

Dear President Macron,

When the spire of Notre Dame is rebuilt, it will once again draw our eyes toward the heavens, where we may meet the better angels of our nature and perhaps—with adequate conviction and devotion—realize their potential.

You can lead the way in this regard. You can embody the higher consciousness that calls to those who visit and worship at Notre Dame—by finding an alternative to the current plan to kill up to 1,500 ancient Oaks to rebuild its spire.

Throughout Europe, Oak groves were the *first* “cathedrals”—places of community, sanctuary, worship, and restoration for the mind, body, and spirit. Modern science validates the numerous benefits of spending time in their company.

Oaks are a keystone species, critical to the support of entire ecosystems; hundreds of species of birds, insects, and animals find shelter in their massive trunks and branches, and rely on Oak woodlands for their habitat. Additionally, old growth forests absorb and store huge amounts of carbon dioxide, which helps to slow global warming.

Today, with our vastly improved knowledge and resources, it is possible to preserve the significant history of Notre Dame while *also* preserving these tree elders and the innumerable lives that depend on them.

It is not only possible, *we have an obligation*, given all we know about the climate crisis and its contributing factors.

The French government has pledged to rebuild Notre Dame in time for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. What better opportunity for France to lead—to showcase to the world its commitments to innovation and the planet, and to serve as an ecologically minded model for restoration in the 21st century—than to rebuild Notre Dame without destroying these ancient, living trees and the beings who depend on them?

The people of France have great pride and passion for their country and their history. You also have an opportunity to ally yourselves with the future, if you allow the Oaks to live. Please find an alternative solution for restoring the spire that is viable for *all* lives.

With sincere appreciation for your consideration,
Your Name Here