at a crucial crossroads in global politics, and the American people would be wise to demand a repair of relations with the international community that have been seriously harmed by Trump and members of his rather rogue administrations. Some of the numerous reasons for this stance are discussed below, and this awareness could help us overturn the repressive influence of MAGA conservatives in the U.S. Senate and House.

Trump gave powerful voice to millions of Americans who feel well-justified grievances and anger at lost jobs and the outrageous extent to which our economic and political systems are rigged against working people in favor of the privileged few. The American people should thank liberals like Senator Bernie Sanders for their much more honorable form of populism in voicing support for farsightedness and democratic fair representation. Kudos to the passionate concern such folks have expressed for the true well-being of workers and those in the middle class.

Outspoken progressives like Elizabeth Warren are to be commended for championing greater fairness toward the disenfranchised and the downtrodden, and for proposals to take action to reduce rash extremes in inequality being foisted on people through wrongheaded national policies and priorities. MAGA Republican politicians are much more selfish than these more honorable representatives, and they wield too much influence by dishonorably appealing primarily to white people and the rich. Trump has acted like one of the worst demagogues in history by stoking people's fears, exploiting resentments and racial prejudices, scapegoating immigrants, inciting violence, and taking demeaning rude advantage of sexist attitudes. He does all of this NOT to properly address public needs, but to

gain personal profit and domineering power and control, vindictively wielded. And he is driven by pathological needs for ego satisfaction, attention, celebrity and notoriety.

Trump has repeatedly exhibited authoritarian behavior, including persistent efforts to undermine the legitimacy of elections, normalize fiscal misconduct, wage a maniacal crusade against immigrants and protestors, and act with aggression in international affairs. For these reasons it is a serious mistake for the American people to have allowed Republican leaders to grab and consolidate power.

A top priority of Republicans is to cut taxes on the wealthy. This value is preposterously misguided in light of crucially more important priorities like making our communities healthier and our societies safer, fairer and more sustainable -- and of ensuring a more propitious legacy to people in the future. This is a distorted value that can only remain entrenched because of the institutional corruption that our political system and the Supreme Court have given to moneyed interests.

Republicans crow about the economic effects of their 2017 tax cut scam, despite the folly of it being financed by borrowing \$2 trillion over the 10-year period through 2026. All taxpayers in every future year are obligated to pay for this profligacy. These recklessly regressive debt-financed tax cuts are mainly benefitting rich people and corporate entities, and causing inequality to worsen in our society. This is crazy, given that increases in inequality and associated injustices are among the biggest threats to most people's well-being in the USA and around the world. Surely it is a poor plan for politicians to continue trying to maximize opportunities for irresponsibly accelerating the conversion of planetary assets to cash. The folly of this is being revealed in anti-regulation fervor, abuses of power, poor preparedness, failures to invest in affordable healthcare, disastrous fiscal policies, conspiratorial misconduct and heightened geopolitical risks.

The majority of American citizens need to "take back our country" from MAGA Republicans, and start by acting to guarantee fairer representation to people in every state. This is how we can prevent crusaders for low taxes on the rich from having deciding influence on our national decision-making, budgetary priorities and law-making. A dire consequence of Republican propaganda and priorities is that the rich are getting much richer in the USA while children have the highest level of poverty of almost any major country on Earth, and many young people have excessively burdensome levels of student debt. And revolutionary unrest consequentially simmers across the land.

Ideas like these are contained in this manifesto, along with an astonishingly comprehensive array of philosophic perspectives, penetrating psychological insights, farsighted points of view, enlightened recommendations, spiritual revelations, humorous asides and entertaining tall tales -- and even many outstanding recipes for tasty and healthy food and meals. Check all this out at www.EarthManifesto.com!

History will judge far right ideologies harshly, just as it has judged Nazi fascism in the light of infamy. The lens of consequential ethics makes it clear that championing policies that exacerbate inequalities and social injustices is wrongheaded, and that antagonism to rights, freedoms and well-being of women, people in racial minorities, and immigrants and asylum seekers is morally bankrupt.

History will also reveal that excessive exploitation of natural resources is dangerously myopic, and that opposition to precautionary action on climate change is deeply damaging to hopes for future safety, prosperity and well-being. And history will prove that policies that ignore farsighted adaptive measures that would mitigate ecologically destabilizing impacts of inadequately regulated greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere are exceedingly foolish because they will subject billions of people in the future to calamitous hardships and costs in increasing numbers of "natural disasters" that will be caused by a changing global climate and distressed ecosystems.

The Department of Defense has repeatedly called climate change a "threat multiplier" that will require far-reaching humanitarian or military intervention because it will lead to more severe storms that threaten cities and military bases, and will cause rising sea levels that will imperil coastal habitation and infrastructure. Early in 2016, the Pentagon ordered its officials to start incorporating probable climate change impacts into every major consideration. In a hard-to-believe contrast, Republican leaders like those in Florida have tried to prevent even the mention of climate change in order to facilitate the maximizing of profits, and Trump told staff in the EPA similar stupid things. This refusal to discuss the significant risks of anthropogenic alterations of the global climate and

natural ecosystems is one of the most ridicule-deserving head-in-the-sand denials ever, despite the certainty that precautionary action is well advised to mitigate calamitous climate disruptions and extreme weather events. This is particularly ironic in Florida, because responsible actions are needed in this low-lying state, considering that it is one of the most vulnerable places to catastrophic impacts of more powerful hurricanes and rising sea levels. And Trump enablers' Project 2025 would make matters worse.

In both his first term in office and so far in the second, Trump has disrupted global trade by imposing unilateral import tariffs and pushed protectionist policies. He has doubled down on this trade-war strategy since January 2025 with erratic tariffs that disregard expert analysis and predictable inflationary consequences. A fundamental flaw in this strategy is reciprocity. Trade barriers do not operate unilaterally; they provoke retaliation. Tariffs imposed without coordination or analysis invite counter-tariffs that harm domestic exporters, raise consumer prices, destabilize supply chains, stifle competition, and often choose winners and losers in favor of cronies and political supporters. Such actions trigger predictable escalation that ultimately burdens the very economy they purport to protect, and they are often contrary to fairly shared prosperity. Trade wars and less competition turn out to be bad for all countries, considered in whole. This has NOT helped "Make America Great Again". And Trump is posing very serious threats to our freedoms, stability, sanity, fairness, and democracy itself.

My philosophic great-grandfather on my mother's side was the estimable writer and humorist Mark Twain, who played an active role in opposing American aggression abroad when he was Vice President of the Anti-Imperialist League. He had become disillusioned about the real motives of the U.S. in the Philippine-American War from 1899 to 1902, and he bemoaned war as "a wanton waste of projectiles", according to insightful correspondent John Nichols. But notably Mark Twain's "deepest disgust was reserved for politicians who played on uncertainty and fear to promote the interests of what would come to be called the military-industrial complex."

General Douglas MacArthur once expressed the conviction, "I believe that the entire effort of modern society should be concentrated on the endeavor to outlaw war as a method of the solution of problems between nations". Shouldn't we give greater weight to these words, and reflect this consideration in our public decision-making and foreign policies? Shouldn't we strive to be more effective in marginalizing extremism, and dedicate ourselves to creating societies that are more mutually secure by making the world more just?

Intense political turmoil is resulting from the chaotic reign of Donald Trump. He is a con man who exploited people's insecurities and anger at the establishment to gain power, and did this in more egregiously selfish ways than almost any demagogue in history -- even surpassing red-baiting Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s.

Mark Twain would be horrified, if he were still alive, to see how wantonly humankind is wasting the resources of the world on weapons, standing armies and violent conflicts and the global "war on terror" -- and on benefits and largess illicitly given to the wealthy. More than a century after Mark Twain died, and long after a frenzy of fascism caused the most horrific spasm of warfare in human history, reactionary right-wing movements pushing anti-immigrant agendas are again roiling politics in countries around the globe.

Trump manipulatively milked an insidious strain of ideology and emotional fervor to grab power. He combined promises to build a "beautiful wall" along the entire U.S./Mexico border, to be paid for by Mexico, with stoked hostility against Muslims and immigrants, and added disingenuous ruses that exploit ethnic nationalism, racism and sexism. He also wrongly denies climate change and provides rabid support for increased domestic production of fossil fuels. Politics in Germany, France, Poland, Hungary and other European nations are also threatened by similar right-wing anti-immigrant political parties that are antagonistic to agreements designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment. It is irresponsible to deny and ignore the gathering risks of climate change and rising sea levels, and to thus act as poor stewards of Creation. It is wrong to sacrifice future well-being on the illusion-addled altar of privatized profits and socialized costs, and irresponsible debt-financing regressive tax cuts, and deplorable political expediencies, right-wing social engineering and short-term-oriented materialistic priorities.

Trump's anti-regulation executive actions and stubbornly myopic support for fossil fuel industries undermined protections of the environmental commons that are a foundation of future well-being. So did his pushing of huge new tax breaks for rich people. Trump proved to be one of the most disrespected leaders in the world for his refusal to agree with leaders in every other country on Earth to make efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and mitigate the incalculably costly impacts of resulting disruptions in the global climate.

Barack Obama once said that the American people need to be told the truth, and he was right. Bigger and more comprehensive versions of the truth need to be told. In bizarre contrast to this vital exigency, con man Trump "tells it like it isn't", and does so with an air of certitude so comically brazen that millions of gullible people seem to think he actually is telling "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." In reality, his proclamations weave together simplistic half-truths, misinformation, deceitful spin, emotion-manipulating insinuations, and blatant lies, and this sleight of hand motivated many people during his 2016 campaign to think he might just be a good leader, despite his long history of unscrupulous business dealings, bankruptcies, tax fraud, economic elitism, racist behaviors, and dangerously demagogic, devious, narcissistic and reactive character. These nefarious qualities and his rude antagonism to immigrants and refugees have made the majority of people in nations around the world woe the ascendance of this egomaniacal dictator-wannabe to the most powerful position on the planet.

Trump evoked a dark dystopian vision of the supposedly pathetic state of the U.S. military during his campaign in 2016, and declared that the plight of African Americans was the "worst ever ever ever". Worse than centuries of slavery? He pretended that international trade agreements have been an unmitigated disaster, even though reasonably fair international trade throughout history has had broadly beneficial effects overall. He hyped up dangers of threats posed by "radical Islamic terrorists", and downplayed dangers of terrorist acts by white supremacists. Additionally, he used "Make America Great Again" sloganeering to set up a "social trap" in which he claimed to be the best and only possible savior, even though his proposals, plans, actions and self-serving agenda are proving to be social, economic, environmental, geostrategic and national security disasters.

Trump took this pathetic course of gaining attention and power by fanning the flames of xenophobia, racial bigotry, white nationalism, male chauvinism and religious discrimination in pursuit of his ambitions for power. His shockingly unhinged and unethical tactics make it clear that his abuses of power in the presidency violate rules of law and the Constitution, and threaten peaceful coexistence, reduce democratic fairness, torpedo environmental sanity, shred social cohesion and are antithetical to the moral good.

Trump is a demagogic power-abuser whose stances, character and reactive temperament make him extremely dangerous. His efforts to deport millions of hard-working immigrants and slash legal immigration make him a double threat, because immigrants actually contribute substantially to many American industries, especially agriculture, restaurant services, construction and numerous categories of generally low-paid jobs. Another red flag should be seen in fascist-plot-like efforts he has made to significantly increase the power of the military and deportation forces. Likewise, there are huge risks in Trump's readiness to crush opposition by using police and military forces to put down domestic protests and use intimidating lawsuits to suppress criticism, deter dissidents and silence those who engage in the freedom of expression to oppose divisive, undemocratic, discriminatory, sexist, racist, and retrogressive actions. Trump and his administration have rashly slashed funding for State Department diplomacy, and additionally adopted irresponsible stances on issues like opposition to reforms that would limit the system-rigging influence of Big Money in politics. And they have taken a sycophantic stance to satisfy the NRA in opposing sensible regulations on sales of guns and military-style assault weapons like the AR-15.

General Observations

It has been nearly 250 years since the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. In many key aspects, the years since 2001 have been a fiasco for the USA. It is now a good time, as we struggle to recover from the worldwide pandemic and the January 6 coup attempt, for us to consider how to ensure that our nation really helps foster and preserve social well-being, truer justice and security, individual freedoms, civil liberties and human rights. To achieve this, we must foster more inclusive representation and make committed efforts to achieve a greater modicum of community well-being, more fairly shared prosperity, better governance, and smarter and more ecologically sane planning.

The health and survival of most species of life on Earth are being endangered by ecological destruction, wasteful consumerism, economic desperation, unrestrained corporate power, excessive greed, and the depletionary over-exploitation of natural resources -- forces that are reinforced, normalized, and politically protected by ideological rigidity. The most recent Living Planet Report revealed that the average population sizes of some 10,000 species of

mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish shocking declined by more than 70% since 1970. This stunning news should shake us all into alert awareness -- and motivate us to support farsighted remedial action.

This manifesto is foremost about Earth and our ecological interconnectedness with her biological communities and miraculously providential ecosystems. We have profound inter-dependencies with healthy natural habitats and the biological diversity of life on Earth. We are slowly coming to the realization that we simply must give our beautiful home planet much more respect, so as to help assure our own flourishing and survival.

Life on Earth is amazingly resilient, but also vulnerable to rapid changes. The lessons of history tell us that the remarkable diversity of life on Earth should be conserved and protected -- for our own sakes, as well as for the sake of our descendants. We cannot indefinitely sustain wasteful, damaging and depletionary activities the way we have been doing so egregiously, and at an accelerating rate, since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

There is an enormous amount of money to be made by ignoring these overarching understandings. A really huge amount. But this fact does not alter -- even one iota -- the transcendent truth that we must give more far-reaching protections to planet Earth's providential terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and to the robust health of the environmental commons upon which our human prosperity and survival depend.

Such observations -- and many, many more far-ranging ideas -- are explored in this lengthy manifesto. Readers are urged to think for themselves about the ideas it contains, and to do their own part to contribute in some way to the improvement of conditions in the world. We can, indeed must, do better!! As Dr. Seuss' Lorax said, 'UNLESS someone like us cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not!'

For more information, contact Dr. Tiffany B. Twain at SaveTruffulaTrees@hotmail.com. Feedback is welcomed!

----- The End -----