

My name is Jane Schaefer, I live in the Mad River Valley, and I am a sophomore at Harwood Union High School. Last year I came here for my very first lobby day. I stood behind an experienced club member as she spoke at a press conference and I remember her saying that the year before she watched a vote on a proactive climate bill that did not pass. She said she sat on the State House stairs and cried. Hearing this scared me, I wondered whether or not what I was doing was worth it. But that same day, I sat in on the very first house vote for the Climate Superfund Act. A few weeks later it passed and I celebrated knowing that I played a small part in enacting big change.

Because of that experience last year, I've been closely following this session's legislation and I am back again in support of another incredibly important law, this time one that has already passed. Did you know that Youth Lobby was here lobbying for the Global Warming Solutions Act 6 years ago? While I was still too young to be involved in Youth Lobby, I can only imagine how hard those members worked to help get it passed and how happy they were when it did. It truly is an invigorating feeling. So I can only wonder how they'd feel knowing that now another generation of Youth Lobby members are here, and instead of making progress, we are fighting to keep that very same bill.

The Global Warming Solutions Act was passed in 2020 after President Trump pulled the US out of the Paris Climate Accord. At the time, such drastic measures seemed unthinkable. But here we are again, and we ask that we respond the same now. Since the US has been pulled out of this international agreement yet again, why aren't we taking the same stand? We are 6 years further into irreversible climate damage, with significant climate events happening right outside the doors of our capitol building. Not once but twice! Now is not the time to follow the federal government. Now is the time to strengthen what our small state has to offer for climate action, and continue to lead in this scary world of climate change. Repealing the GWSA would do the opposite.

President Trump has been very vocal about his plans to "drill, baby, drill" to boost the oil and gas industry. He has not proven to be an ally to those of us seeking climate

action or those who recognize – like growing numbers of global businesses and nations – that future is in clean energy. Not fossil fuels. Pollution will continue to poison our air, pollute our water, and will have costly public health impacts on a growing scale.

Ongoing reliance on fossil fuels, especially in Vermont, because we don't mine, frack or drill, also has huge economic impacts. All while there are cleaner, more local and more affordable energy solutions available. Vermont must continue to do its part on climate protection to slow things from getting much worse.

Yes, we are small, but we are mighty. With everything going on at the federal level, it's easy to succumb to beliefs that there is nothing for us to do. You can do your part by voting NO on H. 289 and yes on climate bills that can move us forward. We are the GREEN Mountain state, so let's keep it that way by preserving the incredibly important bills that reduce emissions, protect our environment, and increase our state's resiliency. We are the Brave Little State, and it's too late to be cowards now.