Michael W. Grebe   
President and CEO  
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation   
NOMINATION OF STEVEN F. HAYWARD FOR THE 2015 BRADELY PRIZE

6 February 2015

Dear President Grebe:

I am grateful for the chance to put forward a nominee for the Bradley Prize of 2015. Reflecting back on the thirty years I spent at the American Enterprise Institute (1978-2010), one contributor to American political debate who stood out for me is Steven F. Hayward. Hayward is now the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Professor at Pepperdine University. But it was his decade long fellowship at AEI that introduced me to him face to face.

I was tremendously impressed by Steven's way of approaching the much-debated issues of ecology. Instead of being directly polemical, he helped to found a research center, the Pacific Research Institute, which examined the state of the American physical environment for the last hundred, even more, years. When I began educating myself on the question, in order to take some public role in the discussion, I found his work much more brilliant and much more useful than anything I had met in the entire intellectual field. He and his colleagues built a body of empirical evidence that was overwhelming in its power.

More than that, his team’s prose was vivid and absolutely captivating. I remember one part of their work noting that after the push to drive out pollution in 1970, the unhealthful sulfur dioxide gases that had made London's air foul for so many years began to decrease rapidly; and by the year 2000, the air of London was as free of that pollutant as it had been in Shakespeare's time.

Another study did a count of the rapidly increasing beaver populations, and pointed out the problems that many suburban areas were beginning to suffer from the damage of beavers and other forms of wildlife to neighboring streams and trees. Far from suffering from a loss of wildlife and tree cover, and enduring other blights of nature, many states were experiencing overpopulations of various species that more and more needed protection from their own activities.

Hayward and his colleagues showed with bravura the amazing successes of the environmental movement. It was actually one of the most successful political movements of all time in producing rapid improvements in the state of the natural world. Instead of taking pride in this success, some leaders of the environmental movement became even more alarmist than the movement’s pioneers. One could understand this as a fundraising tool. But the thoroughness of the empirical work of Hayward and his companions toredown the environmentalist’s extremist paradigm plank by plank. We have rarely seen such a thorough intellectual rout of an opposing position.

Then, while he was at AEI, I was terribly impressed by the brilliance of Professor Hayward’s two-volume biography and evaluation of the Reagan years. In praising it, some reviewers have invoked Macaulay, while the *Times Literary Supplement* compared its “grand historical drama” to a “kind of *War and Peace* of the American century.” Inner circle participants in the Reagan administration, such as William Niskanenand Secretary of Education Bill Bennettcalled it the best history of the Reagan presidency they knew.

Hayward has been a tower of intellectual strength in the war of ideas of our time. For his great intellectual courage, his commitment to facts, his understated wit, and his ability to draw telling portraits of many aspects of reality, he deserves the high honor of the Bradley Prize. He changed the intellectual paradigm for understanding the relationship of a free society to the natural world. Then, in addition, he offered the best interpretation available of the huge political shift in our time from left to center-right.

Respectfully submitted,   
Michael Novak   
American Enterprise Institute 1978-2010, The George Frederick Chair, *Emeritus*  
Winner of the Templeton Prize 1994