

Floor Statement of Rep. Barbara Lee
Safe Climate Caucus
April 11, 2013

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my colleagues from the Safe Climate Caucus to call on Republicans to end their silence and join the conversation on climate disruption.

A recent UN report provides a stark warning, saying that if we don't address climate disruption, the number of people living in extreme poverty could increase by up to 3 billion people by 2050.

The report is clear – failing to act now creates a much larger and more costly problem later.

Fortunately, we have the ability and means to address climate disruption.

I am proud to say that clean energy companies and universities in my own district are leading the way in research, clean job creation, and sustainable long-term solutions.

But this type of innovation and job creation cannot go on if Republicans continue to ignore the threat of climate change and recklessly cut funding to important programs that protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.

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.

Thank you.