

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Quin, The Calhoun School
433 West End Ave
New York, NY 10024

May 18, 2021

Dear Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand,

My name is Quin and I am a 9th Grade Student at The Calhoun School in New York City. I am writing to you today to plead for your help in tackling the disastrous, global issue of climate change by continuing to fight right here in our home state of New York.

As an animal advocate, this problem is deeply important to me because I am on a mission to help save the vulnerable polar bears, who have become the poster child for the impacts of climate change on a species. Scientists are telling us that polar bears will be wiped out by the end of the century unless we, as a country, can do more. I know this is not new information to you, but the high greenhouse gas emissions into the environment must be curtailed and ultimately, stopped. Climate change is heating up the Arctic faster than anywhere else in the world. In the last decade, the region warmed 0.75 degrees Celsius. It took over 100 years for the earth to warm that much. The rapid heating is causing sea ice to shrink over 13% per decade. Polar bears are a keystone species in ice-covered Arctic marine ecosystems and alterations to the distribution, density or abundance of this top predator will have impacts throughout the entire Arctic ecosystem.

There is a solution to this problem, and I am asking you to help be a part of this solution! I am simply asking that you continue to carry out the great work your party is doing, by supporting and creating legislation to reduce these greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing our carbon footprint, we can help mitigate climate change. Specifically, it would be hugely beneficial for the state of New York to start funding programs that make renewable energy affordable and accessible across all communities. In the meantime, I will continue to use my young voice to spread the word far and wide, so people understand that we really can collectively make a difference on this planet by making small changes in our lifestyles that help conserve energy, which in turn, can help save the innocent polar bears.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Quin
9th Grader, The Calhoun School