

What the Future of Our Environment Holds

(What does it mean to be an “environmental steward” in my community?)

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7th Grade

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7th Hour

Twenty years from now, I'll be 32 years old, forced to raise kids where they can't play outside, where they can't even stand in the sunlight without worrying about skin cancer, and can't make a simple trip to the grocery store without having to be concerned about acid rain. The constant fear of super tornadoes, flash floods and season long droughts because of global warming will be yearly occurrences (the Winter temperatures average record highs, while the summers are dry and the heat index averages 105 degrees Fahrenheit in the Midwest states).

What can we do to prevent this from happening? Here's my idea...my parents have taught me a lot about accountability. For instance, take my room. If it is messy with clothes and trash everywhere, I'm unable to be comfortable, I can't invite my friends over and every thing is just a big mess. It soon becomes embarrassing for anyone to see, even me. I couldn't just leave my room messy like that because I didn't feel like cleaning it up. Eventually, my parents would punish me for having such a dirty and unkempt room.

With natural disasters like tsunamis, hurricanes and wild fires we should have learned one thing: The way we treat the earth is exactly the way it will treat us. The earth, just like my room, it is not enough to mess it up and then clean it up, we have to prevent the mess from happening and be held accountable. If we continue on our current environmental path, we have yet to see the worst of mother nature.

I do things for the environment like recycle newspapers, bottles, old computers, cell phones, soda cans, and liquid containers. My family and I do things like reduce the amount of gas use, air-conditioning, burning oil and reduce the amount of times we use aerosol cans. My family doesn't smoke, we have plants all over our house, we car pool when it's necessary and take the city bus when it is accessible.

Each year, global warming will continue to get worse if we are effortlessly making the little progress we are now. While recycling and reducing the usage of our natural resources helps me do my part, I feel the biggest thing I could do is ask our government to require that more individuals, families, cities and states be held accountable for the poor care of the environment. I feel that children and adults alike have a voice in this matter, as this planet is something that we all inherit from one generation and pass on to the next.

I have begun to gather signatures from my family, fellow students, teachers and administrators, their families and friends in an effort to encourage them to support a bill to Congress. The bill is called the “CLEAN UP YOUR ACT” bill, mandating that we minimize the usage of our natural resources and that we rid ourselves of the “messy room” epidemic by cleaning our cities and forms of transportation by raising our pollution standards.

Basically, polluting should be a crime. I will eventually go door to door in my community asking for support of my bill in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a clean and safe environment.

Attachment to the essay:

Copy of the Petition for the Clean Up Your Act bill containing 45 signatures and the following statement:

“The Clean up Your act bill is a bill that will force everyone to take the way we treat the environment more seriously. The bill will place limitations on the usage of natural resources and place harder standards on pollutions: making pollution a crime!”