Nichole Matzke

SST 309-01

11/07/11

**Exploring Core Democratic Values in the News**

**Article:**

Egelko, Bob. "Smelt Supreme Court ruling goes against farmers." San Francisco Chronicle 4 Nov. (2011). Web. 7 Nov. 2011. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/04/BA6I1LOJ2K.DTL>

**Article Summary:**

This article was about farmers from central California fighting the restrictions on water shipments due to the protection of an endangered fish. The farmers confront the governments use of the Endangered Species Act to protect the delta smelt (a fish that exists only in California and has no commercial value) because it’s limiting the north-to-south water shipments in California. This resulted in the Supreme Court denying the appeal because the Endangered Species Act is constitutional (it’s an economic concern that is part of congress’ constitutional power to regulate).

**Core Democratic Value:**

The core democratic values that I believe are being debated are life and liberty because the farmers are insisting that the federal government is intruding and robbing people of their livelihoods and liberties. I think that the farmers feel that the government is intruding on their way of life which consists of a big part of the water shipments in central California where they live. They also feel that the government is taking away their liberty because they feel it is their right to personal freedom, where they are free to act, think, and believe without the invasion of the government. They feel that this is being violated by the government (invading) protecting an endangered species which is limiting their water shipments (right to maintain life and liberty).

**Level of Government:**

The level of government that would have jurisdiction in this article is the federal government/Supreme Court.