

CURT WELDON. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

What makes an individual take a one-year's leave of absence from his teaching position to work full-time in an environmental education program? A genuine commitment to sensitizing people (and especially students) to the problems of our environment!

Born and raised in Marcus Hook, one of the most heavily industrialized communities in Pennsylvania (Sun, BP, Allied, Congoleum, etc.), Curt Weldon grew up with a genuine concern for the environment.

As a life-long volunteer fire fighter (including terms as Chief and President), Curt came to appreciate the absolute need for industrial controls and safeguards concerning fire, pollutants and toxic industrial wastes.

As an ordinary citizen, Curt presented, on numerous occasions, personal testimony relative to air quality in the Marcus Hook area to the Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Resources.

As a professional educator, Curt utilized environmental education as the nucleus of a curriculum that he developed for motivating under-achieving children. In 1973, Curt wrote a grant to complete this curriculum and model it for use by other educators. During this period, he also led his students in completing an environmental assessment of urban Darby Creek.

In 1974, Curt was asked to take a leave of absence from his teaching assignment in the William Penn School District to work as an Environmental Specialist with Project KARE (Knowledgeable Action to Restore Our Environment), in that capacity he worked as a consultant to public and private schools throughout the five County Philadelphia area.

In 1977, Curt was asked to seek elective office in his hometown to provide leadership in solving some very difficult problems. He won the office of Mayor of Marcus Hook on both the Democrat and Republican tickets. As Mayor for five years, he reversed the downward spiral which that community had been experiencing for years and instilled a new sense of community spirit and pride.

During his tenure as Mayor, Curt was involved in numerous positive accomplishments, but the most notable from an environmental standpoint were:

- Development of the town's first Comprehensive Plan.
- Development and implementation of the town's first Zoning Ordinance (with environmental performance standards).
- Testifying at State and Congressional hearings regarding key environmental issues.
- Obtaining grants to secure locally administered environmental monitoring equipment.
- Directing the operational aspects of several major environmental accidents/incidents.
- Directing the preparation and planning for park development of public land on the Delaware River through the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

As Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Delaware County Council since 1981, Curt has continued his emphasis on protection of our environment at the County level. He has worked with local communities on problems of open space and the environment.

He has led the effort for conservation and recycling of the County's solid waste. Curt also served as Chairman of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and fostered a study that focused on regional solutions/options to solid waste problems.

In 1985, Curt successfully led the regional effort to stop carcinogenic PCB's from being transported through Delaware County and off-loaded in Philadelphia to be burned at sea. Personal testimony and meetings with regional and national EPA leaders convinced the EPA to cancel the announced plan.

In 1986, Curt's efforts led to the establishment of a Countywide Environmental Advisory Council. This Council now oversees Countywide efforts in monitoring environmental issues and concerns.

In conjunction with Curt's work as an elected official, he has worked as Director of Training and Development for INA Loss Control Services. In that capacity, he directed developmental programs nationwide in all areas of Risk Management for technical professionals. Included in his professional work is the discipline related to environmental health, industrial hygiene, hazardous waste transportation and disposal, as well as environmental impairment and liability.

Curt Weldon is a practical environmentalist who has been an activist as a citizen, community leader, professional educator, businessman and elected official. His record speaks for itself.

Curt Weldon will take to Washington a practical sense of the necessity to aggressively foster economic growth of the 7th District and the nation while working to improve, maintain and preserve the most precious asset we have as human beings -- our environment.