Jarrell commentary

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than “F’s. The problem is that this kind of a poll has not been taken; that people will be and distort the truth to achieve their goals; and that active minorities will achieve political success over silent or misinformed majorities.

As one who cares about the environment, it greatly disturbs me that a noble cause is being subverted by groups with hidden agendas, individuals seeking personal gain, hypocrites who ask others to make sacrifices they won’t make themselves, and religious fanatics trying to impose their values on others.

America is a democracy, and people cannot be denied their choice of beliefs, but they must be given facts and information upon which to vote their choices.

I happen to believe that wise-uses strategies based on good science are the mechanisms to satisfy the desires of a majority of our population, but I may be outnumbered. Most Americans who believe in protecting the environment are middle to upper class who are far removed from the natural resources they depend on for their high standard of living. Those who know the least about managing natural resources are those most critical of natural resource industries, and support environmental legislation no matter what the issue or the cost. They believe “environmentalists” over scientists by about 5 to 1.

It is estimated that we now spend about $1.7 trillion annually for all environmental regulation, with costs continuing to escalate. Can we afford to continue passing legislation on the basis that it might be good for the environment? I wonder how many of us really understand the economic implications of environmental legislation, and the precarious position our country will be in if we continue down this path?

I urge all superintendents and all members of the golf course industry to dig deeper into the environmental issues, learn what lies below the surface, and help educate your members. It is much more than your job that is at stake.

Could the passage be continued on the next page?