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First, watch [this](#) video explaining the basics of the Green New Deal.

\*Before writing this, I read the actual document of the green new deal resolution.\*

What are its most important components?

Is there anything you would like to see added or removed?

What issues do you think should be addressed first?

Before I answer these questions, I'd like to note that urgency often increases something's importance. Especially considering urgency in the metric, addressing climate change is by far the most important goal of the Green New Deal. This includes transitioning to net zero carbon emissions, expanding renewable power sources, increasing energy efficiency of buildings, increasing sustainable food systems, protecting threatened ecosystems, and making our transportation systems sustainable. There are other aspects of the Green New Deal that address complimentary issues. In my opinion, the second aspect of the Green New Deal detracts from the main point and may cause some loss of support for the resolution slowing progress for addressing global warming, and, therefore, should be removed. Things like universal health care and guaranteeing a job to every American and a few other things near the end of the document go hand in hand with addressing climate change. However, we can afford to wait on these. Legislation and politics take a long time, and simplifying the demands of the Green New Deal would allow us to address the critical matter of climate change faster and more easily. We will have an opportunity to fix other problems later, but the window to deal with climate change is closing. We must act now because carbon in the atmosphere is cumulative, so the longer we wait, the bigger the problem. I think the issues that should be addressed first are expanding renewable energy and increasing sustainability of food systems. These have huge potential to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions which is the number one priority.

\*Sent to senator Karin Housely\*

Next, write a letter to your elected officials urging them to enact a climate action plan. Tell them why we need a Green New Deal (or equivalent) *now* and highlight its importance to you and which areas of focus resonate most and why.

Dear Senator Housely,

I am writing to express to you that we need a Green New Deal now. I am not calling on you to support the Green New Deal to help our planet or animals on it, or out of some act of altruism. It is not so much about saving the Earth or biodiversity as it is about saving ourselves; the Earth will move on with or without us and biodiversity will suffer either way. This is about the preservation of humanity. If that is more dramatic than the reality, it is certainly about preventing droughts, famines, and natural disasters, that will severely affect food production and people across the globe.

Global warming has been seen as a threat by scientists for decades. There is no doubt that global warming is caused by humans, and, specifically, our practices that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Energy comes into Earth in the form of visible light and it is absorbed and released as heat or infrared radiation. Greenhouse gases slow the escape of heat effectively warming the Earth. This process exists on all planets with an atmosphere and we can see how it can get out of control by looking at Venus, a planet with temperatures around 500° C because of its atmosphere. Humans have spiked greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to levels not seen in millions of years and the levels have never risen so rapidly. Typically on Earth, if carbon dioxide levels rose too much, plants would thrive and levels would naturally fall, but this time because of how fast the levels have risen, and the control humans impose on the environment, including plants, CO<sub>2</sub> levels could rise much higher than typical if we let them. In the last hundred years, temperatures have already risen over 1 degree celsius. If we do not change anything they will likely rise at least 3-4 degrees celsius. If they reach 1.5 - 2°C there will be a significant increase in natural disaster. There also is a possibility that we reach a point of no return, in which the rise in temperature will initiate a positive feedback loop that continues to increase temperatures — to a fatal level. It is necessary that we adopt the New Green Deal or something similar.

Furthermore, it is necessary that we act now. The carbon in the atmosphere is cumulative. Each year we delay action, Carbon continues to be released. Even if our emissions are decreasing, the total Carbon in the atmosphere will continue to increase until emissions reach zero.

I think there are three typical counter arguments to the Green New Deal; the first is that decreasing oil consumption will result in economic decline. On the contrary, continuing to use oil in a world that will inevitably switch to renewables is like insisting on using horses years after cars were invented. There will be a day that gas cars are obsolete; there will be a day that fossil fuel energy is obsolete. Insisting that the US should keep using these is absurd. Historically, America has been a leader in science, technology, and with its economy. If not due to the superior nature of renewable energy, then because of the finite supply of fossil fuels, eventually everyone will stop using fossil fuels. It is only a matter of time.

To segway into the next point, many believe that it is pointless for America to reduce their carbon emissions when other countries will not. I was told at an early age that you cannot control what other people will do. You can only control yourself. But this is not true. If you are a role model and are setting an example with reason behind it, other people will follow. I have already mentioned that the US is a global leader. Other countries will follow. Some already have.

The second counter argument is that the policies proposed in the Green New Deal are extremely expensive. This is true, but a large portion of these costs come from the social proposals, such as universal health care, and guaranteeing people jobs which is not what I am referring to in this letter. These policies are a compliment to the necessary climate action policies but not so pressing themselves. In legislation, these would almost certainly be separate, so we should consider them separately when evaluating price. Even without considering that, the Green New Deal is quite expensive, but I hope I have convinced you that global warming must be addressed. Without reaching zero net carbon emissions global warming will continue indefinitely: until we can no longer tolerate it.

Climate change is an unprecedented challenge and we are at the point that we need action. It may seem extreme, but this is what the situation calls for. Please consider this letter and support a sustainable future.

Addie Foote

I am writing to express to you that we need a Green New Deal now. I am not calling on you to support the Green New Deal to help our planet or animals on it, or out of some act of altruism. It is not so much about saving the Earth or biodiversity as it is about saving ourselves; the Earth will move on with or without us and biodiversity will suffer either way. This is about the preservation of humanity. If that is more dramatic than the reality, it is certainly about preventing droughts, famines, and natural disasters, that will severely affect food production and people across the globe.

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sahs.pgc Here's 3 pieces of my letter to @karinhousley I learned a ton about the #greennewdeal and actually read the document for the first time. The urgency of climate change makes it critical that we implement our solutions including these outlined in the Green New Deal @aac @edmarkey @turninggreenorg #pgc2020

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