

The Honorable

I am a concerned citizen, gravely concerned that climate change is adversely affecting our planet. The United States is one of the leading countries contributing to the warming of the oceans (cite where that info came from here.). 2023 was one of the hottest years on record, with our oceans reaching unprecedented temperatures, The National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration released their 2023 climate report card a few weeks ago with the news that 2023 was the warmest year on record with the average global temperature running 2.12°F above the 20th century average.

The warming of our oceans is an urgent crisis that demands immediate attention. Rising sea temperatures are damaging marine ecosystems, causing coral bleaching, disrupting fish populations, and creating a huge loss of biodiversity. This not only threatens the balance of marine life but also jeopardizes the lives of individuals who depend on healthy oceans for their sustenance and economic stability. Climate change also affects middle America with record rainfall, extreme weather changes, and tornados, and last year, we had a hurricane in December on the East Coast.

The state of our land is also deteriorating at an alarming rate. Soil erosion, deforestation, and pollution are causing irreversible harm to our terrestrial ecosystems. The degradation of our lands results in decreased agricultural productivity, loss of natural habitats, and an increased susceptibility to natural disasters, all of which negatively affect vulnerable communities.

As individuals who care deeply about the well-being of our planet, please prioritize and address these critical challenges.

To address these urgent issues, consider the following:

- 1. Transition to Sustainable Practices:** Implement policies that promote sustainable agricultural and land management practices, reducing soil erosion, deforestation, and pollution.
- 2. Strengthen Environmental Regulations:** Enforce and enhance regulations to limit pollution, protect water bodies, and preserve the health of our oceans and lands.
- 3. Support Green Infrastructure:** Invest in green infrastructure projects that enhance resilience against extreme weather events and promote sustainable land use.
- 4. Research and Innovation:** Fund research initiatives that advance our understanding of ocean warming and land degradation, fostering the development of effective solutions.
- 5. Empower/Educate Local Communities:** Collaborate with local communities, indigenous peoples, and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that address specific environmental challenges in their specific regions.
- 6. Global Leadership:** Lead internationally by advocating for action to combat ocean warming and land degradation.

The urgency of these issues cannot be overlooked. The consequences of inaction are severe and affect not only the environment but also our economies and public health. I ask you to set aside partisan differences and work together to pass legislation to protect our oceans, preserve our lands, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,