

Public Comment of Ella D. Wood
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My name is Ella Wood and I am a seventh grader in the Albuquerque Public School system. I have investigated global warming issues on my own recently, exploring the actions that my family could take in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and I am thrilled that the state has commissioned a similarly-based study on a grander scale.

I feel that this is an incredibly important issue in today's world, because of the effect that it will have on me and on children across the world. It is inescapably clear that unless today's lifestyle in America is changed, future generations will face a multitude of major dilemmas caused by drastic climate change—perhaps within my lifetime. Personally, the thing that initially caught my attention was the rise in ocean levels that is already occurring. Tuvalu, a Melanesian island country consuming little fossil fuel, will most likely be underwater within a few decades; seventy-five people each year are already being evacuated to New Zealand. This information is what first opened my eyes to the damage that economically-developed and newly developing nations are doing to the environment and to other parts of the world.

Since I realized this, I have worked hard to understand this self-created monster that we are, as a world, up against. The USA is certainly not a leading example of environmental sustainability, and New Mexico is currently far above the national average in per capita greenhouse gas emissions. This knowledge that my country, my state, my city, my very home, are contributing to damage to our shared world led me to commit myself to working personally against this social and ecological injustice. We, as a state, have the potential to become a leader for the USA in finding successful solutions to climate change. Please remember how important your roles are to the future that I and all of those who follow my generation will inhabit.