

Dearest Students, Colleagues and Friends,

I am in the enviable position of having six “Other Daughters” those daughters of dear friends who share their thoughts with me and who I am able to offer whatever wisdom I have gained – from paddling a canoe to dealing with personal challenges. This morning one of my Other Daughters sent me Hillary Clinton’s concession speech, a heartfelt speech filled with love of country and a call to action to become involved or increase our engagement to keep the United States moving forward now and into the future.

Certainly with the latest political dish, we are assured the selection of a conservative judge to the Supreme Court. For that reason, we must be vigilant in protecting not only reproductive rights, but women’s rights on the whole. We know we have a man at the helm who respects few women. We also know with sidekicks like Jeff Sessions and soon-to-be VP Pence the predilection toward rescinding our reproductive rights (a personal choice, not one for the government) will loom large. I will respond to any threats by making calls, writing letters and marching if necessary, to protect our daughters and the families they are creating as well as all the women who think they have no voice!

My real daughter sent me the incoming President’s intentions for his [first 100 days](#) which I immediately read. I urge all of you and will be urging others to do the same and select areas to become #ACTive. As early as 2008, I was present with and listening to groundwater scientists and geologists share their findings on the dangers of fracking. The change in densities between what they remove from the earth (natural gas) and what they put back in (liquid) can exacerbate the increase in earthquakes such as those we are now seeing in Oklahoma and other locations. Liquids within the fracking process can pollute our groundwater. Economically, if one simply doesn’t care about the environment, it’s a short-term gain for a hugely lop-sided long-term loss as infrastructure repair costs and cleanups from this practice increase. With Keystone, we would be banking on human technology to protect us just as it HASN’T in over 35 oil spills across the U.S. in (most of our) lifetimes – from Deepwater Horizon and the Exxon Valdez to many others on rivers around our nation. Is the return on investment worth it? Wouldn’t it be smarter to look for ways to reduce what oil we use – analyzing and prioritizing alternatives for the most petroleum-heavy practices or even just developing, making, and purchasing more efficient automobiles and creating a sin tax for gas guzzlers? Could we bear to change our personal habits to carpool and support mass transit further?

Despite the results of this election, I feel like the greatest political loss I suffered was when Al Gore was denied his opportunity to serve as President. I raise this point now because, to my surprise, I was able to accomplish more (with the organizations and people I was fortunate enough to work) during the subsequent Bush reign than I had ever thought possible. I sat 25 feet from a loathable Donald Rumsfeld, then Secretary of Defense, as he announced intentions to enlarge land buffers around military installations. This helped the military create a safe-space for people but also increased habitat quickly in multiple locations. We also worked with the Department of Defense to start designing and building water and energy-friendly barracks and outbuildings on military bases – saving millions of gallons of water. Additionally, we worked with the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, EPA, and Defense to begin work on de-siloing the government so there could be less duplication of services, ergo greater monetary savings, ergo reduced need to cut the social programs I personally value and ones so needed by so many. I say all this to say that *despite the inhabitant of the White House, we CAN become #ACTive. We CAN make a positive difference.*

Some of you are Republicans. Some of you are Democrats. It matters not. We *all* value freedom. We all need an educated public which requires work from birth to death. We all must have clean air, water and land for good health and spaces for wildlife - for their own sake as well as our rejuvenation. So, for those who selected the candidate who won, please do not blindly follow. For those who selected the candidate who lost, take a short period to grieve and then dust yourself off and get to work. Democracy doesn’t serve us best when we lay down and do nothing. We each have the opportunity to make positive change.

By whatever means you are able – sharpen your pens, put on your walking shoes, volunteer for whatever cause you hold dear, clear your throats, become #ACTive and BE HEARD!

Best to you and our whole earth too,

Margo

Margo Farnsworth

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Give good people good information and they'll do good things.

(If you've just received this single newsletter, it may be because I thought you'd be interested in this particular subject. You may or may not get others. If you want on my list regularly, e-mail me. If you want off my list, e-mail me. Thanks!)