the future in a page
it's our carrot and their stick

"Huston, we've had a problem" John Swigert, Apollo 13, 13 April 1970

We suffer from a terrible gap in political leadership. The parties which actually address the issues of the day are "fringe" - the greens and the pirates and the monster raving loonies all sit in the space of *impossible to elect* not because they do not tell the truth, but precisely because they do.

Something is very wrong with the world. You know in your heart we are not living right. Since the invention of nuclear weapons, and the strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction, government and the people have been party to what any sane, humane, rational and competent individual would agree is *completely psychotic behavior which puts the future of the planet at risk.*

And anybody you can vote for and expect to win is tied into this farce. The mental defenses built up around this fact have extended to environmental policy, to poverty, and to pretty much everything else where basic human welfare is placed against the prosperity of special interests. We simply accept the government is wrong. We accept it is broken, and go on anyway.

There are two kinds of politics: the politics of *banning*, and the politics of *investing*. Government typically makes laws to stop people doing what is bad, and spends our collective tax revenue to finance what is good. But much government spending is on stupid things - outdated, lame compulsory education systems and healthcare without meaningful prevention. And always the weapons, the graft and the environmental destruction.

The internet gives us a new way to express our collective intelligence. The first people to effectively harness this potential were the *free software movement*, rapidly followed by *Wikipedia*. So now we have free software and a free encyclopedia. But creating these *common goods* is not solving our environmental or social justice problems. What if there were *common goods* which would? The great Buckminster Fuller suggested we effected change by making the old model obsolete, and this is the trend we must accelerate to save ourselves and our world.

Suppose we had a *common good design* for an ecologically sustainable home. A little wind, a little solar built on expired patents, some water purification and gardening tools. Suppose people all over the world, particularly poor countries, built them instead of unsustainable tower blocks. *We* could help people out of poverty and cut their environmental impact by *investing* rather than *banning*. We may not be able to recapture the *banning* power of the state any time soon, but we could fill in for the long outage in rational government by *investing* together and funding the *common good design* to steer the world to a good future. We would be doing the government's job for it, and we would be doing it right. I cannot see any other way of exercising effective political power in our current climate.

I am an individual with a foreign policy: the *Hexayurt Project*. Consider joining me: *be the change you wish to see in the world.*