

Floor Statement of Rep. Rush Holt
Safe Climate Caucus
January 8, 2014

I thank the Speaker. I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus. After 12 months of the 113th Congress, Republicans continue to push their anti-clean energy, anti-environment, climate denying agenda.

Although we've taken very few votes in this Congress over the past year, we've taken more than 100 votes that are anti-environment. 20 votes that would weaken the Clean Air Act, 20 votes that would prevent federal efforts to curb greenhouse gas carbon pollution, 51 votes to protect oil and gas special interests, 37 votes to weaken the Clean Water Act, and 27 votes to slash funding for clean energy and energy efficiency.

Now, I don't enjoy pointing out that protecting our air and our water has become a partisan issue, but I must point out that Republicans are still sacrificing the climate and our environment for the benefit of a few, wealthy special interests.

It's cold outside today in much of the U.S. and some are saying that this is proof that global warming is a hoax. How misinformed that is. The cold wave in mid latitudes in North America is a result of warm patches in the oceans and the atmosphere, diverting the jet stream and driving Arctic air southward.

Climate change doesn't mean warmer air everywhere every day, it means more fluctuations. Or, in other words, droughts, storms, temperature changes, they are and will be greater.

It's going to be warmer tomorrow, and the next day, and the next, for the next hundred years, on average, until we get serious that this is

the most pressing environmental threat to our planet, global climate change.

The way we produce and use energy is the greatest insult to our planet – not only causing injury and death through pollution, but adversely changing the world’s climate with very dangerous, deadly results.

We should support the President’s Climate Action Plan.