

**Floor Statement of Rep. Peter Welch**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**July 19, 2013**

Mr. Speaker, climate change is real, and the future damage that will be done if we don't address it is foreseeable and predictable.

We are living through an extended period of radical weather. 2012 was the second most damaging weather systems' infliction of economic harm on our country in the history of this country: \$115 billion, much of it from Hurricane Sandy, much of it from an extended drought.

Sea levels are rising. This is measurable; this is not debatable; it is fact.

What we are doing in this Congress is arguing about energy policy, but we are having that argument in a context where we're denying that the failure to address climate change won't have serious economic and social implications.

Sea levels are rising. The damage to our Treasury is rising. The suffering of our people is real, and it is absolutely essential that the House of Representatives acknowledge the reality of climate change and include that in its debate on energy policy.