

**Floor Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**September 17, 2013**

Today the Safe Climate Caucus held a remarkable forum. It was the first time in Congress that individuals were invited to talk about the personal hardships they have experienced as a result of climate change.

We heard from witnesses from around the country. Matt Russell, an Iowa farmer, told us how his crops have been flooded by record rains. Hugh Fitzsimons, a Texas rancher, described how his herd was decimated by a record drought. And Emily Dondero from Sonora, California, explained how the massive California Rim fire is devastating her community.

Stefanie Kravitz, a New York homeowner, talked about the devastation she suffered when Superstorm Sandy struck Long Island, New York. And Reverend Tyronne Edwards from Louisiana spoke movingly of the damage inflicted on his community by enormous hurricanes.

For these Americans, climate change is already painfully real. They told us climate change is not a distant threat. As scientist Noah Diffenbaugh explained, it is already affecting families across the country.

The witnesses asked that Congress stop denying the science. They want action. And I think it is about time we start to listen.