

December 25, 2016

Paul and Janna Ryan
P.O. Box 1488
Janesville, WI 53547

Dear Paul and Janna Ryan,

Thank you for the Christmas Card. I receive your card each year and over the years, I have watched your children grow up. Your family photo (below) is picture perfect. I'm sure you are very proud of Liza, Sam and Charlie. Good parents providing a solid family environment is the best gift you can give to your children.

There is another type of environment we need to provide for our children and that is a healthy environment on this planet. The biggest long term threat to a healthy environment is global warming which is leading to radical climate change. The science of greenhouse gases has been known for more than one hundred years. Since 1930, people have begun to realize what will happen to our planet because of global warming. More recently, we have seen the effects of global warming with the loss of centuries old glaciers, melting arctic ice, and rising sea levels. The rate of change is accelerating.

I'm seventy-two, and will only live to see the types of effects we are experiencing now. Your children are a different story. By the time your children reach 72, the effects of climate change will be well advanced, creating severe environmental problems. We know what the future holds if we continue to ignore the problem. Fifty years from now, our children will be asking why we failed to act. A hundred years from now, many forms of life, including that of human beings, will be facing extinction.

Speaker Ryan, you are in a unique position to help create the political will in Congress to deal with climate change. Doing so will require courage and leadership in today's political environment. Fortunately, political cover exists. The Climate Solutions Caucus in your House of Representatives is a bipartisan group working on climate solutions. The Congressional Safe Climate Caucus understands that climate change is the moral issue of our time. Citizens Climate Lobby has a sound program called "Carbon Fee and Dividend" which will accelerate our move away from fossil fuels and avoids congressional objections by not being a tax; the fee is rebated to the public so the program is revenue neutral. Further, the program provides many positive elements which will promote economic growth.

For the sake of your children, and billions of other children throughout the world, Congress needs to act.

Sincerely,

Norm Aulabaugh
2541 S. Tollefson Road
Orfordville, WI 53576

