



**Program Title: Mechina Social Action Program - Ecology in Action**

**Category: Social Action**

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**Touchstone Text:**

Job, 12:7-9: "But ask the animals, now, and they shall teach you; the birds of the sky, and they shall tell you. Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach you. The fish of the sea shall declare to you. Who doesn't know that in all these, the hand of the Lord has done this,"

**Goals:**

1. Participants will learn how they can affect environmental regulations.
2. Participants will learn about political lobbying

**Timetable:**

2:50-2:55 Settle in.

2:55-3:00 Introduction

3:00-3:05 Break into three different groups with three leaders in each group.

3:05-3:15 Each group is given information about what they are to do. They must divide into groups according to what they are interested in and work to gain the votes of group 3, the elected officials.

3:15-4:05 Role playing time, The PAC's must enlist the support of the Officials by giving them money for re-election.

4:05-4:15 Come back to larger group, listen to what the officials have voted on, and conclude.



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## PRO-OIL DRILLING ACTION COMMITTEE

### **RULES AND REGULATION:**

You have a budget of \$200. Everything that you do costs money. But each actively creates a different number of points and may persuade the elected officials to vote your way. Create a budget by having a discussion on how you feel your PAC should spend its money and campaign for your cause. Then spit up into smaller groups to complete these tasks.

Costs and points:

Writing letters: \$1 per letter; 2 points per letter

Lobbying: \$10 per person, 15 points per person

Radio Ads: \$50 per ad, 10 points per ad

Accountant/Post office: 0 points, Budget for processing--- \$1 per check written

PAC: 0 points, Budget for leaders, -----\$5 per person-who is in charge of each coup

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Remember that each check written cost \$1 to process and each group has one leader at a cost of \$5. This is a cost that you can not get around.

**Writing letters:** You will prepare letters arguing your side of the issue and send them to Washington via Accountant. Remember the cost of each letter and the Budget that your PAC has laid out for you. Letters should be addressed correctly, nicely written, clear; and convincing.

Each person can write a letter to a Congressperson. Take the letters to the Accountant, the accountant will send them out and deduct from the decided budget

**Lobbying:** Each person is paid \$10 dollars. This must be written out in a check. (remember the cost of each check is \$1) You must decide who will Lobby what Congresspeople and how much money you want to donate and to whom the money should go to. Remember you can only give within your budget and all checks to legislators also have a processing fee.

**Radio Ads:** With tape recorder and tape you must devise a radio advertisement: Give this to the Lobbyists, who will intern play it for the Congresspeople. Remember the cost of each ad.

**Accountant/Post office:** You must account for all expenditures and processing fees. If you run out of money, or do not calculate correctly your PAC can go under. You must also give the mail to the Congresspeople. You are also responsible for calculating the number of points your PAC received. Give this information to the legislators when they ask for it.



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## Legislature

### **RULES AND REGULATION:**

Assume you are up for re-election, and need money. You must follow the Campaign Contributions Law which says that you may only receive \$60 dollars per contribution. You should also question whether or not to follow party lines, or vote, based what the people of your state want especially since this is an election year. Divide into each States, discuss how much money you need, how you feel about the issue, and wait for the PACs to come to you!

### **Missouri**

You represent the "Show me state", the people of your state will not believe anything until they see it. Yet in the 1950's the state legislature decided to build hundreds of man made lakes. While beautiful the ecological effect has been devastating. The larger cities are more conservative and carry more of the votes, yet the state is liberal on environmental issues and is not ready for a conservative approach.

### **Alaska**

You represent the largest state in the Union. You also have some of the largest timber and oil businesses. Yet environmentalists have stopped deregulation of oil drilling. The oil deposits in Alaska are massive, if you have another regulation, oil companies will suffer monetary damages and might lay off workers. You can not let this legislation pass.

### **California**

With less and less water and an economy that is struggling, this legislation would hurt business and the citizens. Yet you also have many environmentalists, including Hollywood to think about. Hollywood can be powerful. Remember that in some areas of your state gas prices are over \$2.00, you must question if legislation will cause gas prices to increase. This is a split state, you must look at both sides carefully and pick the better argument.

### **Vermont**

As an East Coast state your water laws are "First Come, First Serve." There is no oil drilling in this state, yet gas prices are extremely high. You are liberal democrats, yet your constituents are displeased with the high gas prices. Could more legislation raise gas prices?

**Voting:** In the last five minutes you will come together and decide how you will vote. Remember to look at all of the variables. How many points each PAC earned, if they gave you money, their arguments, letters, and commercials. You are also responsible for calculating the number of points your PAC received.



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