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I want to start by expressing my admiration for all of you, here in Lund and elsewhere, who have been persisting with these climate strikes for over a year now.

Finally, with Fridays for Future, we are seeing a widely-carried climate movement that is actually speaking truth to power, and that is lifting the veil on the often shallow promises of the 'green economy'. Finally, there is a growing movement that dares to confront interests in business and politics that remain deeply invested in fossil fuels. At this stage, this is exactly what was needed.

The climate youth movement has called on adults to step up and join them, and they are right. The confrontation of vested interests has become nothing less than a moral responsibility. Politicians are talking up the prospect of climate action, but greenhouse gas emissions are currently at record levels. Since 2018, fossil fuel companies have invested over 50bn dollar in new oil and gas projects, projects that cannot be implemented if we are to remain within 1.5C. The banking sector has pumped \$1.9 trillion dollars into the fossil fuel industry in the 4 years since the Paris Agreement was agreed. And we are now almost thirty years after governments first agreed to fight climate change, yet together these same governments are still subsidizing oil, coal and gas to the tune of a staggering 5 trillion dollars. We are being asked where the money for a radical energy transition will come from, yet the rich and powerful are having no problem pumping vast sums into the continuation of history's most destructive business model.

My friends, this must end. Movements such as this one are necessary to show that it is no longer acceptable to just pay lip service to ambitious climate action. For too long, governments have gotten away with some tinkering in the margins of the fossil fuel economy. We are all aware of the problem of climate change denial, but this climate youth movement has put the finger on the even bigger problem of climate change hypocrisy. By putting the spotlight on the painful inadequacy of current climate actions, you have shown that ambitious climate action is obstructed not just by those who deny the facts, but above all by those who do accept the science, yet fail to act on it.

George Orwell once wrote that "political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible". In our time, this has become true in a very literal sense, not just for political speech but for policy itself. Current climate policy is failing to make the choices necessary to initiate rapid decarbonization. It is true that governments are investing in renewable energy but are also still expanding oil and gas infrastructure. They are mandating fuel efficiency targets while approving the expansion of airports. They introduce carbon pricing but refuse to set the price high enough to actually make a difference. Even the most environmentally

friendly governments keep defending, in policy and in practice, an industry that has lost its moral legitimacy.

The recent wave of climate activism has exposed, for all to see, this naked truth in climate politics. It rightly demands more of our elected leaders. But it cannot just be the responsibility of today's youth to speak truth to power. You are right in demanding that more of us in academia, in this university, but also in business, civil society, and indeed in the public sector more generally, step up and follow your lead. More of us need to confront not just the climate change deniers, but also the delayers, those who preach change but deliver continuity.

I want to say: keep doing what you are doing. This movement is an inspiration and a hope for many, and the clarity that it provides in this debate is urgently needed. Now the rest of us must follow.

Thank you.