

**Floor Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**May 6, 2013**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue the work of the Safe Climate Caucus in focusing on the threats posed to our nation by climate change. 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.

The World Bank recently answered the question of why we should address climate change. They issued a report that described what the world will look like if we continue along our current path. According to the World Bank, a world that warms by 4 degrees Celsius would suffer from unprecedented heat waves, flooding of coastal cities, increased risks of food and water scarcity, severe droughts, and irreversible damage to ecosystems. Coral reefs would dissolve due to ocean acidification unmatched in the Earth's history. Extreme heat waves would likely become the "new normal summer."

With impacts like these, it is clear that we cannot allow 4 degrees of warming to occur. There is widespread agreement that we must act.

Members of the House must take action.