



Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Dear Ms Coutinho

My name is Erin Knight, I am 13 years old, and I need you to act now. Our world is dying little by little, bit by bit every single day. Whole countries are sinking, cities drying up until nothing is left. We have become our own worst enemy. In as little as ten years what we have done to our home is irreversible. In my lifetime and yours too our planet could be broken beyond repair. We brought climate change upon ourselves and we need to act now before it's too late.

Fossil fuels, deforestation, ranching, transport, industry the list goes on and on. We want you to believe climate change is real and affecting us. In the past it is obvious. Ice age caused by orbital change. Short cold periods from volcanoes erupting, solar activity creating bursts of heat periods. Asteroid collisions covering the atmosphere and blocking out the sun. Climate change in those times was natural, it couldn't be stopped or caused. The climate change we face today is our fault and we need to do something about it to save us all.

Oil is one of the main causes of the climate change we face today. In order to find oil, collect it, transport it, and then finally use it, causes our atmosphere so much damage. Firstly, you might have to cut down whole forests or search oceans to find just the right spot. Then you have to extract the oil and pump it out. There is no way of collecting oil that will not be extremely harmful to the environment. Firstly, in order to release the oil, you have to loosen the earth by means of fracking or explosives. This completely ruins the land as it demolishes hills and buries rivers in tons of earth, rocks and sand. Also, after the oil is released it poisons the water and kills the land so that nothing can grow or live there for hundreds of years. In the ocean, people use oil rigs to pump oil from the sea bed. If this oil then leaks it kills everything in the surrounding area. Secondly then you have to transport the oil. To transport the oil, you would use boats and trucks. These vehicles use petrol to move and that sends carbon dioxide into the air, on top of that, boats could leak and send more oil spills. Finally, we use this oil to make plastic which pollutes our oceans and to fuel our cars which releases even more carbon dioxide.

These all seem like horrible, horrible things but they can be fixed. If the government treated climate change as a major crisis, because it is, then we can spread more awareness and help more people lower their carbon footprint and help the environment. We can build more wind turbines and solar panels. I realise it will be expensive and we only have forty-three years of oil left (at the current consumption), but when we can save lives and save our home, you can't put a price on life. We can do this because we are human and we make mistakes. So, it's time to fix them.

Yours sincerely

Erin Knight

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