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Politics is the main point of this gathering today, but i am here to talk about biology and philosophy. That is to say, Life itself, and its value. There will not be much for us to debate in the absence of life itself, and I hope we can AT LEAST all agree on that as a consensus. That being said there is and has long been an extensive propaganda campaign designed to dismiss, bury, or dilute the overwhelming constellation of scientific evidence in relation to climate change, and the picture that constellation is producing. the scientific evidence produced world wide by the smartest human minds on the planet points to there already being no known way, of any kind, for avoiding severe ramifications we are already confronted with in regards to climate change. This status deteriorates by the day and by GREATER AMOUNTS everyday, and for it to go on happening all we have to do is nothing different at all.

The consensus is that we have already passed a point of no return. Consider what a point of no return is, please. It is a point in a journey in which there is no making it back to the starting point. in 2016 we passed the concentration of green house gasses in the atmosphere considered to be a marker for permanent and irreparable planetary change to come. we did not pass this point of no return simply as residents of new jersey, or even as citizens of the united states, but as people who live on the planet earth. Yet here we are in new jersey, faced with what we can do in new jersey. Even though the consequences of these truths have yet to arrive, we KNOW they are coming and worsening. We MUST act now. There simply is no time.

humanity has already caused the sixth mass extinction to occur on this planet. Take a moment with me to comprehend what that

means. A mass extinction is what happened to the dinosaurs, a massive and comprehensive dying off of most life on earth that made it possible for human ascendancy to slowly but surely begin. That was the last mass extinction and that happened 65 million years ago. This is only the 6th time in the 4 billion year history of the earth that a mass extinction has occurred. it is happening again today. The sixth mass extinction is presently under way; and let me emphasize that it is already under way BEFORE we have seen what the arrival of grand climate change impacts will look like. Let me then emphasize that this is happening not because of some singular cosmic scale event like a meteor crashing into the planet, but because of things we humans have done collectively, without a clear understanding of consequence, and over the course of only a few generations. We must be humbled, right here, right now, today. we are akin to the dinosaurs right now, riding down extinction avenue on a trip we can not avoid taking, but while it will surely lead to a ruinous place, unlike the dinosaurs we can still effect how much of a ruinous place we will arrive at. Various estimates in the scientific community point to most of the species on earth being dead and gone between the middle and the end of THIS century. That is not exaggeration. It is well underway. However unlike the fate of the dinosaurs what WE do still matters. We can no longer stop all the damage that will happen to the earth, but the severity of what is to come has not yet been determined. Our fossil record has yet to be discovered millions of years from now, and as it has often been said, but perhaps never quite as appropriately, our history is not yet written in stone!

Will we live in a future where we put our best efforts into sustaining life on earth?

Will we eliminate the very possibility of human life on earth?

I couldn't say. I am here to say that this is not a drill. This is not a test. This is the only world we have, and we are losing it by the day. I hope you hear these words very clearly and take their meaning.

To bring it home consider that in New Jersey it is estimated we will suffer tens of billions of dollars in damage from widespread destruction in just the next several decades related to climate change, and that damage will be the mellow introduction to a time in which things will start to get REALLY bad. I have read one estimate about the costs of global warming that stated that by the end of the century it will cost the planet over half of a quadrillion dollars. Have you ever even heard that one before? A Quadrillion? Well it doesn't matter in the slightest anyway and here is why. Every dollar you have is nothing more than a practical illusion. Those dollars represent value but do not contain any. Their value only exists in that they can be exchanged for goods and services in the natural world because we agree to do so. When the goods and services, food and water are destroyed, forever gone, and never to be replaced, what would money help, or be worth?? If wealth and power is to count for anything, Anything at all, you will not dismiss this. We must work together. We must save this precious planet we call earth. In death what value does material wealth have? If you value life on earth, humanity, your family, yourself, or even just an insatiable destructive spirit of greed and avarice, please consider going green right now as a necessary investment for yourselves, to preserve whatever you deem worthy of preserving, and chose a policy that invests in life on earth.

if you would rather end up an important historical footnote in the story of the roach people I imagine evolving 65 million years from now, and prefer that they get to study how it was that

humans drove themselves to the point of extinction, you can do that, too.

these are choices before us. They matter greatly. I beg you. choose wisely. Thank you.