

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 1, 2012

Dear Student,

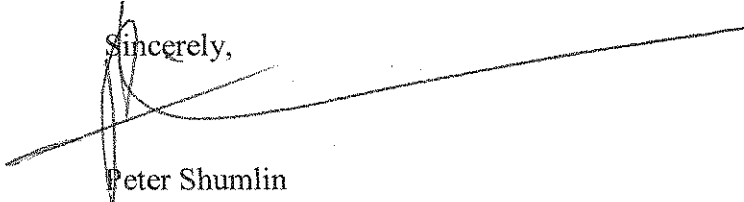
The Greatest Generation. Who were they and what did they do? They were your grandparents. Regular people who stepped up to fight fascism during World War II. Today, the earth faces threats less obvious, perhaps, but in many ways even more dire. Threats which span continents, defy traditional borders and require international collaboration. Threats which include climate change, famine, pandemics, chronic poverty, water shortages, illiteracy, the subjugation of women, nuclear proliferation and environmental degradation.

The time has come for the next "Greatest Generation." Your time. The challenge is significant, but so is your potential. You can make a difference by working collaboratively with your peers both here and around the globe to develop practical ways to address these urgent problems.

To this end, I am asking you to get to work. Please join a group of your peers from around the state at the kick-off conference of Vermont's Global Issues Network at the State House in Montpelier on April 9, 2012. Currently, almost 130 schools from around the world participate in a Global Issues Network (GIN); this will be the first one established in the United States. We will come together to learn and act, in our own communities and abroad.

So, I hope you will join me in Montpelier for the start of Vermont's Global Issues Network. Historic problems call for historic responses. These are the times when regular people become heroes. People like you -- the next Greatest Generation.

Sincerely,



Peter Shumlin
Governor