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Rebecca Schwarz Burlington, VT Vermonter for the last 18 years. Grew up in the small wild spaces of the suburbs of New York. I work in Arts & Health on personal, community, & environmental levels. I run *Art from the Heart* at UVM Medical Center & focus on art in our larger environments in my independent studio work.



Plastic Plankton

16" diameter

plastics are
moving up
our food chain
like plankton

made with: post-consumer
plastic material that we treat
as trash

Plastic Art Petition with Vermont floating in space of plastics

found by the roads & marshes with 330+ signatures

supporting plastics policy:

1st Modernize the bottle bill

2nd keep going with more EPR

Including the

Right to Repair



Lesson from being an
artist in healthcare in the pandemic:

**Creativity is a Renewable Resource. Like a muscle,
the more creative we are, the more we can be creative
- when basic supports are in place.**

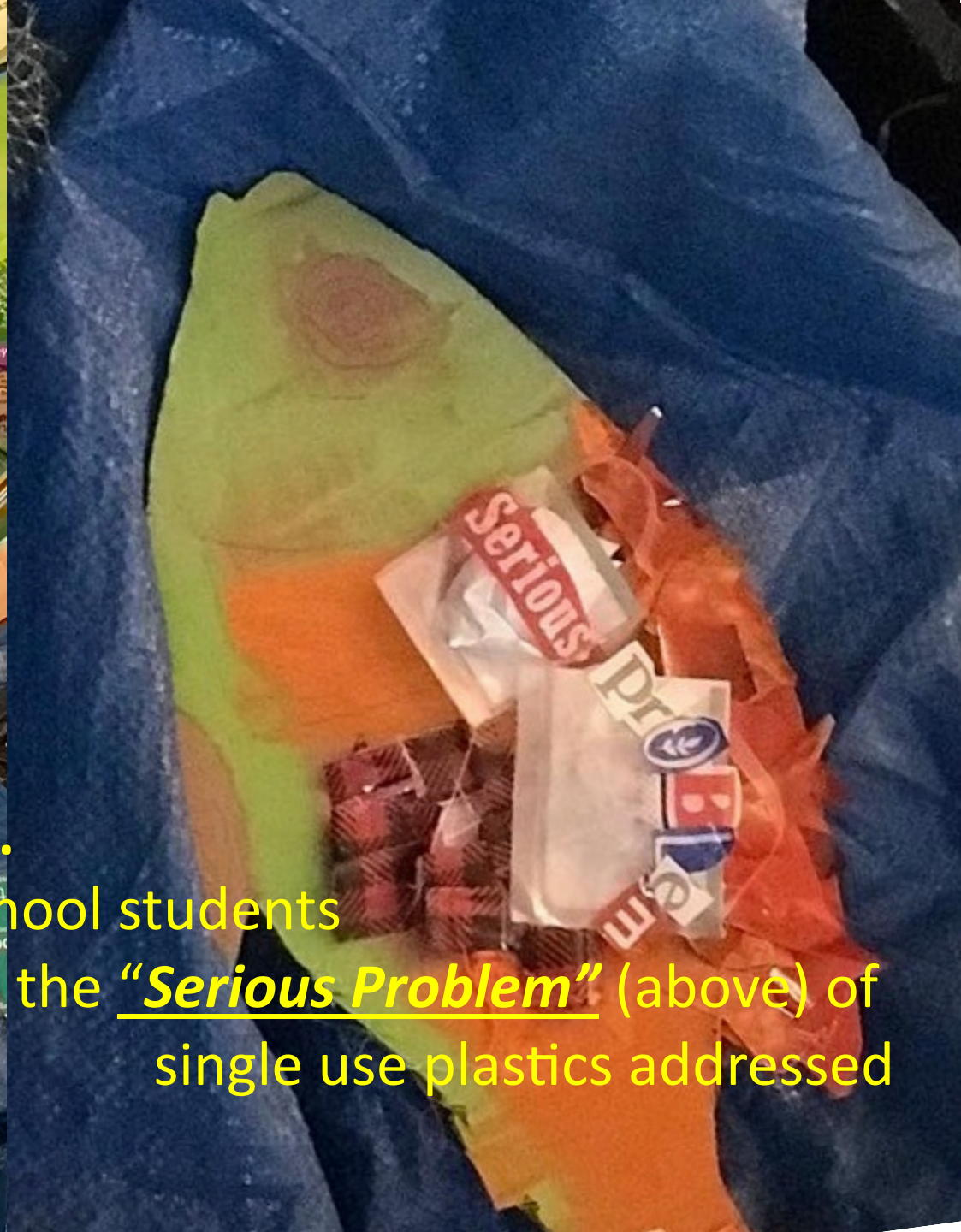
Lucia & Joe Campriello & family of Burlington, VT signing on



THANK YOU
Natural Resources Fish & Wildlife Committee.

"School of Fish" by Essex High school students

looking to get the **"Serious Problem"** (above) of
single use plastics addressed





Crying Earth *“save your tears”*

By a UVM student

All of the art in these slides are made with plastics.

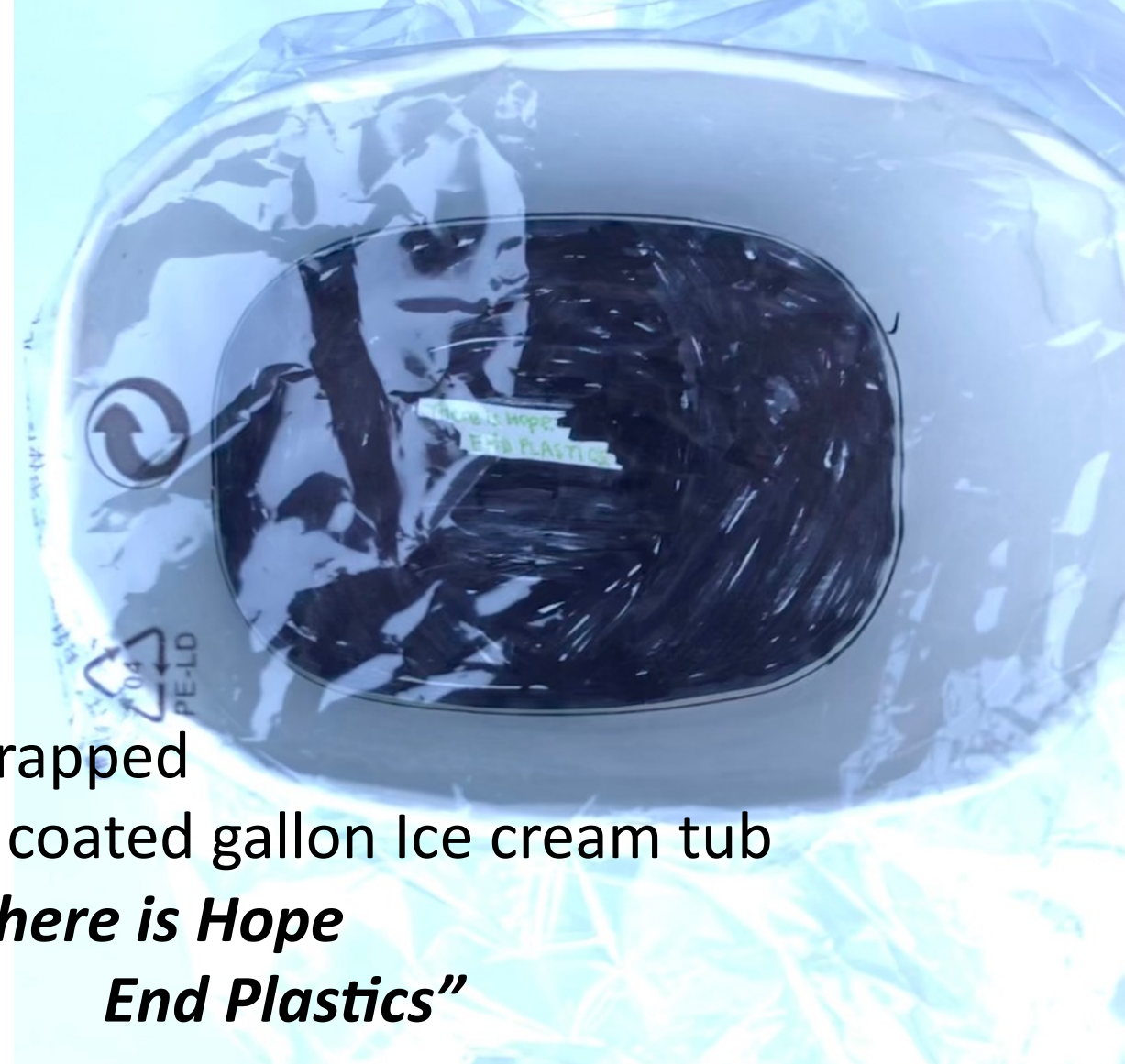
Expressing many things about climate change, & mass extinctions: including the sorrows...



Expressing fears & dark humor...

< Baby's Mobile *"This is Your Future"*

by UVM
student



>
Empty
plastic wrapped
& plastic coated gallon Ice cream tub

*"There is Hope
End Plastics"*

Expressing LOVE & the creative sparks of Bold & Playful vision that we can build



Breaking Heart

by

UVM student



Dear Legislator,
Plastic is destroying our
Planet and ruining the world
for future generations.
We need to stop the Plastic
crisis. You need to take
ACTION. NOW.
-Bellamy
Burlington V.T.

Tube

& oozing
message

by Bellamy Creehan, age 12

Burlington, VT



I used to
be real and
now I'm a
bag!

*"I used to be real, and
now I'm a
bag!"*

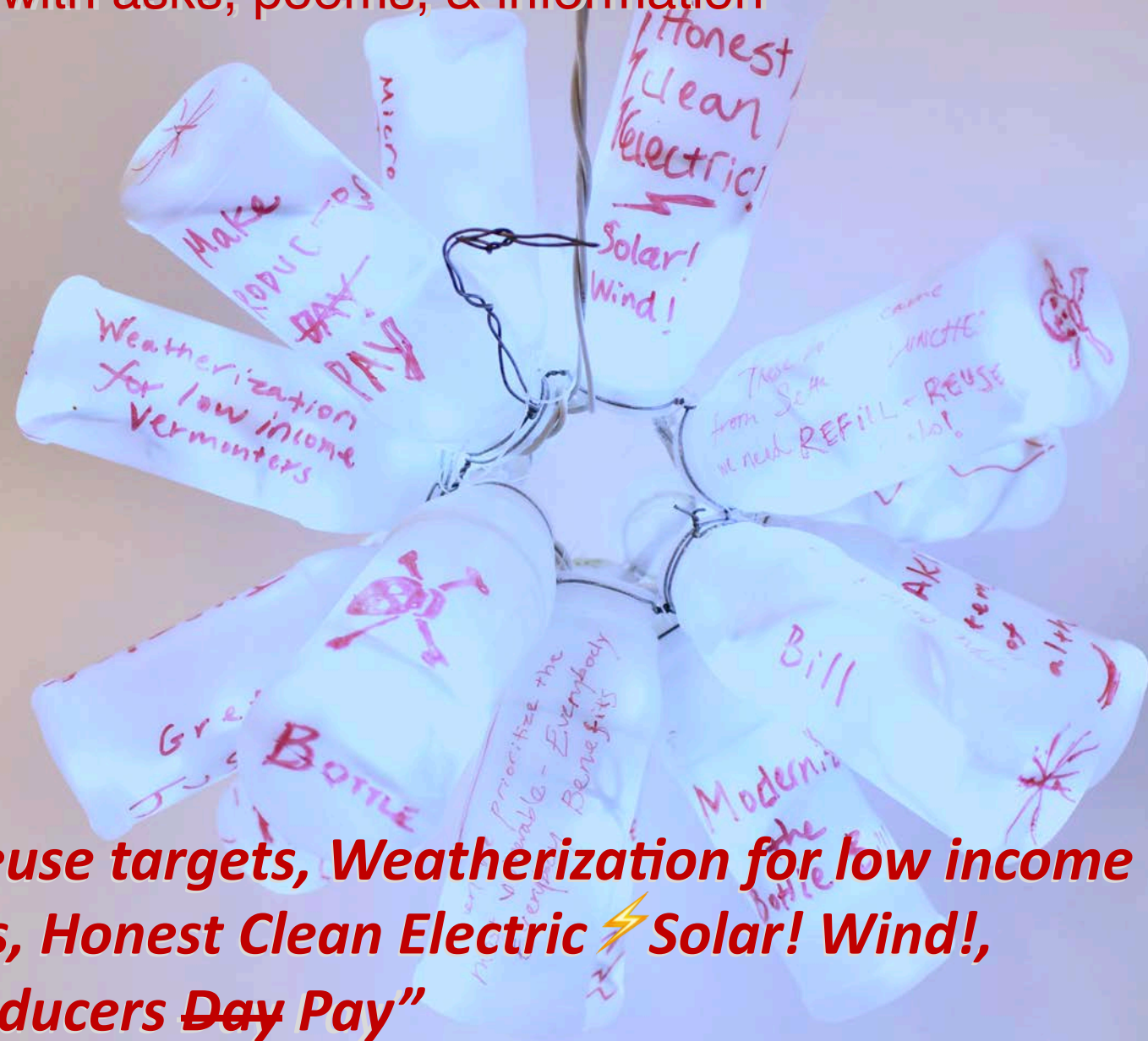
Cheetos Tiger card
by Rowan Roberts. Age 11,
Richmond, VT

As Greta Thunberg says, the “Blah blah blah” of a world sinking deeper & deeper into climate emergency does nothing to ease our feelings seen in these art pieces: grief, horror, fear, sadness, guilt, anger, feeling stuck. **Taking bold action now will change these feelings!**



We are creative animals always imagining & changing – fully capable of taking bold action for visionary systemic changes – & making steady progress to improve the systems we have.

Plastic Lunch Milk Bottle Coronavirus with asks, poems, & information



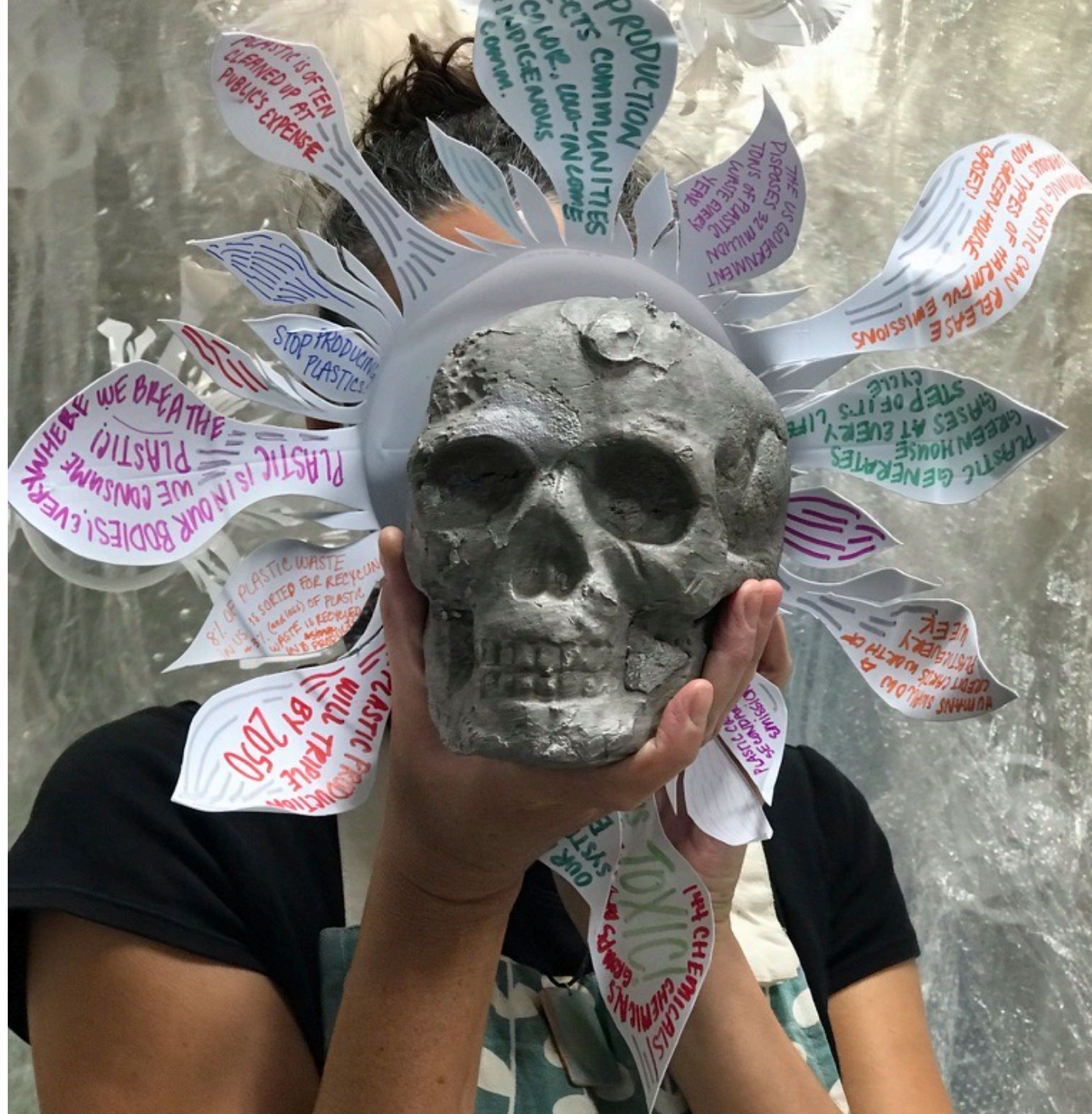
“Modernize the bottle bill, Refill & Reuse targets, Weatherization for low income Vermonters, Green justice zones, Honest Clean Electric ⚡ Solar! Wind!, Make Producers Day Pay”

Please keep going with EPR for citizens, not industry – in all dimensions of our polluting & toxic systems.

Toxic Plastic Flower

By Rebecca Schwarz &
Raphaella Brice, Winooski,
VT

“Plastic Production will triple by 2050” if we allow this to continue
Plastics are releasing harmful emissions & toxins at every stage of their short lives – where we make them, use them – at home & work, & where we dispose of them.



“Plastic production affects communities of color, low-income + indigenous communities.”

Most plastics are produced in this country in Black communities – effecting health so much that the main area of plastic production in Louisiana is now called Cancer Alley. Plastics are often disposed overseas. Our one Vermont landfill is filling up with single use plastics. **40% + of all our Vermont trash is single use.**



On January 8TH around 45 people came out as a “Sea Change for Climate” to show the statehouse being “flooded” with messages of concern, support & love for climate justice now.

Turtles
mistake balloons
for jellyfish like me
and choke! STOP
PLASTIC POLLUTION!

Jellyfish by Bellamy Creehan.
Burlington, VT.

We need radical
systemic change so
materials stop making us sick,
lead to mass extinctions, & climate change.





From Left to Right: Weeping Earth by a UVM student, Burlington, VT. **Climate SOS Wave** by Rebecca Schwarz, Burlington, VT. **Creature** by Sabine Foerg, Burlington, VT. Its speech bubble reads *“Hold Big Polluters Responsible Please 😊”* **Sea Bird** by Evi Cundiff of Burlington, VT. **Save My Ocean** by a UVM student. Burlington, VT.



What if we declared the
Climate Emergency
as important as the
Coronavirus Emergency?

What we could accomplish
with weekly / biweekly
press conferences –
people & teams
working together!!

Climate is a public health
& social justice
emergency!!

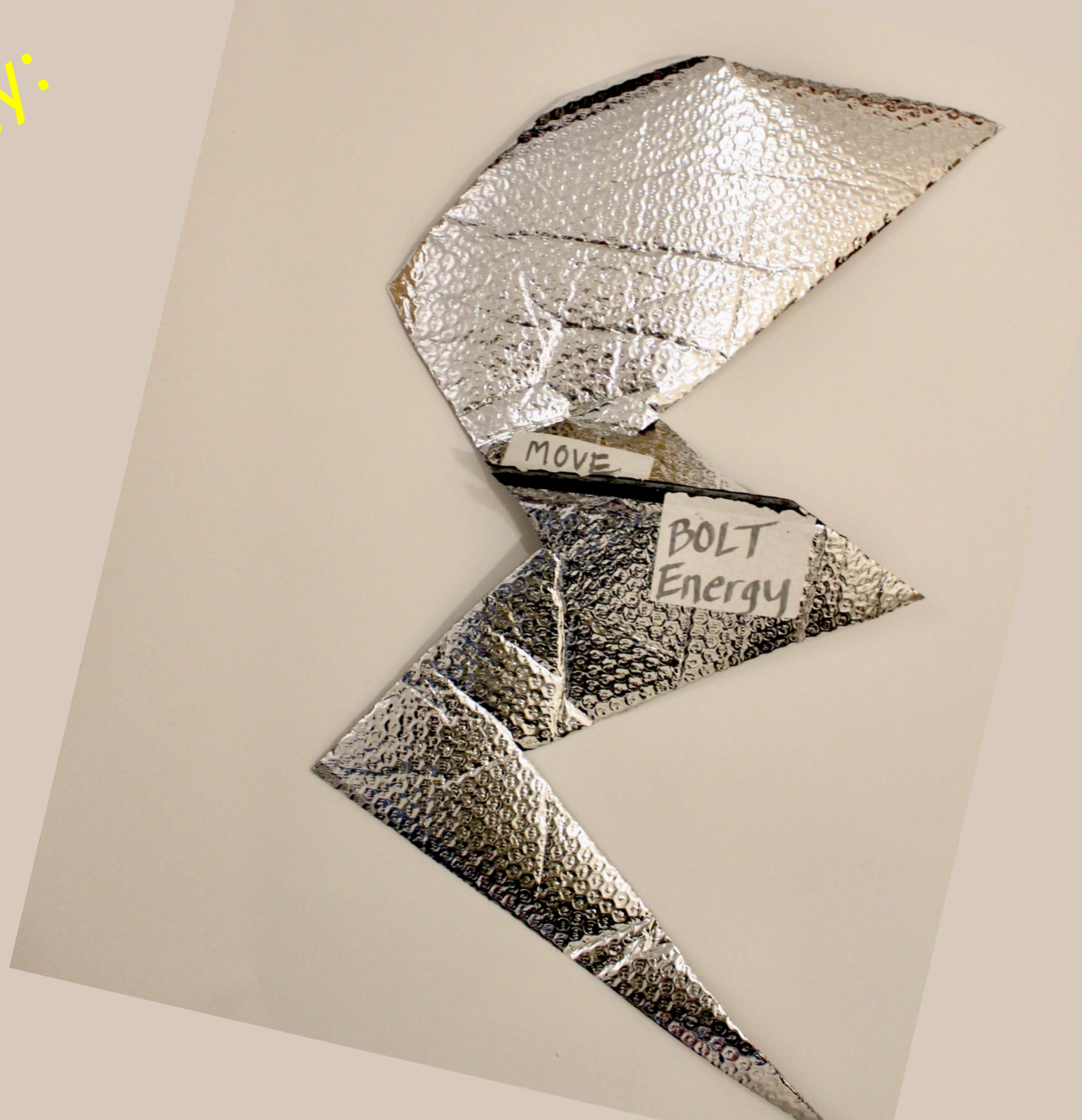


This art has been
made with love
from
many caring &
creative Vermonters

to YOU
caring & concerned
legislators

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR WORK!!**

Sending you off with energy:
"Move! Bolt! Energy!"
By Jean Cherouny,
Winooski, VT



EARTH IS OUR ONLY HOME.

SUPPORT THE EXTENDED BOTTLE BILL H.175,
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY H.142, AND
THE RIGHT TO REPAIR BILL H.58.

"Earth is Our Only Home"

By Louvean Monte,
Burlington, VT