

Floor Statement of Rep. Paul Tonko
Safe Climate Caucus
September 12, 2013

Recent superstorms like Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and tropical storm Lee have tested the resiliency of our infrastructure.

During these severe weather events, bridges failed, blackouts occurred, and communities were devastated by flooding at the same time that our water systems failed. It took weeks to restore these vital services.

Our electricity, potable water, and transportation networks must be reliable, even in the face of severe storms. The American people need and deserve a Congress that will work together to address the present and growing threat of climate change and do what is necessary to ensure the resiliency of our roads, bridges, electrical grid, dams, and water systems. Accomplishing this would create jobs and support our communities and our economy.

This week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that Sandy-like flooding is now twice as likely due to the sea level rise associated with climate change. One need look no further to understand that the time is now to act on climate.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and with that I yield back the balance of my time.