HARTZOK ACCEPTS GREEN PARTY NOMINATION FOR THE 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alanna Hartzok, Scotland, PA held press conferences Jan. 29, 2001 at the Dream Restaurant in Hollidaysburg and at the Franklin County Courthouse in Chambersburg, both of which are in the 9th congressional District, to announce her acceptance of the Green Party of Pennsylvania nomination. She also addressed statewide media at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg that afternoon.

Hartzok, state coordinator of the Pennsylvania Fair Tax Coalition, was designated Jan. 14 by the party’s Coordinating Committee as its choice in the anticipated congressional special election to replace Rep. Bud Shuster who announced he would resign Jan. 31. The Green Party is the only statutory minor party in Pennsylvania, so it is the only other one among the Republican and Democratic parties that can nominate a candidate for a special election.

In her announcement speech, Hartzok said: "The Green Party will run a proactive campaign, an issues-oriented campaign and an effective campaign." She highlighted some of the major issues she intends to address in her campaign, including the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the state of the environment in Pennsylvania, tax reform and revitalization of the rural economy.

"I am deeply concerned about the growing wealth gap in District 9 and throughout our state and country. As of 1998: The top 1% of the population holds 38% of the wealth; the bottom 90% holds 29% of the wealth. All together the top 10% of the population holds 71% of the wealth. The wealth gap is so extreme that even some of the very wealthy people are alarmed and have formed Citizens for Responsible Wealth and other organizations to address this problem. We need to unite for a fair economy. And we need to find a way to solve this problem that goes beyond the old inefficient bureaucratic approaches of the past.

"In my work as a mental health counselor I am keenly aware of the high level of stress that is building up in people due to conditions in the workplace and the lack of economic and job security. Most of us are only three months or less away from total bankruptcy if we should lose our job and not find a new one in time.

"I am sad to tell you that the Gold and Green 2000 Report of the Institute for Southern Studies ranks Pennsylvania at 10th from the bottom among all 50 states surveyed on the environment. No other state’s environmental score has dropped as dramatically in the past six years. We simply must improve Pennsylvania’s environmental record.

"I know without a doubt that both the wealth gap and our environmental problems can be solved. Now emerging are the guidelines for the Next Economy and they are neither right nor left but up in front. The policies of the Next Economy affirm individual freedom and the many benefits of the market economy and also can strengthen and support the provisioning of basic needs for good education, health care, and a safe and clean environment.

"One of the major reasons I have decided to accept the Green Party nomination as candidate for Congress for District Nine is to bring to the fore progressive and practical new taxation and economic policy directives. "My second career is that of tax reform educator and advocate. Taxation policy is extremely important. The power of taxation is quite literally the power to create or destroy. A new and promising direction is emerging in the field of tax reform policy. We call this approach the "green tax shift."

"Green taxes tax bads, not goods. They shift taxes off of work and onto waste. With a green tax system, you pay for what you take, not what you make. Green taxes shift taxes off (continued on page 10)"
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of wages and earned income, off of homes and other buildings, and off of productive and sustainable capital. Green tax policy seeks to eliminate subsidies that are socially or environmentally harmful or inequitable. Green tax policy shifts the public revenue base to fees-for-use of our precious and limited natural resources. "Two quick examples. In the state of Alaska, royalties for oil are collected by the state as a common heritage right for all citizens of Alaska and then conserved in a permanent investment fund and distributed as citizen dividends. This last October each woman, man and child who had been resident of Alaska for at least one year received nearly $2000 as a cash dividend.

"Eighteen cities of Pennsylvania have been leading the way in another green tax shift approach, now endorsed by many who are concerned about issues of sprawl and the economic revitalization of our towns and cities. The so-called 'two-rate' or 'split-rate' tax lowers taxes on homes and buildings, so if you fix up your place there is no tax penalty, and shifts taxes onto landsite values to curb speculation and sprawl and to encourage a healthy urban economy. "In my position as State Coordinator of the Pennsylvania Fair Tax Coalition, I am working for fundamental tax reform in our state. From 1993-1998, I worked on a campaign for tax reform legislation which I initiated. Governor Thomas Ridge signed the bill as Act 108 on November 1998. State Representative Jeff Coy co-sponsored the bill in the House. I worked closely with Senator Terry Punt and his staff in Harrisburg where Senate Bill 211 passed under his sponsorship with a unanimous vote in the Senate and with only two votes against in the House.

"Subsequently several boroughs in Pennsylvania have adopted the tax reform approach which the bill enables, and many more have it under consideration. All of the nearly 1000 boroughs of Pennsylvania can benefit from this legislative success. As we travel around District Nine during this campaign I will consult with concerned citizens, borough managers and town council members about the potential benefits of this local tax reform for their communities.

"Most recently I have drafted a resolution for tax reform legislation for first and second class townships of Pennsylvania (1/11/01).

"We will also be talking about the revitalization of our rural areas. I am particularly interested in tapping the vast potential of District Nine for sustainable, organic agriculture, for strengthening family farming, and for local production for local needs. Our Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture is the fastest growing of any such organization in the country. I am a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture and will be attending the PASA conference again this year at State College on February 9th and 10th...."

"Since 1992 I have been in private practice in mental health counseling in the Chambersburg area, and am listed on the mental health service providers for Franklin County. "My family is deeply rooted in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. My father, Lee Hartzok, was a business owner and former president of the Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce and has been actively involved with numerous service organizations. He currently serves as Board President of the South Mountain Restoration Center, a Governor appointment. My mother, Ruth Aughombaugh Hartzok, has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and tour organizer for AARP for several years. I have a daughter and son, ages 16 and 19 respectively.

"I graduated from Chambersburg Area Senior High School and received a bachelors degree in psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University and a masters degree in psychology from West Georgia College. I studied in Vienna, Austria for a year and completed a four-year professional training program in Montreal, Canada.

"I co-chaired, with Mike Waters, the Housing Task Force of the Greater Chambersburg 2000 Partnership, members being leading government officials, business and community leaders.

"I was appointed by Mayor Robert Morris to the Chambersburg Conflict Resolution Team established to respond immediately to conflicts of a civil nature.

"On the national level, I serve as Vice President of the Council of Georigst Organizations, comprised of 30 member organizations nationwide. This organization is named after Henry George, a self-educated economist, journalist and a Philadelphian, who devoted his life to solving the problem of the growing rich/poor gap through economics that transcend the left/right paradigm.
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"At an international level, I serve as United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Representative for an international organization which itself has 60 member organizations worldwide. I organized and presented in six sessions of the NGO Forum during the 1996 UN Center for Human Settlements in Istanbul. This Habitat II global conference, attended by representatives of 163 nations and more than 15,000 NGOs, rigorously discussed the challenges of rural and urban housing and other human needs concerns and issues, making decisions by consensus on a substantive Global Action Agenda. More recently I actively contributed to the Millenium Forum Action Agenda, a result of the work of 1350 NGO representatives from more than 100 countries meeting in an historic session at the UN in May of 2000.

"Furthermore, my work as a UN NGO representative has given me access to governmental leaders from all over the world and a fine-tuned perspective on the role of the United States in international affairs.

"In addition to participating in Pennsylvania legislative hearings and presentations, I testified in a legislative session in West Virginia. My published articles on tax reform are used by legislators in the states of Maryland, New Jersey, and New York."

Hartzok, additionally, is the founder of Earth Rights Institute, and is the author of "Financing Local to Global Public Goods: An Integrated Green Tax Shift Perspective", a policy paper presented at the Global Institute for Taxation Conference for Tax Alternatives for the 21st Century, St. John's University, and that paper has been distributed to the U.S. Congress.

Other of Hartzok's articles have been published in the The American Journal of Economics and Sociology, in GroundSwell, in Green Revolution, by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and by the Henry George School of Social Science-New York, and in Land Value Taxation: The Equitable and Efficient Source of Public Finance, an anthology edited by Kenneth Wenzer.

Other of Hartzok's credits include administrative experience in the 1980s as Board President of Northern California Land Trust, President of Bay Area Common Ground, and as Education Director and then Associate Director of the Henry George School of Social Science-San Francisco. In the 1970s she taught at Vista college, Berkeley, CA and at Marianopolis College, Montreal, Canada."

(note: Hartzok's website is http://www.greens.org/hartzok. She may also be contacted at P.O. Box 328, Scottdale, PA 17254. Phone 717-264-0957. Email: Hartzok@greens.org.


GroundSwell readers can also find accounts of Hartzok's international outreach and presentations to the Dominican Republic (Sept-Oct. 2000; at the Green Millennium in Mexico (Sept-Oct. 1999); at The Other Economic Summit, Denver (July-Aug. 1997); and to United Nations Habitat officials (Nov.-Dec. 1996).