

**Floor Statement of Rep. Ted Deutch**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**December 12, 2013**

Mr. Speaker, the list of issues the 113th Congress has failed to address is long – immigration reform, gun violence, long-term joblessness – and on this list of opportunities squandered by Republican obstructionism and indifference is also the threat of global climate change.

As a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I want to emphasize that this threat is real and it needs real solutions. In South Florida, we know that unchecked carbon pollution poses an existential threat to our communities. Rising sea levels endanger the safety of our residents and the viability of our economy. That's why Palm Beach, Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties have formed a climate compact dedicated to mitigating climate change.

Yet local task forces cannot replace national leadership. We need a nationwide effort to limit carbon pollution, speed the adoption of clean energy, and protect our people from unprecedented national disasters. Every member of this House belongs to the Safe Climate Caucus.

Don't we all agree that, as Americans, it's our responsibility to pass on a healthier and safer environment to the next generation? Mr. Speaker, addressing global climate change will take courage. Anything else, I'm afraid, is cowardice.