

Ms. Brown,

Hello! I am a climate activist, and an energy science nerd that loves both the Department of Energy and *Stranger Things*. This may come across as random and odd, but it is for an important cause. The fact is, we need the help of young people with influence, like yourself, to protect the planet from climate change. Unfortunately, much of what you hear on the news is about how bad things are getting climate-wise, which can be overwhelming to young people. Fear is often a poor motivator, and can just make people tune out, give up, or panic. Many in the science community are extremely concerned, and are looking for the most effective ways to solve this issue, that don't require massive sacrifice from the world's inhabitants. Too many people around the globe are in unacceptable levels of poverty, and can't afford to dramatically change their lifestyle. The good news is that people are leaving poverty in droves in the developing world. This is possible with the ability to improve their economic status, which is highly dependent on energy use.

As you may know from science class, the way we get energy today comes from mostly fossil fuels, which emit carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. This causes global warming and subsequent climate change, and potentially extreme disruption. Right now, 85% of global energy use comes from these emitting sources like oil, gas, and coal. Energy use is expected to triple by the end of this century, especially as people leave poverty. This is a good thing for people, but a bad thing for carbon emissions. We need to find a way to give us all this energy with zero emissions. It is possible with nuclear power, which produces massive amounts of constant energy with zero emissions. Nuclear power is often misrepresented, misunderstood and unfairly ignored as a climate solution. It is a topic that must be taken into consideration, and better understood in a scientific context. Especially in a time where so many around the world need energy, and everyone is starting to be impacted by climate change.

Why did I reach out to you in particular? Well many of my friends are energy and nuclear science nerds. Many of us like *Stranger Things*, which is also kind of nerdy. They also talk about a fictional National Laboratory run by the U.S. Department of Energy. Seeing one of my favorite institutions portrayed in popular culture is fun, even though it is fiction. I was hooked when I saw the entire first season in one night. Now I am part of the insane fandom! You all are remarkable actors, might I add! And if I am being honest, you come off as very intelligent, caring, and down to earth. Your acting skills also blew me away in *Stranger Things*, which is why it was such a smash hit. I am literally *Eleven's* biggest fan! Like your friend Aaron Paul (I'm a big *Breaking Bad* fan) noticed, you appear to be quite wise beyond your years. The things you stand for and advocate for, show the positivity and humanism we are so much lacking these days. As the youngest UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador ever, you clearly care deeply about the wellbeing of the world's most vulnerable. UNICEF concerns itself with vulnerable children, and access to basic essentials like vaccinations, clean water, clean air, etc. I figure you might have an interest in taking on clean electricity advocacy.

The pro-nuclear power movement is growing. More and more high-profile people from entertainers, politicians and climate scientists are becoming more interested in talking about it. This is because the threat of climate change is forcing us to consider all options. I read your interview with Orlando Bloom on activism, and you mentioned climate change as an important issue. Why wouldn't you? Your generation will have to deal with the worst of this problem, even more so than my millennial generation. Also, younger people are not as scared of nuclear power, so you might be inclined to do some reading about it. You said you like the work Greta

Thunberg is doing, as a climate action advocate. Climate change is a topic that needs to be brought to the forefront. However, we need to carry with it, a message of hope, and the possibility of a concrete, straightforward solution. We need to recognize that pulling people out of poverty, while avoiding climate catastrophe, requires a lot of clean power. Nuclear power can be that light in the darkness.

Based on your current humanitarian work with UNICEF (a UN program), being an energy advocate would not be much extra effort in addition to what you already promote. The UN promotes the peaceful use of nuclear technology with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the folks behind the harrowing climate change reports, say that we need to use nuclear power to meet global emission reduction targets. UNICEF probably monitors the relationship between access to energy and poverty issues, many of which disproportionately affect women and children. Energy availability is a women's empowerment issue, as it allows poorer women to do less manual labor, and focus on education. Women and girls getting access to education is also one of the best ways to fight poverty! Nuclear power can be a tremendous tool in addressing all these issues, as it is super abundant, clean, safe and relatively cost-effective.

My goal is to give you hope about the future of humanity on this planet. We need more hope and less doom. You have a lot of power to promote positive change in the world, given your platform. The trick is to make sure whatever you promote is grounded in rational thought, evidence and humanism. This often means you have to be able to see through irrational fear and speak about unpopular truths. To many, nuclear power is a scary topic, but if you look at the data, it turns out we should embrace it for our benefit, and the benefit of nature. I believe what I stand for is a scientific truth, and I want to use this truth to make the world a better place. Unfortunately, many people are still out there who refuse to see this truth, and give in to the illogical fear surrounding the technology. Yes, radiation can make nuclear power seem scary and mysterious, but the more people learn about something they don't quite understand, the more that fear dissipates.

There is an amazing allegory here, I think, with your badass character in *Stranger Things*. Nuclear power is like Eleven, who has a remarkable ability. Originally raised in a lab and exploited for military purposes, Eleven was able to escape the cold, unfeeling, exploitative relationship with Brenner. She found a group of people that wanted to help her, and not use her for destructive purposes. There was a rupture in time and space, and humanity was confronted with the Upside Down. Today's Upside Down is the climate crisis, in a way. Working together intelligently with her new family, Eleven used her powers to take on the lab, rescue Will, and defeat the demogorgon. She was willing to sacrifice herself to save others. Then throughout the series, Eleven has saved the world multiple times, warding off the Mind Flayer. Using nuclear science and technology, we can also save the world from climate change. What started out as a weapon, has now become the best chance we have to avoid impending annihilation. That's the way I see it, and the reason why I am such a fan of the show. I consider it a storytelling masterpiece.

You might be wondering if I work for any industry, or am just standing up for corrupt corporations and government officials. No, the only client I lobby for is planet earth. I have a genetic illness that will most likely take my life within the next decade, and I probably won't live to see forty. Money means pretty much nothing to me, as far as I am concerned. As someone who studied science in college, I am extremely concerned about the environment we will leave to future generations. The world has become a better place for the vast majority of people, but I am convinced that climate change is one of those things that can upend much of this societal

progress. My niece and nephew are only four years old, and I want them to grow up in a wonderful future where people and the planet both thrive. My nuclear power advocacy is for them. This is what I am dedicating the rest of my life to, and literally try to save the world from climate change.

If you choose to take this on as something you advocate for, there are thousands of people in the movement that will have your back. There is also a large body of scientific evidence that supports it, even though some people reject such evidence. My organization, *Americans for Nuclear Energy*, is fledgling, and not super developed as an official non-profit. There are others you should check out, that are quite more official and known: *Environmental Progress*, *Generation Atomic*, and *Mothers for Nuclear*. I personally know people who work for all these groups. I think you would really appreciate *Mothers for Nuclear*, as they are a group of kick-ass female scientists and engineers, that want to protect their kids and the world's kids. This could be a way for you to have a very large impact on the climate mitigation movement, advocating for nuclear science. And who better to advocate for planet-saving technology, researched by the Department of Energy, than Eleven from *Stranger Things*! A completely clean energy supply is in this country's grasp, and we can reject the pollution of the fossil fuel industry completely. We could really use the help of young, humanitarian celebrities like yourself to help mobilize the world's youth to secure a bright future for humanity and the planet.

Thank you!

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