

Floor Statement of Rep. Jim Moran
Safe Climate Caucus
January 9, 2014

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague previously mentioned, most Americans this week felt as though they were living on the North Pole. There was a condition called the polar vortex that became part of our common vernacular.

Normal routines were disrupted, schools closed, water mains ruptured, car batteries failed and, tragically, weather related deaths went up.

So it didn't take long for conservative commentators to offer this cold weather phenomenon as proof that the planet isn't warming, that this is all a hoax or some left-wing liberal ideology.

The fact is that scientists have told us that the real and measurable decline of Arctic sea ice that is the direct result of warmer weather and climate change is creating this polar vortex that allows weather conditions that normally remain fixed over the Arctic to spin out of control. They slip south and they subject us to Arctic-like weather conditions.

This is a fact that we need to recognize and do something about or weather conditions are going to become far more common, far more severe.