

**Floor Statement of Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**March 19, 2013**

Later today, we are going to begin consideration of the Republican budget, a plan that not only voucherizes Medicare but retains \$40 billion in subsidies to the oil industry and requires approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

At a time when climate change is affecting more and more people throughout the country, the Majority is committed to keeping our economy dependent on fossil fuels and ignoring the serious challenges that it represents.

The 75 billion dollars in damage from Superstorm Sandy or the ongoing drought in much of the West- including my home state of Arizona- don't seem to be enough evidence that it's time for serious action.

Climate change is global. A United Nations report indicates it 3.1 billion people, because of climate change, will be in extreme poverty by 2050.

If we want to make a sizeable dent in the human contributions to climate change, we have to start making those responsible for pollution accountable and pay for it.

This is the sort of leadership the American people are looking for from Congress. Climate change is real. It is not a problem that will go away; we cannot ignore it.

We have to face it head on, not bury our heads in Canadian Tar Sands.