## WHY WE ARE RUNNING

To walk into the wild, to be there for you who walk into the wild, To share the way first light brushes a cold burn against blue snows, To share the woods, the tang of air in the lungs, the drip of rain down oaks and leopard lilies, to share the way first light falls on wolf, on fisher, when their fur is damp. To share moments, the extraordinary within the ordinary, the sounds of our voices in unison, the sounds of voices rising for environmental justice, rising above top-down claims. To serve as a growing gathering for the health, voices against fracking and false renewable energy, voices against deforestation disguised as restoration. To settle accounts, to mitigate for the losses we have faced, to take the essential steps together, to be true, to be true, to explore all possibilities within the unfurling of seedlings, to be true to the Tlingit's Great Ice Chief who learned with age, to serve as voices for civil rights and human rights, for natural wonders, and seasonal cycles, for environmental movements and small farm movements. To walk beside, not ahead or behind, to speak and allow for others to speak. To be there for you who are walking into the wild.

Maya Khosla