

haerin hwang

I'm only 15 years old. I'm a resident of Spokane Washington. I have countless fears, many irrational. However, the extreme climate change this generation is experiencing is by far the most realistic fear, as well as the most overwhelming. I think about the ecosystems suffering from the polluted air everyday. I think of communities in which children have yet to experience the delightful feeling of drinking clean water. In the words of former president, Barack Obama, "We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change—and the last to be able to do anything about it." I sit by myself often and think of what I can do to be better for the future generations and for nature itself. A heavy feeling lingers in my stomach, knowing I simply cannot do anything. I cannot make any changes that will magically reverse everything humanity's already done. Now, I sit here, pleading with individuals that likely won't read this—and if they do, they'll merely gaze over and dismiss my words. I don't want to someday raise children, where summers are over twenty degrees hotter than what I've experienced. I don't want my children poisoned by data centers selfishly and carelessly placed. I want to live without feeling afraid of the world, the people in it, much less robots and AI. I don't think it's fair for anyone to live their life in fear. Furthermore—I do not want to live in a state of constant fear. And though my voice holds such little weight, with meaningless words and ineloquent writing that can easily be looked upon, I still write this. Not in courage, nor in desperation—but full of hope. I, a child, am urging ever-so sincerely—you, who is a former child and understands the torture of having a voice so small, to please, make a difference for the better.