

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 2015

Dear Josie,

First, thanks for taking the time to write.

In honor of Earth Day, staff around the White House have been taking a look back at some of the letters we've received from folks around the country about the importance of preserving our country's natural resources and spaces in the face of a changing climate. We've been reading about the places that matter to you – and learning more about how you're acting locally to fight to preserve them.

As a Senior Advisor to the President, I spend a lot of time working on climate, conservation, and energy policy — but I'm also a dad. And like you, I want my daughter to be able to enjoy the beautiful places that have given me and my family so many wonderful memories.

That's why your letter – about your personal connection to the Everglades, based on your childhood visits there – stuck out for me in particular. And it's in part because of voices like yours that the President traveled to the Everglades this week. The natural beauty and vital resources of this region are at risk because of climate change. As you noted, the region provides drinking water for a third of Florida's population. It supports billions in the state's tourism economy. And it's home to a variety of natural habitats that support a number of wild species.

In short: We agree that this is a region that needs to be preserved — not just for the millions of folks who currently rely on it for economic and physical sustenance, but for their kids, and their grandkids, too. Because the fact of the matter is that we can still control what that reality looks like, and that's why this Administration is taking mitigating the very real effects of climate change so seriously.

So I wanted to share a couple of the steps the President took this week to encourage the preservation of places like the Everglades, and I want to let you know how you can act locally to help.

On Monday, the White House issued a Presidential Proclamation highlighting the impact of National Parks on our local economies. On Tuesday, we announced four landscapes throughout the country where we'll focus our conservation and climate resilience efforts. We announced how we're investing millions in new funding to protect those parks, as well as new actions the Department of Agriculture will take in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and forest land owners to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

So what can you do? When it comes to making sure this kind of progress continues, your voice is one of the best assets you have. All week, for example, folks have been sharing images across their social channels of the natural spaces they're fighting to protect using the hashtag #ActOnClimate. I've been impressed by the responses we've seen.

And if you're looking to do something to do locally, there are a host of resources available to you across the government. A great place to start is [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) – where you can find a bunch of opportunities in your area – conservation-related or otherwise. Once you're signed up, share it with your friends – who probably have no idea about the opportunities available to them in their areas.

Finally, I hope you'll stay in touch with more ideas and recommendations about conservation in the future. A lot of folks who write say that they think their letter will never get read. I hope you'll help let more people learn their voices matter. And encourage your friends to do the same.

Thanks for writing -- and Happy (belated) Earth Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Deese", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Brian Deese  
Senior Advisor to the President