

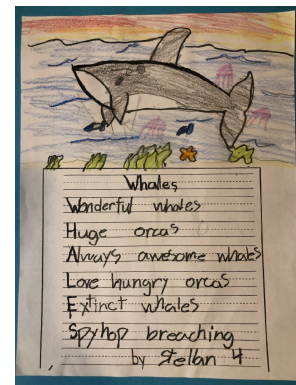
August 6, 2019

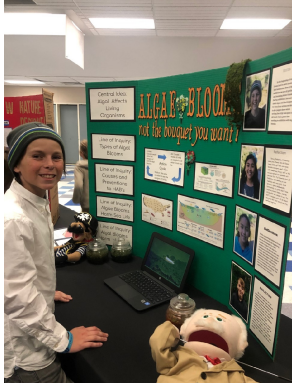
Surfrider Foundation
Dr. Chad Nelsen
P.O. Box 73550
San Clemente, CA 92673

Dear Dr. Nelsen:

Every year, my sons ask me what I would like for mother's day, and my response is always the same, "I want to surf." A day in the ocean is the best gift I could ever receive. The moment my feet leave the sand and transition into the water, I shift into a completely different state. I am no longer a mother, wife, and attorney, striving to meet the daily demands of life. Instead, I am removed from everything, floating in the water fully present in the moment, and experiencing joy in its purest form.

I am now able to share that experience with my boys as they learn to surf and establish their connection to the ocean. This year I witnessed my seven year old develop a passionate interest in marine life. He drew countless pictures of whales, proudly wore his "I just really love Orcas" t-shirt, and experienced the awe of coming face to face with a sea turtle while snorkeling in Maui.





For his fifth grade International Baccalaureate Exhibition, my eleven year old son chose to study and present on algal blooms. Through his research, he established why algal blooms are a problem, the cause of algal blooms, and the actions he could take to address the problem.

As a family we are fully aware of the imminent and apocalyptic consequences of climate change. We have taken steps to minimize our impact such as: eating a fully plant based diet, installing solar on our home, bringing our own bags to the grocery store, carrying reusable metal straws instead of using plastic, recycling, and riding our bikes instead of driving when feasible. However, not a single one of these changes remotely compares to the impact that can be made by simply having fewer children.

High impact actions are rarely mentioned in textbooks, taught in schools, or promoted by governments. Consequently, the message must begin somewhere else. Surfrider is at the forefront of organizations dedicated to protecting the oceans and beaches. You consistently ensure clean water at our beaches, successfully litigate public access to beaches, and effectively eliminate dangerous plastics from the ocean. However, the work of Surfrider will become increasingly difficult, if not impossible to perform, if the population continues to grow at its current rate.

Of all the organizations dedicated to protecting our oceans and marine life, not a single one of them discusses the urgent and critical need to have smaller families. When you began your new role as CEO of Surfrider you noted you wanted to shift your strategy from a reactive to a proactive approach and to

address the impacts of climate change on our oceans. I am asking you today to lead a campaign which discusses and promotes the importance of having smaller families and the enormously powerful impact this has on climate change, and consequently our oceans. As a leader in the fight for the protection of our ocean, Surfrider has the ability to make a substantial impact in the fight against climate change. If we do not soon make the choice to control our population, the choice will unfortunately be made for us.

Sincerely,

Anonymous mother in California