

Highlights of Safe Climate Caucus Speeches

Rep. Henry A. Waxman

“What unites us is our understanding that climate change is the moral issue of our time. We believe we have an obligation to use our voices to raise awareness of the dangers we are creating for our children and grandchildren if we do not act now.” (February 15, 2013)

“We are elected to solve problems – not ignore them. Let’s have the debate about how to solve the climate crisis.” (April 9, 2013)

“I have a message to House Republicans: you can’t make climate change go away by ignoring the problem.” (April 17, 2013)

“We need to lead the world in the clean energy economy of the future. If we don’t act, initiative, leadership and economic growth will go to countries that do.” (June 20, 2013)

Rep. Paul Tonko

“The American public is entitled to an explanation for this disappointing record of inaction.” (April 17, 2013)

“We can meet this challenge, slow down the rate of change, adapt to the new conditions, and take advantage of new opportunities, but only if we begin today.” (April 12, 2013)

“Let’s stop denying reality, let’s address climate change, let’s move our nation and the world forward.” (July 22, 2013)

“Our behavior is driving these changes. We must take responsibility for this situation and work to halt it. We should not leave this path to our children and grandchildren and condemn them to a more uncertain and unsafe world.” (November 21, 2013)

Rep. Jerry McNerney

“Climate change is a real threat to our way of life, and there is no time to waste. Fortunately, if we take action now, we can cut pollution while growing our economy.” (May 8, 2013)

“We cannot wait for a global catastrophe to occur that could impose suffering massive enough to overcome civil institutions. Our national security depends on us taking action now.” (June 26, 2013)

“Those who reject science and deny human-caused climate change are fostering a dangerous threat to our nation’s future and future generations of all Americans.” (June 26, 2013)

“The science is not up for debate. Human-caused climate change is happening, the evidence is overwhelming.” (September 30, 2013)

Rep. Jared Huffman

“Our planet is warming, we’re beginning to feel major impacts, and it will only get worse unless we act to protect our climate.” (June 18, 2013)

“Fighting climate change is the biggest imperative of our time. The stakes are high, and ignoring it will not make the problem go away.” (July 10, 2013)

“The climate-deniers in Congress continue to ignore what is happening right in front of our eyes. We must get beyond extreme politics and start addressing the extreme damage of climate change.” (September 26, 2013)

Rep. Rush Holt

“If we fail to change our ways, fail to change how we generate and use energy, then we will face worse and worse blistering wildfires, withering droughts, flooding events, super-hurricanes.” (April 26, 2013)

“The political decisions we make today that will decide the future. We must reduce our dependence on conventional fuels and redirect our policies.” (May 23, 2013)

“Climate change is not something that can be addressed at the last minute.” (September 25, 2013)

“For international climate negotiations to succeed, the U.S. should take the lead, and leading internationally will require us to start here at home.” (November 13, 2013)

Rep. John Garamendi

“The world’s top scientific institutions are all telling us that we have a rapidly closing window to reduce our carbon pollution before the catastrophic impacts of climate change cannot be avoided.” (May 6, 2013)

“During 2013, this year, we’ll have another record year for climate problems. Deadly flooding, super storms, droughts, and impacts on sensitive species are just a sampling of the dire consequences that climate change is already bringing to America, and the rest of the world.” (June 25, 2013)

“Regulations can actually drive technological development and they can strengthen our economy. When those policies are paired with the entrepreneurship, the inventiveness of the individuals and businesses out there, some really interesting things happen, and jobs are created.” (November 12, 2013)

Rep. Jim Moran

“Failure to take action dooms future generations to more powerful and destructive weather events. It’s time for us to take action.” (March 12, 2013)

“Our failure to take action dooms future generations to ever more powerful and destructive weather events, altered coastlines, more devastating droughts and wild land fires, and greater food scarcity. It’s time to take action on climate change.” (April 24, 2013)

“There’s more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than since the dawn of civilization.” (May 9, 2013)

Rep. Earl Blumenauer

“We’re not aware of any Republican Member who’s spoken on the floor of the House about the dangers of climate change or the need to reduce emissions and prepare for its impact in this entire session of Congress. In fact, as near as we can determine, no Republican Member of Congress has even uttered the words ‘climate change’ on the floor in this Congress.” (April 10, 2013)

“Sadly, the House of Representatives is led by climate skeptics, climate deniers, and climate cowards.” (June 28, 2013)

“Protecting the planet and our grandchildren’s future ought not to be bringing out the worst in us, but the best.” (June 28, 2013)

Rep. Lois Capps

“The effects of climate change are diverse, but they are all hurting American lives and livelihoods.” (March 14, 2013)

“We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the impacts of climate change especially when it comes to the health of our friends, neighbors, and families.” (May 21, 2013)

“I urge my colleagues: let’s stop these short-sighted political games and start taking action to address climate change and protect the long-term health of future generations.” (July 24, 2013)

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan

“Addressing climate change is not only important for our environment, but it also for our economy. Creating a clean energy economy powered by solar, wind, and other renewable resources will spur new jobs, new technological advancements, and grow our economy.” (May 15, 2013)

“The time for action is now. We must not sit idly by and ignore the facts and ignore the science while communities in New Mexico and across the country experience the negative impacts of climate change.” (July 18, 2013)

“Combating climate change and preserving our land, water, and air is top a priority for many Americans, especially those in minority communities.” (September 18, 2013)

Rep. Hank Johnson

“Scientists agree that climate change is dangerous, but for those of you who only care about money, it’s also costly.” (March 6, 2013)

“I call on Republicans to reject the extreme right wing and also repudiate your pollution spewing buddies and suitors, and listen to the facts, the science, and the demands of the American people.” (March 6, 2013)

“I urge my colleagues to put politics aside, listen to the science, and come together to begin to help prevent the worst effects of climate change.” (July 23, 2013)

Rep. Peter Welch

“This is a fact-free zone in Congress when it comes to climate change. But we can still make progress even if we debate the science.” (March 20, 2013)

“Even as we have an unresolved debate about the science of climate change, let’s take practical steps that are good for jobs, good for the economy and good for saving taxpayers money.” (March 20, 2013)

Rep. Peter DeFazio

“Rising temperatures over the last century have been greater than the temperature increases over the previous 100 centuries...combined.” (March 12, 2013)

“During the last Congress, the House Republicans voted 53 times to block action on climate change. Time and again, they have voted to know nothing and to do nothing.” (March 12, 2013)

Rep. Barbara Lee

“I urge my Republican colleagues to think about their moral responsibility to join this dialogue and to protect our planet – for their children and for the long-term stability of this country.” (April 11, 2013)

Rep. Steve Cohen

“The world’s foremost climatologist, Dr. James Hansen—and one of the first scientists to warn of the dangers of burning carbon fuel and a partial recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize—has likened the building and use of the Keystone pipeline to the “lighting of a carbon bomb.” Game over.” (March 18, 2013)

Rep. Doris O. Matsui

“Every day that Congress continues down this self-destructive path of ignoring climate change is a missed opportunity to bring immense benefits to our country. By failing to enact responsible climate change policies, we are missing the opportunity to simultaneously create good paying jobs, protect our environment, and leave a sustainable planet for future generations.” (June 14, 2013)

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II

“Whether you believe that humans are contributing to climate change is in some ways irrelevant because we are certainly paying for its effects. The federal government spent \$96 billion in 2012 to clean up after extreme weather events. That is nearly 3 times the amount paid by private insurers. That is more than we spent on transportation or education.” (May 17, 2013)

Rep. Raul Grijalva

“At a time when climate change is affecting more and more people throughout the country, the Majority is committed to keeping our economy dependent on fossil fuels and ignoring the serious challenges that it represents.” (March 19, 2013)

“If we want to make a sizeable dent in the human contributions to climate change, we have to start making those responsible for pollution accountable and pay for it.” (March 19, 2013)

Rep. Donna Edwards

“As we know, science is never universally agreed upon but, on this issue, the facts could not be any clearer.” (May 6, 2013)

Rep. Alan Lowenthal

“Over the past two years, this Congress has done absolutely nothing to address climate change. Republicans in the House voted to overturn EPA’s scientific findings that climate change endangers health and the environment, they voted to block U.S. participation in international climate change negotiations, and they voted to stop the agencies from even preparing for the effects of climate change.” (September 11, 2013)

Rep. Bobby L. Rush

“Just because some of my colleagues might not like what the science is telling us, it does not mean that they can continue to put their collective heads in the sand and simply ignore these facts or wish them away.” (April 16, 2013)

Rep. Carolyn Maloney

“Now is the time to improve the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. Now is the time to protect our beautiful natural resources. Now is the time to mitigate future natural disasters. And now is the time to take on the battle against climate change.” (June 27, 2013)

Rep. Chris Van Hollen

“Climate change and its consequences are not waiting — and neither can we.” (July 17, 2013)

Rep. Keith Ellison

“As global temperatures increase, urban areas are warming at double the rate of the average global temperature.” (August 1, 2013)

Rep. Matthew Cartwright

“There is no denying that there is climate change. There is just no denying it. We can argue all day about what is causing it and what to do about it, but there is no denying that it is happening.” (October 29, 2013)

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

“We must take action. We cannot afford to ignore this problem that is currently and will continue to wreak havoc across the globe for generations.” (February 26, 2013)