

Foreword

The Hoover Institution is designing and implementing task forces on specific topics that coincide with Hoover's ongoing research initiatives. Representing multiyear efforts, the task forces will adopt a methodology whereby a team of experts, both Hoover fellows and other prominent scholars, are brought together and organized as a team, or "virtual faculty," to work on commonly defined topics and projects. One of these new task force efforts, with lead sponsorship by John and Jean DeNault, is the Task Force on Property Rights, Freedom, and Prosperity.

The premise behind Terry Anderson and Laura Huggin's new book, *Greener Than Thou*, complements Hoover's broader effort of understanding the role of property rights in a free society in the above-mentioned task force. In *Greener Than Thou*, Anderson and Huggins address the critical link between property ownership and care for assets, as evidenced in the poignantly titled chapter 4, "No One Washes a Rental Car." Throughout the book, Anderson and Huggins delve deeply into how best to use property rights and markets to convert the environment from a problem into an asset, providing a convincing alternative to regulation via the property rights and market path. Not only do property rights lead to prosperity, which in turn leads to environmental quality, but the combination of property rights and markets makes the environment an asset that can receive careful stewardship from its owner.

In *Greener Than Thou*, Anderson and Huggins take an insightful look into the role of property rights and make a powerful argument

for free market environmentalism. Both authors are well suited to address the issues put forward in this book, as evidenced by their previous Hoover Press book, *Property Rights: A Practical Guide to Freedom and Prosperity* (2003), which addressed the complex concepts surrounding the study of property rights.

Terry L. Anderson is the John and Jean DeNault Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution; the executive director of the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), a think tank focusing on market solutions to environmental problems located in Montana; and a professor emeritus at Montana State University. Considered the founder of free market environmentalism, he is the author of more than thirty books. Additionally, Anderson has been named codirector of the Task Force on Property Rights, Freedom, and Prosperity.

Laura E. Huggins is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and director of publications at PERC. She is the author, along with Terry Anderson, of *Property Rights: A Practical Guide to Freedom and Prosperity* (2003). She also edited *Population Puzzle: Boom or Bust?* (2005).

Whether it is stimulating prosperity, making corporations more accountable to their shareholders, encouraging investment in innovation, or improving environmental quality, property rights are essential. By bringing together scholars and policy analysts to study and discuss property rights, the Hoover Institution is positioned to be a leader in the debates about how to encourage freedom and prosperity. The ideas and efforts set forth in *Greener Than Thou* by my colleagues Anderson and Huggins are a critical piece in bringing the issues of property rights to light. This book is a superb accompaniment to Hoover's Task Force on Property Rights, Freedom, and Prosperity and a contribution to the public discourse on the role of property rights and, in many cases, the lack thereof, in recent years.

John Raisian
Tad and Dianne Taube Director
Hoover Institution