

Dear Governor Polis,

My name is Tessa J. Miller. I am a fifth grade student learning at Centennial Elementary School in Denver. Before I leave for middle school, my class has talked about leaving a legacy. We are also currently learning about climate change. Before diving deeper into climate change in my class, I thought about it sometimes, but now it is the one thing that overtakes my mind the most. I am writing to you today to inform you about this issue.

Climate change is not only affecting our air, it is affecting our water, making the spread of disease faster, and increasing the amount of damage caused by extreme weather events (blizzards, earthquakes, wildfires, etc...). Climate change is affecting so many states, Colorado being one of them. When pine beetles develop in our trees, they kill them, and winters are no longer cold enough to stop and kill the beetles. All the dead trees make for perfect fuel for a wildfire, which is now why we see them spreading so rapidly and burning so much. Partnered with less snowfall, the wildfires are in a perfect environment to burn for days. This is a problem. When the fires burn they create smoke, and if this continues it will make it hard to breathe and will cause more smog. This is already happening in places such as LA, where some days they are asked not to step outside because the air quality is so terrible. We are already seeing effects of climate change, but it's getting much worse. I wrote this letter today to ask you to help our community deal with climate change. You can do this in a number of ways, such as making a carbon fee. A carbon fee would put money on using carbon, so big businesses would switch to solar and wind energy. This big business would not want to spend more money on carbon when solar and wind energy is cheaper. If you have already established a carbon fee, I would ask you to raise the tax so it costs more money. Even though we might just be a small percentage of people, we can still try to help.

Thank you for putting aside time to read this, I appreciate it. Climate change is a real and brutal problem, but our world is already working to fix it. Let's join them.

Sincerely,
Tessa J. Miller