

Dear -----

I support the charity Save The Nautilus.

Save the Nautilus was founded in October 2011 by two twelve-year- old boys, Josiah and Ridgely. The boys became concerned about the future of these magnificent creatures. Run entirely by young people, it has raised money, received support of scientists and marine biologists and been featured in newspaper articles, on the radio and on news programs.

I am writing to you because you are one of the leading sellers of Nautilus shells on the Internet, and we plead with you to stop.

The nautilus is one of nature's most extraordinary and biologically perfect creatures. It is so old that it is sometimes called a living fossil. Its ancestors date back to before the age of dinosaurs, and even before most fish. Throughout the years, the nautilus has adapted to new sets of predators and even to climate change. It is now facing its most serious challenge yet: being harvested by and sold to people who see it as a source of jewelry and ornaments.

Most Nautiluses live in the waters around parts of the world with rapidly growing populations, like the Philippines. They are now being aggressively hunted and killed in the thousands to satisfy the growing demand for jewelry and decorative ornaments. A recent report said that over a two-year-period, as many as 10,000 were caught and killed for their shells.

Nautiluses are extremely vulnerable to overfishing. They grow slowly and mature only after several years and females produce only a few eggs at a time. In the past 20 years, their numbers have dropped dramatically.

Humans have wiped out many creatures with their thoughtless and shortsighted greed, and it would be devastating if the nautilus were added to that list. We are saddened and disappointed that a respected, and responsible company like you would contribute to the burdens on this magnificent fragile species by selling products made from its shells. We implore you to stop.

Your brave decision to ban sales of jewelry would make an enormous difference to the species and to the environment, and would set a wonderful example for other companies. We urge you to reconsider how you treat these delicate creatures.

Thank you very much,
