

The Oceans and Us

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Prompt:

Writers on Earth - Writing Competition 2022



4



5

Dear President Biden,

When you last visited Louisiana, did you notice the oil companies directly across from the Gulf?

I may be only 15, but my most profound shock was moving here from Illinois at age 10 and seeing the proximity between our natural world and the companies that destroy it.

Our oceans host a cosmos for marine life and act as a sinkhole for 95% of our carbon emissions.

However, every corner of coastal Louisiana is darkened by the potential and past harm of our fossil fuel energy sources. Reviving our oceans starts with eliminating their threats. Reconstruction and exploration can only occur if our oceans and the marine life there are secure. But with our high dependency on oil, natural gas, and coal companies, our energy consumption methods are hindering protection for our most important carbon storehouses.

So how can we protect our waters when we refuse to give up the dirty resources that kill us and the planet?

Here are two main ways to tackle this problem:

1) Limit emissions from transportation at the legislative level. The big goal is to decrease our fossil fuel dependency and switch our power grid to clean renewables. With your limited time in office and interest in public transportation, I suggest harsher regulations on air and car travel. The U.S. leads the world as the highest CO2 emitter from cars and planes, something that is definitely not a

happy title.

2) Reduce industry emissions.

One way to help the transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy is by diminishing the power of such companies. Moguls have no place to continue their trade and mass production without laws limiting their emissions. I am directly referring to companies like Coca-Cola, Shell, Exxon, energy companies, and even the U.S. government itself. We can still enjoy our lifestyles with minimal impact, but we need your leadership to get us there.

Louisiana is the 4th highest state in the nation for CO2 emissions per capita, yet it is also renowned for its marine life. The history and people of this great nation and state depend on coastal states like Louisiana, and as a concerned resident, I am certain that we should be making more significant progress.

Let the U.S. lead in ocean protection and revival, and let it start in Louisiana.

Thank you for your time,
Siyeon

Tags:

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Footnotes

Sources:

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