

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

One Bowdoin Square
10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

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COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
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Stone Soup Leadership Institute
P.O. Box 4551
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Youth Delegates,

I am extremely privileged to have the opportunity to welcome you to the seventh annual Stone Soup Youth Summit, and the second Youth Summit to be held on Martha's Vineyard. I want to extend a special welcome to those of you who have traveled a great distance to attend this unique event, and I want to personally welcome you all to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

One year ago, the first Youth Summit was held on Martha's Vineyard; it produced extraordinary results. Due to last year's hard work and dedication, the "Leave a Legacy Project" yielded the first sustainable Vineyard Map. This year, you are gathered here to continue this undertaking. With a focus in sustainable building, sustainable economics, cultural sustainability, and sustainable agriculture, this year's Vineyard Youth Summit will continue to tackle the most difficult problems our world community faces.

Perhaps the most perilous problem today is that of inaction. Much more must be done to preserve the vitality of our world. Nearly half a century ago Rachel Carson sparked an environmental movement by uncovering the harmful effects of pesticides on wildlife and publishing her landmark work, *Silent Spring*. As an individual driven to take action she laid the groundwork for future conversations surrounding environmental awareness. It is now up to you as our new leaders to continue fighting for sustainable development by saying "NO" to complacency.

This Summit presents a tremendous opportunity to use your imagination and creativity in ways that will translate into real results. Whether this means pursuing entrepreneurial ventures through Beads for Life or making connections with other youth throughout the world through the Walter Cronkite Global Technology Initiative, all of you have the power to create substantive change for the future of our planet.

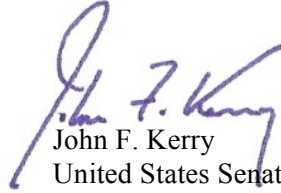
My good friend and long-time colleague Ted Kennedy once said, "I have seen throughout my life how we as a people can rise to a challenge, embrace change and renew our destiny."

It is up to you take advantage of this opportunity by networking with the many delegates from Martha's Vineyard, Hawaii, Nantucket, Virgin Gorda, Vieques, Puerto Rico, and the British Virgin Islands. Your concerted efforts will help us overcome the challenges of today and with strong foresight we can find the solutions of tomorrow.

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is continuing the legacy of past environmentalists by fostering youth leadership throughout the world. Launching the "Green Revolution" from a grassroots base will be integral to future policy making; it is up to delegates such as you to lead this movement. Use this Summit as a tool to help hone your already budding leadership qualities into a strength that can help you connect with people from all walks of life.

I hope you enjoy your time in Massachusetts, and again I want to sincerely thank and applaud you for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and especially all that you will do in the future to build a more sustainable world. Our task is a difficult one, but with young, inspired leaders that are willing to lead the fight, I have no doubt we will prevail.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry
United States Senator (MA)

JFK/cmc