

Floor Statement of Rep. Mark Pocan
Safe Climate Caucus
January 16, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honored to be a part of the Safe Climate Caucus and speak on the urgent need to take action on climate change. The effects of climate change are undeniable and their consequences are unavoidable without action, and that means action by Congress.

In my home state of Wisconsin, farmers could face more pests and widespread disease with higher humidity and warmer winter temperatures. Ice fishermen are already noticing fewer days they could be out on our ice-covered lakes. By 2055, winters in Wisconsin are expected to be seven to nine degrees warmer and by the middle of the century, extreme heat in Wisconsin, which is responsible for more deaths in my state than any other natural disaster combined, will be more prevalent with up to a month more of 90-degree-plus days.

These types of dramatic shifts must be met by equally big changes in our behaviors. We must continue to push for alternatives to fossil fuels like oil and coal. We must reduce our emissions and accurately assess their true costs. And we must boost our energy efficiency by investing in clean energy manufacturing for our environment and for our jobs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.