We face severe environmental threats. But stories of human footprints that exceed 1.5 earths, prophecies of the extinction of man, total loss of biodiversity, and planetary boundaries are neither solid scientifically nor effective communication. Similarly fighting symbolic environmental battles, one court case at a time, is just as myopic as corporations can be when they maximize short-term profits. A better way to approach the problem is to ask what world do we want to live in in 2050? And what will it take to get to our desired world?

Prior to his appointment at the University of California-Los Angeles, Kareiva was Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy, Director of the Division of Conservation Biology at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s fisheries lab in Seattle, and a Professor of Zoology at the University of Washington. He also cofounded the Natural Capital Project, NatureNet Fellows, and Science for Nature and People.