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## Earth Day Essay

If you are like me and are an absolute outdoor enthusiast, we want to keep Vermont's beauty and wildlife safe and not hindered by global warming and pollution. Vermont's nature and wildlife mean more to me than just a place to go outside; it is a haven for me to go and explore Vermont's wildlife and wilderness.

Vermont has done better than most states when adopting clean energy, but we are not out of the clear yet. We need to continue to help the environment, natural resources, and wildlife thrive and stay healthy. Vermont forests are home to countless species of animals. These animal habitats are being destroyed by man-made wildfires and the destruction and pollution of forests by logging and clearing companies.

Some studies show that in five to ten years, Vermont's climate may warm up by two to three degrees, and within the next twenty to thirty years, it could warm up eight to ten degrees. This would be devastating to Vermont's ski and winter sports season. It would also mean more runoff from more rain, snowmelt, and a change in seasons. According to a UVM study, if climate change continues at the rate that it is now by 2080, the Vermont ski season could be shortened by two weeks to a month!

Another climate change related issue that we have to worry about is overfishing and pollution in Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain's marine wildlife is suffering from pollution and microplastics. Each summer, Lake Champlain is experiencing more and more green algae blooms. The green algae can cause sickness and infection if swam in.

My plan to solve this problem is to try and switch people over to clean energy by using solar wind and hydroelectric power. Switching over can be very expensive, but my plan is for the state to use the 300 million dollar covid relief bill to help provide more money for families to switch to clean energy. This money could also help the state build more eco-friendly housing and local economies. We need to do something fast to try and reverse and save Vermont's beauty, wilderness, and wildlife from climate change.

“The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty.

The activist is the man who cleans up the river

*-Ross Perot*