

Floor Statement of Henry A. Waxman
Safe Climate Caucus
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Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, every day a member of the Safe Climate Caucus has come to the floor to raise concern about climate change, and we know about climate change from hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, and all the other things that we're seeing.

But yesterday, the prestigious science journal, Nature, published an analysis of the cost of rapid warming in the Arctic, and that analysis found that the cost could range from \$10 trillion to over \$200 trillion. The mean cost is \$60 trillion. I'm not misspeaking – it's not \$60 million, it's not \$60 billion, but it's \$60 trillion.

These enormous costs are the consequence of the release of 50 gigatons of methane now trapped in the Arctic ice shelves, which experts believe will be released into the air within the next 50 years, if not sooner, if we do not stop spewing carbon pollution into our atmosphere.

The Arctic is pivotal to the functioning of the earth's systems, the oceans, and the climate, but we're recklessly endangering it. We need to stop acting like members of the flat earth society and start listening to the urgent warnings of the scientists.