

**Floor Statement of Rep. Rush Holt**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**March 21, 2013**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Member of the Safe Climate Caucus to remind this House of the threat that climate change poses to our communities and to emphasize the need for increased federal investment in new and innovative technologies to protect and improve the world we live in.

This past October, Hurricane Sandy hit the mid-Atlantic, including my home state of New Jersey. Hurricane Sandy was one of the most costly storms in history.

Society will bear the costs of climate change. Society is bearing the costs of climate change. The debt was racked up as we recklessly burned fossil fuels over a century, filling the atmosphere with excess CO<sub>2</sub>. Now the debts are due: wildfires, droughts, super storms, and floods – a costly debt in lives and dollars.

We would be wise to invest in more resilient infrastructure, in sustainable, non-fossil energy sources, in good science related to climate change.

We as a country should rise to the challenge. The United States is not a poor, impoverished nation; we're just acting like one. We should be investing as if we believe there is a future for us.