



Date: 12/11/13

Dear Friend of YOUNGO, Christiana,

We appreciate your prompt response to our open letter. We hope you understand that we take our future, and the futures of generations to come, very seriously. We would never imagine you disagreed. We respect and support the enormous amount of effort that you and the secretariat put into fulfilling the aims of the convention. We are well aware that this is not just a consequence of your appointment, but that this is a cause that you give your all to because you wish to protect the world from catastrophic climate change.

However, we are saddened by your choice. It is unacceptable that the state of the political conversation is such that the Executive Secretary of climate negotiations would choose to attend the summit of an industry who acts in direct conflict with the aims of the convention. Our criticism of the relationships between high-level political actors and the fossil fuel industry was never intended as a personal attack. To reiterate, we support the huge amount of work that you and the Secretariat do alongside constituencies such as YOUNGO at COP.

As you always encourage us to do, we want to challenge the assumptions that allow high carbon industry, and thus climate change, to continue. Why does the fossil fuel industry have privileged access to decision makers when their business model fundamentally accelerates climate change? The perceived legitimacy that the fossil industry clings to blocks the pathway for progress and we cannot stand by and let this persist. This is not a future that we would want to imagine, we need a future that keeps us below 1.5C.

The cause we fight for is a joint one. Whilst we do not wish to focus on what divides us but instead on what unites us in the pursuit of progress, we challenge you to question your assumptions. One thing we are certain of is that a world that includes burning coal will not keep us below 1.5C or even 2C. In your absence we continued to fight this fight at COY. We all have our own battles to fight and we hope yours will include taking a truly powerful and groundbreaking stand against the influence and prioritisation of extractive industries.

We look forward to working with you for a productive COP19.

In solidarity,

YOUNGO