

One-Minute Speech on the Commencement of the Safe Climate Caucus
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver
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Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help our communities deal with the changing climate. In the last two years alone, our country has dealt with destructive wildfires in the west, flooding of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, a devastating hurricane in the northeast, and the worst drought in decades that is still devastating the Midwest.

Climate change preparation and adaptation is about risk management – as Ben Franklin said, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Spending a small amount now saves us much suffering and spending once disaster, inevitably, strikes again. In 2011, the U.S. suffered more than 12 disasters that totaled over \$52 billion in damages. All of us - urban and rural communities, Republicans and Democrats, should be invested in this. I am proud to join my colleagues in forming the Safe Climate Caucus, which will continue to highlight the critical issue of climate change.