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Comments:

I am a retired science teacher. I spent thirty one years teaching Biology, Environmental Earth Science and Wildlife Management classes in the public school systems of three states. My education was first as a Biologist, teaching came later. I have a Master of Science degree in Biology. As a biologist I am concerned with the effects our large human population is having on the sustainability of our Earth's life support systems. Although there are some impressive natural systems that help to stabilize the living environment on our planet, there are limits to how much abuse these systems can withstand. The fossil records show that in the past there have been several major disruptions of these systems. Today the biggest threat to our space ship Earth comes from the activities of us humans. Our continued population growth combined with the crazy notion that there must always be an expanding economy is a sure-fired prescription for disaster. Misguided economic policies are in direct conflict with the natural limits of Earth. Our finite planet can not provide unlimited resources to allow us to continue on the path we are on.

We must make decisions based on sound ecological principles if we are to bequeath our children and grandchildren with a place to live that is both sustainable and interesting. It will be a tragedy of monstrous proportions if our shortsighted way of making decisions degrades the world that our children inherit. The wonderful diversity of living creatures and wild unspoiled natural places must be preserved for them. It seems that we are unaware that the wild natural places are the ultimate infrastructure of the planet. Our present economic systems of continued growth are nothing more than a Ponzi scheme in which our decedents will be left with nothing of value.

I am writing today to request that you help address one of the issues that will affect future generations, including our two sons and our wonderful six year old granddaughter. Please try to throw off the short term considerations and take action that will address the long term welfare of humankind. The welfare of all of our children are depending on us.

To get specific, anything that encourages or facilitates the use of coal for fuel is a bad thing in a world going through global climate disruption driven by excess carbon dioxide and methane gas in the atmosphere. In the big picture allowing this exception is making the problem worse and should not be allowed. The natural environment of our Earth and has already been damaged to a great extent by human overpopulation and careless use of resources. There should be no exception for this destructive industry that will only add to the already huge problem of climate disruption.

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