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energy shortage and the need for government to allocate an ever-diminishing supply among competing interests." I

wholeheartedly agree.

~~This policy~~ ^{A policy}
We must support ~~the~~ policy of ensuring equal rights and of opening up new and expanded opportunities through economic growth ~~is~~, ^{job}
~~the best way to improve the conditions~~
I believe ~~this policy will best serve~~ the interests of all Americans, especially those of (B. A. or H. A.).

~~Special~~
~~we must~~ B. A. or H. A.
~~of~~
as anyone ^{job}
a better
re ally

encourage
in its
that

Proposition 13, and the other tax limitation measures approved in 1978 and 1979, ^{has} resulted from state initiative procedures ~~that~~ ^{which} allow the people to place constitutional amendments and legislative proposals on the ballot. I support the creation of a similar procedure, ^{for dealing with legislative matters} at the national level.

Such a procedure would provide the people with a ^{direct} means to bring about change. ^{Most important, it} this would allow them to take action when their elected representatives ~~have~~ ^{are} refused to do so.

In fact, the people have used this power ^{especially} at the state and local ~~the~~ level. Tax limitation ~~has~~ ^{and} political reform ~~are~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{are} just two of the issues dealt with by voters in ^{my own state of} California; ~~similar~~ ^{numerous} other issues have been constructively considered in other states.

Further, even if such measures fail at the polls, ^{the public debate surrounding them} they often focus the legislature to deal with issues that it otherwise would not face. The 1974 nuclear power safety

proposal in California, ^{for example, forced the state legislature} to reevaluate nuclear safety ~~prohibitions~~.

By investing the people with this ^{initiative} power ^{at the national level} we would help increase their confidence in the government and ^{the} political process. ~~They would have a means~~ ^{Moreover, Direct vote empowered the "people" would be a powerful force for bringing America a better government, not just a bigger government to fight and change those policies with which they disagree.}

~~is not surprising that several criticisms of it and procedures have been raised.~~ ^{is not surprising that several criticisms of it and procedures have been raised.} The criticisms, ~~that it would~~ ^{are not} ~~not~~ ^{serious} ~~obstacles~~.

For example, some people fear ~~cost~~ ^{cost} challenges over the validity of signatures and the ~~withholding~~ ^{withholding} of proposals, ~~and~~ ^{as well as} undue complexity of measures. All of these problems have been adequately dealt with at the state and local level, and many of them - complexity, ~~for instance~~ ^{for instance} - ~~should~~ ^{should} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~concern~~ ^{concern}.

^{are not sufficiently serious enough to outweigh the desirability of a national initiative.}

Congressional legislation as well.

Perhaps the most fundamental objection to a national initiative procedure is ~~that~~ ^{that} policies are best developed by a **deliberate** legislative body. Otherwise, it is argued, demagogues and simplifiers will prevail.

This attitude ~~just~~ fails to recognize the **instinctive** sense of the American people. **I believe voters understand issues far better than many politicians will give them credit for, and demagogic legislation originates, it has been from Congress far better than many politicians -- period -- for that matter.** Moreover, ~~further~~ this objection applies equally to the election of candidates. If the people are trusted to ~~cast~~ ^{trust} vote on candidates, they certainly should be ~~allowed~~ ^{allowed} to vote ~~on~~ ^{directly} on issues. **I think they can -- and should -- be trusted.**

Finally, this objection does not take into account the failings of the legislative process. The policy-making process is already skewed by ~~a~~ ^a powerful and narrow special interests. **at least A national initiative procedure, by reducing the undue influence of these special interests, would provide an open and fair fight for the people.**

Hence, the initiative procedure has worked well at the state and local levels, ~~it is time that we implemented it at~~ ^{therefore} ~~it is time that we implemented it at~~ ^{as an initiative} process ~~at~~ ^{at} the federal level as well.

and would be an effective addition to national policymaking.