

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Dr. David McMurrey (Executive Director, American Association for Nude Recreation)

**FROM:** Chris Gepp

**DATE:** April 6, 2014

**RE:** Feasibility Study Proposal (Federal Repeal of Anti-Nudity Laws Governing Public Lands and Waters)

This proposal seeks to study the feasibility of a federal law repealing existing state anti-nudity legislation that unduly hampers outdoor nudist recreation.

It will cover the following points:

1. The audience for the feasibility report
2. A review of the background of the current situation and the need for a federal mandate
3. A description of the federal mandate to be enacted
4. The procedure for carrying out the federal mandate
5. The benefits perceived by the federal mandate
6. My qualifications
7. A preliminary list of supporting diagrams and graphic images to be used in the report
8. A tentative outline of the report
9. A tentative bibliography of the report
10. The schedule for completing the report
11. The costs associated with producing this report
12. Conclusion

### **Audience**

Lawmakers at the federal level, which we will show the benefits of passing the mandate using findings in this report as evidence

### **Background and Need**

The AANR's mission has always been to conscientiously move forward a calm agenda of easing restrictions against public nudity, thereby slowly transforming long-standing cultural bias resulting from many factors, including history, religion, environment, and economic opportunity.

While the AANR has made gains in the past, due to the fickle political winds each election cycle, these past victories are being threatened now more than ever. In fact, key states such as California have in recent years seen anti-nudity laws re-instated thanks to sudden shifts of political will at the state level. Because of this situation, the only effective means of ensuring the protection of a person's right to practice nudism in appropriate settings is by gaining First Amendment protection. By showing nudism to be an inalienable right, anti-nudist laws could then be rendered unconstitutional.

Now is an opportune time to create this report and to quickly get it into the hands of lawmakers. Looking to recent legislation, it is clear that the social bias of the country is changing and that new tax revenues are key to legislation succeeding. In the case of the

recent adoption of pro-marijuana laws across several states, this legislation has gained traction largely because of the increase in tax revenue in a still flagging economy, as well as strong organization. Meanwhile, the rapid gains that have been made by the LGBT community on same-sex marriage legislation have come about in part due to that group's organization.

Similarly, the nudist lifestyle may be put forth as a viable and useful social organization if both a well organized approach and strong potential to increase tax revenues are taken.

## **Description**

The proposed mandate would render all existing anti-nudity laws unconstitutional by demonstrating that naturism falls under First Amendment protection. We will argue for First Amendment protection in public areas in which responsible behavior is being exercised, behavior described in the AANR's current Nudist Bill of Rights.

Once First Amendment protection has been granted, from there the AANR can then become more of an advocate for its members.

## **Procedure**

Public education will be primarily important to ensure a smooth transition, however; a website should be set up and events planned to mark the movement's new status as having First Amendment protection.

And since youth are our ambassadors of change, they are a key demographic on which to focus public relations by such means as through social media campaigns and music concerts.

## **Benefits**

The immediate gain would be a sharp increase in tourist-related tax revenue both at home and abroad.

Access in general to safe environments to practice nudism are cumbersome if not impossible to reach currently, making the activity more the domain of the well-to-do, skewing the demographic to older Americans.

By making tourism opportunities more available (and legal), tourism related revenue would only increase both nationally and internationally as improved access would encourage a more diverse demographic.

Some expected long-range benefits:

- Health-related benefits, such as increased intake of vitamin D; healthier skin; improved body acceptance (potentially reducing the number of eating disorders); and increased recreation leading to better fitness and decreasing burdens on the overall healthcare industry
- Sex crimes may see a reduction as well once social nudism becomes more commonplace

## **My Qualifications**

Writing experience: I hold a Bachelors in English and am an M.F.A. Screenwriting Candidate for Boston University with over 20 years of writing experience. I also am currently writing a book on yoga and since 2011 have been reviewing and sending notes on submitted screenplays for the Austin Film Festival.

Naturism experience: In addition, my thesis in my undergrad career was Social Behaviors of On-line Nudist Communities and I have a hobbyist interest in naturist lifestyles.

## **Expected List of Graphics**

1. "Clothing Optional" sign example – Graphic
2. AANR's Nudist Bill of Rights – Graphic
3. Map of Outdoor Venues in North America Designated "Clothing-Optional" - Graphic
4. Trends in Nudist Tourism over the Last 20 Years – Line Graph

## **Tentative Outline**

- I. Introduction
- II. Background
  1. Short history of nudism/naturism
  2. Contemporary nudist lifestyles
  3. AANR's past achievements
  4. AANR's recent setbacks
- III. Need
  1. Inalienable right
  2. Lost revenue
  3. Sex crime rates
  4. Poor health
- IV. Description
- V. Procedure
  1. Public relations and education
  2. Enforcement
- VI. Benefits
  1. New revenue
  2. Reduction of sex-related crime
  3. Health Improvements
    - a. Skin
    - b. Vitamin D
    - c. Fitness
  4. Social gains
    - a. Reduction of sex crimes
    - b. Improved body acceptance (Reduction of eating disorders)
- VII. Costs
- VIII. Conclusion

## Tentative Bibliography

1. "Is Nudity The Hottest Trend In The Travel Industry?" The Expeditioner (June 18, 2013).
2. "Nude Vacations Called Latest Trend" Kingman Daily Miner (July 12, 1998).
3. "It's a Wrap for a Rustic, Remote Nudist Refuge" Los Angeles Times (March 4, 2007).
4. "Nudist Spots Boost Their Exposure" Los Angeles Times (October 31, 2006).
5. "Nudists Shed Clothes but Not Habits, Study Finds" Los Angeles Times (October 19, 2001).
6. "County's Last Nudist Resort Closes" Los Angeles Times (November 21, 2001).
7. "When We're Naked, It's Like We're All the Same': Yoga Studio Offers All-Nude Co-ed Classes to Overcome Body Issues and Vulnerability." Daily Mail Reporter, March 21, 2014.

## Schedule

This project will start immediately upon approval and will proceed according to the following schedule:

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Report research and writing | April 7 - May 3 |
| 2. Oral report delivered       | May 4           |
| 3. Preliminary draft delivered | May 8           |
| 4. Final report delivered      | May 13          |

## Estimated Costs

Research and writing: 40 hours (Budgeted) @ \$40.00/hour = \$1600.00  
Printing: Approximately \$10.00 per report

Total (per report): \$1610.00

## Conclusion

The current political climate is ripe for the AANR to move forward on this. By waiting longer AANR may further lose its legitimacy as an advocate for North American nudists and its members further restricted from practicing. I urge you to take the initiative now and approve this project before it is too late.