

# Summer of Gaia

Mission Log: Week 5-Make Your Voice Heard!



**In a few short years, you will be able to vote! It is important to know what your elected officials think about protecting soil, air and water. More importantly, it is important to know how they VOTE. The laws of the United States can be felt in the soil, air and water around the world. You have the power to talk to Congressman, Senators and even the President of the United States! The more voices they hear saying, “protect our natural resources!” the more likely they are to do just that.**

**First, pick “an issue.”**

**1-Start with something you love, like dolphins or tigers or the beach you visit ever summer. You can also pick something we need to be alive and healthy, like drinking water, clean air to breathe, or keeping pesticides off foods. I’ve given you a LOT of links at the blog to help you find ideas.**

**2-Many of the links go directly to “action” pages. Click and read the areas that catch your attention. You will find that often, you can just fill in your information and click to send an email. But, handwritten letters are more often read than form e-mails! The action pages will help you with information to put in your letter.**

**3-Many of the action pages refer to pending laws or existing laws. They often have numbers like, HR 4341 (a pending law I don’t like!) If you can make a reference to that law or legislation in your letter, it helps the Congress person know which vote is important to you.**

**On the next page is a sample letter I could send to my Congressman. (I’ve actually spoken to him about it at a town hall meeting!)**

**This is one of your Gaia Powers! The more people you can get to send a letter like yours, the greater your power is! Email me if when you get a letter back! [info@gaiagirls.com](mailto:info@gaiagirls.com)**

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Dear Congressman Kuhl,

I live in your district and I am a lover of the outdoors. I frequently enjoy our beautiful Finger Lakes and am always proud to tour visitors through our area. I'm writing to urge you to take your name off HR 4341. It is appalling that you would support this bill.

HR 4341 would make it easier for large factory farms to pollute our air and water. If you believe in the free market, please don't allow factory farms to offset the cost of their horrific way of doing business onto the shoulders of our business and homeowners.

The large amount of animal waste produced by factory farms is a threat to personal health, the cleanliness of our lakes (which is a keystone to tourism) and health of our soil.

Please do not support this bill. You profess to love the 29<sup>th</sup> district, don't let factory farms befoul it!

Sincerely,

Lee Welles

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