

Dear Congressman XXXXX,

We love XXXXX, but will XXXXX stay this way forever? Well, it depends if we do something now or do nothing. We appreciate your work to stop climate change and we want to encourage you to do more. If we can do this, other states or even countries will try their hardest to do the same. We want to encourage you to do more. Here are some little suggestions, that can make a big difference. I think that climate change is affecting us because of melting Arctic ice, because of all the natural disasters we have been through and because of all the carbon-dioxide we make.

One reason I think that climate change is affecting us is because the Arctic ice is melting. I know, because in science class we looked at different papers that had graphs and pictures of our planet over time. The one that really caught my eye was the picture of the Arctic ice. In 1979, you could probably walk from Canada to Russia. Below, it showed the same area in 2015. If you tried to walk across now you would fall in the water. This isn't good because melting ice makes water. About 1/4 of the ice melted in the picture. The picture was taken by one of NASA's satellites and was published in 2016.

Melting ice is a big deal. It matters because sea levels will start to rise and we will lose more and more land. And if we keep losing land, then people will need a place to live because their homes will be underwater. The melting ice also affects the lives of other

animals, like the polar bear. Polar bears use the ice to get to their food. Without ice they will starve. Animals need the ice to survive. We looked at graphs and pictures on how much land we have lost and how much ice has melted. We saw pictures of states and how they looked smaller after a few years.

Another reason I think climate change is affecting us is because of all the natural disasters. Do you know how hurricanes are made? Well, I do. In science we learned that hurricanes are made by evaporating water caused by the sun's heat. It becomes a cloud of warm and moist air. It goes and twists upward into our atmosphere. If water is evaporating, it's because it's so hot. That's why most hurricanes are made near the equator. If we keep making more and more heat (carbon-dioxide) then we will keep getting more and more hurricanes. I know that nobody likes hurricanes. They destroy trees (some animals' habitats) and peoples' homes. If homes are being destroyed then we have to use up more and more materials to rebuild them.

Do you know how many hurricanes and tropical storms we had just in 2017? We had Hurricane Harvey, Maria, Jose, Irma, Katia, Emily, Ophelia, and Nate. We also had tropical storms, Arlene, Bret, Cindy, and Don. That's a lot. The hurricanes will keep coming if we make more heat. This matters, because it shows that we are making too much heat and we need to stop it. Also, did you know that when your heating up your house you're actually making even more heat, from using energy!?

My final reason why I think that climate change is affecting us is because of the amount of carbon-dioxide we produce. Our Earth needs just the right amount of carbon-dioxide to keep warm. Carbon-dioxide absorbs the heat from the sun. If we have too much carbon-dioxide, then no heat from the sun can escape our atmosphere. It will stay there and the heat will grow larger. This matters because too much heat melts ice. Too much heat makes water evaporate. If we can stop this, we will end up stopping a lot of other problems. The main problem is, people don't realize how much carbon-dioxide they make. They don't realize that hot water, heating, driving, light air conditioning, or using electronics make heat (carbon-dioxide.) The bad part is people use these things every single day.

In science class, we watched a video about DOT. DOT stands for do one thing. They showed that you can do little things to save energy and help our environment. Some of them were little things like turning off your lights when you are not using them, driving less and walking more, or even taking shorter showers!

If one person does one thing, others will be inspired to do the same and all those little things, will become one big thing. Earth is where we live. We have to save it. If we want to do this we need help from everyone. So, what will you do?

Sincerely,

Sophie, (5th grader/environmentalist)