



FUTURE FIGHT: “You had a future, we want one too.” That was the message Dripping Springs High junior Ariana Bentz (center) had for the legislators working inside the Texas Capitol. She and two of her classmates, juniors Carmen Comparan and Sheridan Brandt, and hundreds of other Texans swarmed the front grounds of the Capitol building to protest and spread awareness about climate change. “We don’t have a lot of time left,” Bentz said. “We only have one planet, and it’s up to us to save it.” They also began a chant in honor of Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish environmental activist who started the school climate strikes. “This is all inspired by her. She’s a huge voice in the eco-friendly community, and she’s

trying to get change started even though she's only 16." Bentz, Comparan and Brandt made sure to stand near the front of the crowd of people to raise their signs to the windows of the Capitol building where Congressmen were gathered inside and made themselves seen as well as heard. They hoped to spread their message through the open windows of the building and showed off their support for the planet and the changes that need to be made to stop the ever-growing climate change crisis. Bentz stressed the importance of the movement and these protests for the future of our planet. "It's spreading awareness," she said. "It's really showing people the importance of not using oil, gas, coal, and it's really exposing the corrupt side of politics. It shows that citizens can make a difference in something that's important to them." For these students, the issue and what should be done about it is plain and simple: the world needs to change ... now. "I want to live for more than 20 years," Brandt said to the politicians: "Take better care of our planet." Photo and reporting by Elisha Scott.