

Please personalize your letter by including your own comments.

“Politeness if Powerful” ~ Peggy Oki, [cetaceans.org](http://cetaceans.org) and Origami Whales Project.

We encourage you to be polite and respectful.

Please send one email or letter to Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate.

Email: <[gudlaugurthor@althingi.is](mailto:gudlaugurthor@althingi.is)>

Dear Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate,

Species of large whales, such as Blue and Fin, contribute significantly to our planet’s health. Modern science has confirmed that these magnificent beings support marine ecosystems in remarkable ways, also playing a tremendous role in carbon sequestration (to avert climate change).

As whales dive and migrate, they distribute nutrients across the ocean, fostering phytoplankton growth. These microscopic organisms not only form the foundation of the ocean food web but also absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide, producing oxygen in the process.

Whales themselves are significant carbon sinks. Throughout their long lives, they accumulate carbon in their bodies. When they die, their bodies sink to the ocean floor (whale fall), sequestering that carbon for centuries. This natural process helps reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, contributing to climate change mitigation.

A 2019 International Monetary Fund (IMF) report stated, "each great whale sequesters 33 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> on average, taking that carbon out of the atmosphere for centuries." Rebuilding populations of large baleen whales would store carbon in their bodies equivalent to 110,000 hectares (272,000 acres) of forest—an area the size of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, U.S.

I feel deeply concerned that in 2022, nearly 150 Fin whales were hunted, and this year, 125 could be killed by Iceland’s last whaler. We need to protect whales. Therefore, I fully support a permanent ban on whaling in Iceland and urge you to support the current bill being considered in parliament for a future for Iceland without whaling.

Sincerely,  
[Insert your name and country]