

Dear Nobel Committee Members,

The Sierra Club, the United States' largest and most influential grassroots environmental advocacy organization, supports the nomination of Ms. Greta Thunberg of Sweden for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize and urges the Nobel Committee to bestow the award on her.

Multiple scientific reports have detailed the food shortages, droughts, and global turmoil to come as climate change progresses. The U.S. National Climate Assessment has found that, if we don't take immediate action, climate disruption will pose a major threat to health and safety within our lifetimes, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that we have less than 12 years to act decisively.

Thunberg understands that the greatest burden of this crisis will fall on the shoulders of young people like her, and she has called out the complacency of the adults in power. In doing so, she has inspired a global movement of young people who are demanding that elected leaders act on climate.

In her speeches and messages, Thunberg notes that adults in government often fail to think past the year 2050 when planning for the future—but by then she will likely have lived not even half her life and—absent significant action—the worst consequences of climate disruption will be in effect. By 2050, up to 5 billion people could face a climate out of control, with social, political, economic, and health consequences we can scarcely imagine. What we do or do not do today will affect her entire life, as well as the lives of her children and grandchildren. In response, Thunberg has challenged today's leaders to respect tomorrow's lives. Through this moral call to action, she has become a global leader in her own right.

This role cannot have been easy for her to assume. Thunberg, who reportedly has been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and selective mutism, speaks only when she thinks it's absolutely necessary. Yet the urgency of the climate crisis compelled her not only to speak out but also to ignite a worldwide movement.

Thunberg first took to the streets, alone, in front of the Swedish Parliament on 20 August 2018. During the three weeks leading up to a parliamentary election, she spent every day during school hours outside Parliament House to protest the government's inadequate action on climate change. Unsatisfied with the election results, Thunberg then continued her strike, returning every Friday during school hours.

Appearing at a UN climate conference in Poland in December 2018, Thunberg told world leaders that, "Since our leaders are behaving like children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago." Since then, participation in the "strike for climate movement" has surged globally. Her compelling speech inspired students on every continent to join her in skipping class on Fridays. Now, youth-led strikes and marches are happening weekly, and

during a global day of action on 15 March 2019, an estimated 1.4 million students in 112 countries joined her by striking for climate action.

But the school strikes for climate are only the most conspicuous evidence of Thunberg's extraordinary influence. She is an inspiration to both young and old to call for climate action. In the United States, a Youth Climate Strike movement is planning new protests for this May, and many of those youth have pledged to vote for candidates who will act on climate when they become adults. A Sunrise Movement of young people is gathering pledges from U.S. politicians to support an equitable transition to 100% clean energy. Meanwhile, parents, grandparents, and anyone concerned about a just, equitable, and healthy future are joining the fight and demanding swift climate action from their elected officials.

This surge in activism is achieving results: the U.S. Congress has introduced climate legislation and resolutions that reaffirm our commitment to climate action, and the issue has been elevated to a newly prominent position in the national dialogue. All inspired in large part by one Swedish schoolgirl.

Awarding Greta Thunberg the Nobel Peace Prize would align with the award's tradition of recognizing leaders who have the vision to confront global crises in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds. Thunberg is a leader of today and tomorrow who has made her voice heard clearly around the world and refused to accept that tragedy is inevitable. Her courage and determination have helped build a global movement. And yet, she is only in high school.

For her unwavering devotion to climate action, and for inspiring and mobilizing millions to hold their governments accountable, the Sierra Club respectfully supports the nomination of Greta Thunberg for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.