

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC FORUM FINAL ROUND

NFL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2006

Topic: The United States should ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Con: Valerie Hobbs and Michelle Schmit (Bishop Heelan, Coach: Elizabeth Dalton)

Pro: David Nadle and Jennifer Goldstein (Stoneman Douglas, Coach: Diane McCormick)

Valerie Hobbs, Bishop Heelan (First Con Speech)

THE LATEST IN FROM PETER RODERICK, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL, THE LEADING ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUP IN SUPPORT OF KYOTO

“I think that everybody agrees that Kyoto is really, really hopeless in terms of delivering what the planet needs, but it’s not the sort of nitty-gritty commas and dots in the text of the Protocol, it’s the symbolic importance.” Well, Peter, we do agree that Kyoto is really, really hopeless, but where you go wrong is that Kyoto is about the nitty-gritty commas and dots; it is about the text. The Protocol in itself is ineffective for the following three reasons.

First, if every country in the world followed the Kyoto Protocol to a *T*, the Protocol would reduce carbon-dioxide emission by only 5.2 percent; 5.2 percent will stop warming by one-twentieth of one degree Celsius in the next 50 years.

The Hoover Institute summed up those pathetic numbers by noting that even ten Kyotos would be ineffective in the long-term goal of solving global warming.

Secondly, the Kyoto Protocol exempts 134 developing countries, most notably China and India. China and India are predicted to produce 85 percent of the future increase in carbon-dioxide emissions. According to the National Interest, Kyoto parties were unable at their 2006 meeting to persuade developing countries to join a post-2012 commitment period. The Protocol is so preoccupied with the past that it ignores the future. Third, the Protocol arbitrarily sets limit reductions behind 1990 levels, which provides huge loopholes for countries such as Russia. Since the collapse of the Russian economy, the country’s carbon-dioxide emissions have dropped more than 30 percent below 1990 levels. Russia’s limits are set as though the collapse never occurred,