

Propositions

1. Green building is said to have environmental benefits, but it is hard to say if it is efficient in any case. Governments may pursue GB for different reasons than efficiency.
2. GB is for environmental protection and not for urbanization; the building of new GB communities should be well-planned, taking into account the actual demand for GBs.
3. Self-regulation, liability and regulation can all play a role in GB promotion, but they may weigh differently over time and across jurisdictions.
4. To promote GB, instruments are mixed to cancel out the weaknesses of separate instruments; but instrument mixes do not necessarily lead to desirable outcomes.
5. To steer individual preferences for green products, market solutions and persuasion by the government should come first; coercion should only play a secondary role.
6. Centralization is not good or evil in itself. We are not aiming for a large central government, as a goal in itself, but for better governance; it is not the means but the ends that matter.
7. Liability is mainly to deter and compensate harm; it is not well-suited to deal with positive externalities.
8. Law is a system that creates incentives for particular behaviour; it not only deals with dividing the pie, but also with making the total social pie larger.
9. Resources should be allocated to those who value those resources the highest and who can put them to an optimal use.
10. Law can be a world unto itself; but lawmaking cannot.
11. Research hurts, music heals.