## Private Aircraft Travel Draft 2

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On February 11th, 2024, the world dropped everything to watch the most anticipated event of the year; the Superbowl. The Kansas City Chiefs had beat the San Francisco 49ers, winning their third Superbowl in five years. With an iconic performance by Usher, along with surprise guests, from Alicia Keys to Will.i.am, the 2024 Superbowl was a glamorous and unforgettable night. Not only was this year’s Superbowl the “most watched in television history,” as Alex Raskin writes for the Daily Mail, “but the biggest event on the NFL calendar also attracted a near record number of private planes to Las Vegas.” According to business flight tracker WINGX, 882 private jets flew in and out of Las Vegas for the big game. A truly shocking number since private jets are 5 to 14 times more polluting per passenger than commercial flights, according to a report from the European Federation for Transport and environment.

Given the detrimental use of private aircraft travel on the planet, why do we not hold celebrities accountable for their lack of compassion towards our planet?

According to an article by Emma Tufo for Capital News Service, the influx of private aircraft travel at the Superbowl has sparked scrutiny over the environmental responsibility of celebrities. Global superstar Taylor Swift was put at the forefront of this discussion, after she took a 5,000-mile flight from her concert in Tokyo to the game in Las Vegas. Swift “allegedly produced 138 tons of CO2 emissions” according to an article by Lola Mendez about Swift’s travel carbon footprint for the BBC.

Mendez also explains that “air travel is a huge creator of CO2 emissions.” According to the environmental Protection Agency, aviation accounts for 8% of carbon related emissions in the United States. Even though all air travel creates carbon emissions, private jets produce significantly more per person, “at least ten times more carbon emissions compared to a commercial flight.”

However, Taylor Swift is not the only celebrity who is destroying the planet with their wealth. According to Solcyre Burga, Kim Kardashian and Sylvester Stallone were among the “more than 2,000 people the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District issued notices of exceedance, that they used more than 150% of their monthly water budget at least four times since a drought emergency,” was announced.

Considering this, environmentalists have been advocating for greater restrictions on wasteful resources, such as private aircraft travel. Organisations such as Greenpeace are trying to ban private jet use for the last time, arguing that they are the “most unequal form of transport and the epitome of carbon inequality.” Demanding that “those who contribute the most to the problem take responsibility and lead by example.” Banning private aircraft jet travel will send a message to celebrities that we will not stand by and observe while they walk all over us and destroy our precious planet. There is a striking contrast between the polluting lifestyle of celebrities compared to every day, working people. We will have to face the disastrous consequences from carbon emissions, while they observe, flying high above reality, contributing greatly to the climate crisis.