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7th Grade

## Echoes of a Clean Tomorrow

I'm never going to understand  
why you can't  
comprehend, me and others  
are affected,  
and yet you're offended.

The world is slowly decaying  
and no one is ever  
complaining.

Think of the generations after us,  
they will wonder, "*why did you do this to us?*"

Think of the kids, constantly bracing, having to face a world that's erasing.

Dismissing Norway's vision,  
a harmful mistake,  
leaves kids with pollution,  
a world at stake.

Living in a messy environment affects people's everyday lives,  
making it harder to breathe,  
to relax,  
and to find peace  
in the spaces meant

To  
Feel  
like  
Home.

Me and others have to agree,  
the only  
way to succeed is  
to uphold what is right, and to  
bring hidden feelings to light.

Everyplace you go,  
should be clean-  
gleaming with green,  
a world pristine.  
a dirty environment means  
living.  
think about  
the people affected,  
they should be protected,  
but yet, they are still neglected.

This is a basic human right,  
yet no one cares  
for the  
world  
or a person's well being.

I'm never going to understand  
why  
you can't comprehend  
that this  
slip up  
Sets up  
The world's  
End.

The world  
we worked  
so  
hard to build up.

Your misunderstanding  
the overlapping of the chatter,  
and you don't understand why this matters.

Each tree,  
each lake,  
each blade of grass  
a promise kept to the future past.

In Norway, its carved deep in law  
a pledge to life, escaping no flaw.

But here,  
across the ocean wide,  
where dreams and freedoms coincide,  
our constitution silently stands  
on forests,  
oceans,  
outstretched lands.

Imagine if  
we could write an  
oath to  
Earth-  
a shared birthright-  
to breathe in air that's pure and free,  
a legacy for you and me.

Not wealth nor might but ocean and truth,  
the land we cherish,  
the sky so blue.

Overlooked,  
It will deconstruct  
the way  
we live  
and learn.  
it will  
ruin everyones  
breath and sun, our seas and trees in turn.

Oh,  
let us pledge,  
in word and deed,  
that nature's care is all we need.

With out this right,  
the future slips from our hands,  
and leaves the earth to burn.

No one seems to understand,  
that this motherland can't be ruined,  
without its coasts,  
we'll all pay,  
in shadows cast by what we've done today.

Norway knows the way, and we should follow,  
but all of our hearts are hollow.  
We must swallow the truth,  
the truth that should  
be known.

*Why can't we be like this?*  
Always dismissed, never convinced.  
*Why can't you understand?*  
After hand  
We  
Will  
Become  
A  
Waste land.

## **Artist's Statement**

The reason I explored and researched this topic is because the Earth is already decaying. I really don't think some people are able to fathom the idea that the Earth is so far polluted and wrecked. I showed and explained the relationship between human actions and their impact on the world, which was driven by my deep concern for environmental sustainability and how certain people can't seem to follow social responsibility. It was also inspired by Norway's commitment to a clean environment as a basic human right, a concept that contrasts greatly with the current state of environmental policy. In the poem I focused on being able to show the beauty of nature as well as the risk it's facing by us humans. I hope to try and convince anyone who reads this to understand the absolute urgency of preserving our planet for future generations.

Although I'm not as experienced in poetry as I would like to be, I still used it anyway. The reason for this was so I would be able to create immersive thought-provoking scenes and visuals that combine rhythm and emotions to create a beautiful and thoughtful message. Each word and line is woven with delicacy, precision, and enchanting feelings to really invoke the emotions tied to environmental neglect, with a rhythm that reflects both the fragility and resilience of nature. My goal is for each piece to serve as both a call to action and a reminder of the responsibility we share in caring for the earth. Through my work, I hope to encourage reflection, inspire action, and advocate for the respect that our planet rightfully deserves.

Imagine a world where every person is granted the right to an environment that not only supports health but also ensures the protection of a rich, diverse ecosystem. In Norway, this vision is a reality, "Every person has the right to an environment that is conducive to health and to a natural environment whose productivity and diversity are maintained". (Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment). This shows that the preservation of natural resources is

seen not just as a choice, but a responsibility to future generations. There is a website that talks about how this amendment came to be, “Norway partnered with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition in 2012 and since then has worked to promote action on climate and clean air to reduce the rate of global warming in the near term – and drastically reduce air pollution at the same time” (Norway Ministry of Climate and the Environment). This shows how they were successfully able to do something that was so simple yet so powerful in the long run. A very important thing to consider, is why this act exists, “The purpose of this Act is to protect the outdoor environment against pollution and to reduce existing pollution, to reduce the quantity of waste and to promote better waste management” (Ministry of Climate and Environment, 1981). This goes to show that there is a very meaningful reason behind this amendment. Something that is talked about in their legislation is, “ Natural resources shall be managed on the basis of comprehensive long-term considerations which will safeguard this right for future generations as well.” (Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment). This approach to the situation isn't just about keeping the Earth intact, it's also about creating a society that values and protects the essentials of life, clean air, fertile land, and keeping the environment alive.

Norway's commitments go beyond what is expected, it empowers citizens with the right to knowledge. “In order to safeguard their right in accordance with the foregoing paragraph, citizens are entitled to information on the state of the natural environment and on the effects of any encroachment on nature that is planned or carried out” (Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment). Them being clear and transparent ensures people are informed about the impacts on their surroundings, holding people accountable for any potential harm to the environment. Just imagine the benefits if such principles were normalized everywhere, this would encourage nations everywhere to prioritize sustainability, uphold transparency and protect

the natural resources that shape our collective future. Thank you for your time and attention to this problem. Together, we have an incredible opportunity to change the world for the better, securing a healthier planet for generations to come.

## Works Cited

Norway Ministry of Climate and Environment. "Pollution Control Act." Government.No, [www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/pollution-control-act/id171893/](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/pollution-control-act/id171893/). Accessed 30 Oct. 2024.

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