

June 28, 2019

Dr. Chad Nelsen  
Surfrider Foundation  
PO Box 73550  
San Clemente, CA 92673



Dear Dr. Nelsen,

I really don't want climate change to ruin surfing for me because surfing makes me happy and it is so much fun. I have been surfing since I was 7 years old. I first started with private lessons, then joined an all-girls surf camp in Asbury Park, NJ called the Girls Waveriders Camp. I really improved my surfing skills at camp and went to Los Angeles this year over spring break and went surfing in the Pacific Ocean for the first time! It was really fun and the waves were huge.

Being in the ocean is so calming and peaceful. Because of the fact that I do all year round competitive swimming (pool team in winter, lake team in summer) it makes it easier and more fun for me to surf.

There are so many intelligent animals out there in the ocean and it is an honor to share the waves with them. I would be devastated if surfing was ruined for me because of people who don't care about our planet.

Climate change. It's a term we all heard of. Greta Thunberg, an amazing teenage advocate said, "You say you love your children above all else and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes". And this is extremely true. If we don't act now, we may not be able to act later.

Something many people don't realize is the fact that the more people we have on this planet, the more meat and dairy is being consumed. Overpopulation means the more kids that people have, the more cars, meat, dairy, single use plastics and factories are being used. If everyone in the world lived as we do here in the United States, we would need 4 earths to support humanity.

This year I attended the school strike for climate change in New York City. There were THOUSANDS of kids protesting, and millions of kids protesting worldwide. I wonder how many of those kids are vegan or vegetarian? What if all of those kids go on to have large families? That is not a sustainable future. There is a 20 times greater reduction in CO2 per year by having one fewer child than by using green energy, eating a vegan diet, driving a hybrid car and recycling. INSANE!



What will the oceans look like when I'm older? Will they all be polluted and dirty? Will marine life still be there? Will they be too crowded to surf? I would like to encourage the Surfrider Foundation to bring attention the consequences of our crowded planet and encourage smaller families. It would be a serious step to protect our oceans for my generation and the next. We hear a lot about climate change in school. We never hear about population growth. I wish they would tell us the truth.

Jane Goodall said "Here we are, the most clever species ever to have lived. So how is it we can destroy the only planet we have?" There are many ways we can change to make the world a better place. A vegan or vegetarian diet and a **future with smaller families** is the best way to protect the environment, animals and MY future.

For more information, please visit [www.havingkids.org](http://www.havingkids.org)

Hang Five!

*Willow Phelps*

Willow Phelps

Age 11

Ringwood, NJ

