

As a young person, my life has been indelibly impacted by the climate crisis. My initial reckoning with the gravity of the climate crisis put me in a state of profound climate grief. I couldn't begin to conceptualize the cost of climate inaction: natural landscapes ravaged by increasingly harsher weather conditions, virtually unprecedented losses in biodiversity, and the human toll of an inhospitable environment weighed heavily on my mind. I questioned my role in such a world—would it be ethical to have children and bring new life in a world that seemed on the verge of dying? What would my community and the surrounding environment look like fifty years from now? What were my obligations, as a citizen of an incredibly privileged nation, to reduce my contributions to the United States's total emissions, when any action felt like an infinitesimal drop in the bucket?

Years after coming to terms with climate change, I have found strength and comfort in community—joining environmental groups and supporting advocacy efforts have helped keep some of these fears at bay. These experiences have also shown me that there is strength in numbers, and that meaningful progress toward climate mitigation requires collective action. But citizen advocacy will not be enough. EPA—and the federal government as a whole—must institute a bold climate agenda to curb fossil fuel emissions and transform the nation's infrastructure. This isn't a matter of mere politics; it is a matter of survival.

The energy and climate provisions of President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act were a powerful step forward, but the federal government cannot stop there. EPA has the power to order an end to oil and gas extraction, and it has a duty to the nation, the world, and future generations to ensure a habitable planet. I ask that EPA and the Biden administration pave the way toward a sustainable future.