



Dupont Summit 2017

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

December 1, Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

Presentation

“Green Activism in the First State: It Can't Just Be for Hippies Anymore”

Summary:

The points we want to address are that (1) environmentalism and climate change is unnecessarily politicized; climate change is happening, and continually making it a point of political contention divides us for no reason, (2) environmental advocacy is effective; we've seen the March's effects in our own state already, and (3) how we treat our environment is reflective of how we treat each other. Our proposed method of grappling with current environmental issues is education focused on environmental awareness.

Some points we want to address:

- How we treat our environment is reflective of how we treat each other
- Environmental education in schools to educate the future is crucial; integration in curriculum or as clubs
 - Moral obligation of local NGOs to initiate integration and aid in funding
- Importance of march in DE specifically
 - DE has the lowest mean elevation of all states, so climate change is even more of a direct threat to us
 - March has led to wind farm legislation
 - Protected environment and bolstered economy are not mutually exclusive
 - Ex Tesla, solar startups
- Paris Climate Accord and other international agreements are steps in the right direction, but we cannot put all of our stock into them
 - We don't have a say in high-level decisions, but we have the power to make choices everyday (eat less meat, turn off lights, recycle)
- We must not politicize compassion: we cannot afford to make science political
- We have an obligation to leave behind a world we are proud of for the future; they deserve a fair chance
 - We are already seeing the consequences of our ancestors' ignorance (extreme weather)
- March for Science turnout: ~800 people, to support funding for EPA
 - It's not a fringe movement; our society *wants* to move forward
- Human nature is inherently curious and we are naturally inclined to innovation
- Common sense even illustrates climate change
- Present results of a social experiment we conducted based on the responses of students, adults, and international students regarding perceptions on climate change
 - Possibly a video

Speakers

Vyshnavi Kosigishroff *Delaware March for Science*

Dounya Ramadan, *Delaware March for Science*