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We are facing a major problem with the health of our country and the wellbeing of our land. The United States Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, has overseen the largest cuts to federal land protection in U.S. history. He also has called for decreased protections for national monuments and lifted an Obama-era prohibition on coal mining on public lands. His description of his proposal to address the National Park Service maintenance is with new revenues from mining and drilling in America's public lands and coastal waters. His proposal dangers America's last wild places. This is a wrongdoing to the earth and it frankly doesn't make sense. This will change the world for the worse and we need to do the exact opposite.

We need our National Parks, and we don't need additional mining and drilling. We need to slow down and ultimately stop global warming and we need to majorly limit the amounts of greenhouse gasses that are absorbed into the atmosphere. We need to push for funds to rise in these national parks and for mining and drilling to decrease. We can get our energy through renewable resources. We have hydropower, biomass, geothermal, wind, and solar power. We could even follow what Sweden does and use our waste as energy. The last thing we should be doing is leaning on mining and drilling for our energy and to boost our economy.

The United States has the potential to be trendsetter in the world for renewable energy. We need to push for a nationwide change. This will help make the nation more sustainable and will better the earth. According to data from the World Bank, the United States is currently the second-largest producer of carbon dioxide. This is unheard of, we have all the resources to be a eco-friendly superpower. However, the country is going in the wrong direction.

The Whitehouse is staying away from these environmental issues. Our president is promoting the coal industry because he believes that it will create new jobs, which it will. However, it will hurt the environment in the process. We need to find alternative jobs for people that won't hurt the environment. We need to create jobs with the renewable resources and help lessen our carbon footprint.

Policies and plans, like Ryan Zinke's, are going to keep going into effect. We can't count on the government to make the change, that is why the change starts with us. We the eco-leaders of today and tomorrow have to stand together. We have made the change in ourselves. We now have to impact our families, then our town and communities. This will spark a change in our nation. If we all come together we can do something great. We have to protect our national parks, we have to make ecofriendly choices, we have to support ecofriendly business and corporations. If we want a better tomorrow, we have to make the changes today.

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world.

I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation.

When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

-Unknown

