

CORD

Activities and Summary Report of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: 117th Congress

Item Type	House Committee Approved Report
Download date	2026-06-10 22:13:45
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14300/3654

Union Calendar No. 481

117TH CONGRESS }
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
117-662

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CRISIS
DURING THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2021—JANUARY 2, 2022
SECOND SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2022—JANUARY 2, 2023
together with
ADDITIONAL VIEWS



DECEMBER 22, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

50-136

WASHINGTON : 2023

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

KATHY CASTOR, Florida, *Chair*

Suzanne Bonamici, Oregon
Julia Brownley, California
Jared Huffman, California
A. Donald McEachin, Virginia
Mike Levin, California
Sean Casten, Illinois
Joe Neguse, Colorado
Veronica Escobar, Texas

Garret Graves, Louisiana, *Ranking Member*
Gary Palmer, Alabama
Buddy Carter, Georgia
Carol Miller, West Virginia
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota
Dan Crenshaw, Texas
Anthony Gonzalez, Ohio

COMMITTEE STAFF

MAJORITY COMMITTEE STAFF

ANA UNRUH COHEN, *Staff Director*
ERIC FINS, *Deputy Staff Director*
DANA GANSMAN, *Clerk and Director of Operations*
MELVIN FELIX, *Communications Director*
FATIMA MARIA AHMAD, *Senior Counsel*
SAMANTHA MEDLOCK, *Senior Counsel*
REBECCA JABLONSKI-DIEHL, *Senior Professional Staff*
GRACE CHAN, *Professional Staff*
EBADULLAH EBADI, *Policy Assistant*
SEBASTIAN PONS, *Staff Assistant*
MACKENZIE BROWN, *Shared Employee*
SYDNEY DEVITT, *Shared Employee*
MACKENZIE LANDA, *Counsel**
JAKOB LINDAAS, *Professional Staff**
JACOB HICKS, *Digital Director**
RACHEL ST. LOUIS, *Operations and Press Assistant**
ZACH PRITCHARD, *Fellow**
LOYLE CAMPBELL, *Fello**

MINORITY COMMITTEE STAFF

SARAH T. JORGENSEN, *STAFF DIRECTOR*
SOPHIA VARNASIDIS, *SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR*
LOU HRKMAN, *SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR*
KIRBY STRUHAR, *LEGISLATIVE AIDE AND RESEARCH ANALYST*
MARGARET AYREA, *SHARED EMPLOYEE*
MARTY HALL, *STAFF DIRECTOR**
GEORGE DAVID BANKS, *CHIEF STRATEGIST**
SARAH MATTHEWS, *COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**
MARCIE SMITH, *PROFESSIONAL STAFF**
ADELE BORNE, *LEGISLATIVE AIDE AND RESEARCH ANALYST**
DUSTIN DAVIDSON, *SHARED EMPLOYEE**

* Staffer has departed Committee at time of transmittal of report.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS,
Washington, DC, December 22, 2022.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: Pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit a Report on the activities of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis for the 117th Congress.

This report summarizes the specific activities of the Select Committee and encompasses the period of January 3, 2021 through January 2, 2023. Also contained herein is a submission from the Democratic Majority Members which states “Additional Views.”

Sincerely,

KATHY CASTOR,
Chair.

CONTENTS

	Page
Letter of Transmittal	V
Committee Membership	II
Committee Organization	1
Jurisdiction of the Select Committee	1
Rules for the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis	2
Summary of Committee Activities	3
Appendices:	
I. Printed Meetings and Hearings	21
II. Additional Views	23

Union Calendar No 481

117TH CONGRESS }
2d Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
117-622

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS, 117TH CONGRESS

DECEMBER 22, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. CASTOR, from the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

On March 19, 2021, via the Committee's WebEx platform, the Select Committee met for an organizational meeting of the 117th Congress under the direction of Chair Kathy Castor. The Committee membership was 16 Members with 9 Democrats and 7 Republicans. The Committee adopted the rules of the Committee for the 117th Congress.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, as prescribed by Clause 104(f) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, is as follows:

(A) Legislative Jurisdiction—The Select Committee shall not have legislative jurisdiction and shall have no authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolution.

(B) Investigative Jurisdiction—The sole authority of the Select Committee shall be to investigate, study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis which will honor our responsibility to be good stewards of the planet for fu-

ture generations and advance environmental justice. The Select Committee may, at its discretion, hold public hearings in connection with any aspect of its investigative functions.

RULES

(Adopted March 19, 2021)

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The provisions of section 4(d) of H. Res. 8 (117th Congress) governing the proceedings of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) are hereby incorporated by reference and nothing herein shall be construed as superseding any provision of that section. The Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee to the extent that they are not inconsistent with that title.

(b) The rules of the Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee adopts its rules.

RULE 2. MEETINGS

(a) In General.—

(1) The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the first Tuesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with clause 2(b) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. If the House is not in session on the first Tuesday of a month, the regular meeting date shall be the third Tuesday of that month. A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair of the Committee, there is no need for the meeting.

(2) Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee as the Chair considers necessary, in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) Meetings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair’s absence, by a member designated by the Chair to carry out such duties.

(c) Notification.—

(1) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee meeting (other than a hearing), which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which members have notice thereof.

(2) The agenda for each Committee meeting, setting out all items of business to be considered, shall be established by the Chair and provided to each member of the Committee at least 36 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in advance of the commencement of such meeting.

(d) The requirements of paragraph (c) may be waived by a majority vote of those present, a quorum being present, or by the Chair with the concurrence of the Ranking Member. If the requirements of paragraph (c) are waived, the Chair shall notify the members of the Committee at the earliest possible time.

RULE 3. HEARINGS

(a) Announcement of Hearings.—

(1) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall announce the date, time, place, and subject matter of any hearing of the Committee, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.

(2) A hearing may commence sooner than specified in (a)(1) if the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member, determines there is good cause or the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present. The Chair shall announce the hearing at the earliest possible time.

(b) Written Witness Statement; Oral Testimony.—

(1) Filing of Statement.—To the greatest extent practicable, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee a written statement of his or her proposed testimony at least two business days in advance of his or her appearance. The clerk of the Committee shall distribute this testimony to the Members of the Committee as soon as is practicable and at least one business day before the hearing. The requirements of this subparagraph may be waived or modified by the Chair after consultation with the Ranking Member.

(2) Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation of testimony to no more than five minutes.

(3) Truth in Testimony.—Each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of his or her proposed testimony a curriculum vitae; a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, or grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of a hearing. The disclosure shall include (A) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government; and (B) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(4) Availability of Information.—Statements filed under this paragraph shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) Notification of Subject Matter.—As soon as practicable but no later than 36 hours before the commencement of a hearing, the Chair shall make available to the public and all Members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject matter under consideration at the hearing, any relevant reports from departments or agencies on such matters, and a list of witnesses, including minority witnesses.

(d) Minority Witnesses.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those members, to call at least one witness, as se-

lected by the minority members, to testify with respect to that measure or matter along with witnesses selected by the Chair.

(e) Opening Statements.—

(1) Chair and Ranking Member.—At any hearing of the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Member shall each control five minutes for opening statements. The Chair and Ranking Member may recognize other members within their respective five minutes.

(2) Other Members.—The Chair may allow other members of the Committee to deliver oral opening statements, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member. Such statements shall not exceed five minutes in length and are to be equally distributed between majority and minority members to the extent practicable given the party makeup of the members present. Members not recognized by the Chair for oral opening statements may submit written opening statements for the record.

(f) Questioning of Witnesses.—The Chair shall initiate the right to question witnesses before the Committee, followed by the Ranking Member and all other members thereafter.

(1) Order of Member Recognition.—The right to question the witnesses before the Committee shall alternate between majority and minority members. A member of the Committee may question a witness only when recognized by the Chair for that purpose. The Chair shall recognize in order of appearance members who were not present when the meeting was called to order after all members who were present when the meeting was called to order have been recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee.

(2) Procedures for Questioning of Witnesses by Members.—Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the questioning of witnesses and shall limit his or her remarks to the subject matter of the hearing. After consultation with the Ranking Member, the Chair may recognize members who have already had an opportunity to question the witness for a second period of 5 minutes once each member of the Committee present has been recognized once for that purpose.

(3) Extended Questioning of Witnesses by Members.—Following the questioning of witnesses described in (f)(2) above, the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member or the Committee by motion, may permit a specified number of members to question one or more witnesses for a specified period of time not to exceed 60 minutes in the aggregate, equally divided between and controlled by the Chair and the Ranking Member.

(4) Questions for the Record.—Each member may submit to the Chair additional questions for the record to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared. Each member shall provide a copy of the questions in an electronic format to the Committee no later than 10 business days following a hearing. The Chair shall transmit all questions received from members of the Committee to the appropriate witnesses and include the transmittal letter and the responses from the witnesses in the hearing record. After consultation with the Ranking Member, the Chair is authorized to close the hearing record no earlier than 15 business days from the date the questions were transmitted to the appropriate witnesses.

(g) Hearings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by a member designated by the Chair to carry out such duties.

(h) Oaths.—The Chair of the Committee, or a member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness before the Committee. The Chair or his or her designee may administer the following oath to all witnesses prior to receiving testimony: “Do you solemnly swear or affirm, under penalty of law, that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

(i) Claims of Privilege.—Claims of common-law privilege made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chair, subject to appeal to the Committee.

RULE 4. OPEN PROCEEDINGS

(a) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public, including radio, television, and still photography coverage, unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) The audio and video coverage of Committee proceeding permitted under clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 5. REPORTS

(a) Approval of Official Committee Reports.—Any report completed pursuant to section 4(d) of H. Res. 8(117th Congress) that purports to express the views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations of the Committee must be approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present, in accordance with Committee Rule 7(a)(3). The total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the matter.

(b) Notice of Committee Reports.—Any report described in (a) shall not be considered in the Committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the Committee for at least three business days before consideration of such report in the Committee.

(c) Additional Views.—If, at the time of approval of a report, a member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views for inclusion in the report, all members of the Committee shall be entitled to no less than two business days after such notice to file such views following clause 2(l) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(d) Availability of Publications.—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible. Pursuant to section 4(d) of H. Res. 8(117th Congress), the Committee shall make its publications available to the general public in widely accessible formats not later than 30 calendar days following the respective dates for completion.

RULE 6. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) Availability.—Documents reflecting the proceedings of the Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form on the Committee’s website and in the Committee office for inspection by the public, as provided in clause 2(e) of rule XI of the Rules of

the House of Representatives, within 48 hours of such recorded vote after each meeting has adjourned, including a record showing those present at each meeting; and a record of the vote on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded, including a description of the motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting.

(b) Archived Records.—The records of the Committee deposited at the National Archives shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such rule, to withhold a record otherwise available. Upon written request of any member of the Committee, the Chair shall present the matter to the Committee for a determination, which shall be subject to the same requirements for conduct of Committee business under Committee Rule 2.

RULE 7. QUORUMS AND RECORDED VOTES; POSTPONEMENT OF VOTES

(a) Establishment of a Quorum.—

(1) For the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence, no fewer than two members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(2) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for those actions for which the Rules of the House of Representatives require a majority quorum.

(3) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for issuing an official Committee report pursuant to Rule 5 of the Committee rules and section 4(d) of H. Res. 8(117th Congress).

(4) For the purposes of taking any other action, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Recorded Votes.—A recorded vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present.

(c) Postponement of Votes.—Pursuant to clause 2(h)(4) of the Rules of the House, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Member, may postpone further proceedings when a recorded vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment and may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice to Members by the Clerk or other designee of the Chair. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 8. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) Professional and other staff of the Committee are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) Majority Staff.—The Chair shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair, who shall establish and assign the duties

and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(c) **Minority Staff.**—The Ranking Member shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Member, who may delegate any authority he or she determines appropriate.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Member have the right to secure one or more detailees to assist with the work of the Committee.

RULE 9. BUDGET

(a) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Member, shall prepare a budget providing amounts for staff, committee travel, field hearings, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee. Funds authorized for the Committee as provided in clause 6 of Rule X are for expenses incurred in the activities of the Committee.

(b) Consistent with clause 9 of rule X, the Chair shall designate an amount equal to 1/3 of the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives to be under the direction of the Ranking Member for the compensation of the minority staff, travel expenses of minority members and staff, and minority office expenses. All expenses of minority members and staff shall be paid for out of the amount so set aside.

RULE 10. TRAVEL

(a) The Chair may authorize travel for any member and any staff member of the Committee in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member of staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel.
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to occur.
- (3) The names of the states or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.
- (4) An agenda of anticipated activities.
- (5) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.

(b) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

(c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

RULE 11. WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of carrying out the official responsibilities of the Com-

mittee, including communicating information about the Committee's activities. The Ranking Member may maintain a minority website. To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form on the official Committee website maintained by the Chair.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Making the Case for Climate Action: The Growing Risks and Costs of Inaction

On Thursday, April 15, 2021 the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a virtual hearing titled "Making the Case for Climate Action: The Growing Risks and Costs of Inaction." The hearing focused on the economic risks and impacts the climate crisis poses to workers, human health, and the U.S. economy. It also examined the disparate impacts of the climate crisis on low-income communities and communities of color. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Dr. Waleed Abdalati, Director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder
- The Honorable Heather McTeer Toney, Senior Advisor, Moms Clean Air Force; and Climate Justice Liaison, Environmental Defense Fund
- Dr. Shawn Gillen, City Manager, City of Tybee Island, Georgia
- Dr. Michael Greenstone, Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics, University of Chicago

Making the Case for Climate Action: Creating New Jobs and Catalyzing Economic Growth

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a remote hearing titled "Making the Case for Climate Action: Creating New Jobs and Catalyzing Economic Growth." The hearing explored the ways that addressing the climate crisis can create new jobs and drive economic growth. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Philip N. Bredesen, Executive Chairman of the Board, Clearloop Corporation; and Former Governor, State of Tennessee
- Leticia Colon de Mejias, Founder, Energy Efficiencies Solutions; Policy Co-Chair, Building Performance Association; and President, Green Eco Warriors
- Paul Lau, CEO and General Manager, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- Heather Reams, Executive Director, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES)

Powering Up Clean Energy: Investments To Modernize and Expand the Electric Grid

On Thursday, May 20, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a remote hearing entitled "Powering Up Clean Energy: Investments to Modernize and Expand the Electric Grid."

The hearing explored the ways that upgrading and expanding the electric grid could create jobs, integrate higher levels of renewable energy, boost grid reliability, and protect public health. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Linda Apsey, President and CEO, ITC Holdings Corp.
- Emily Sanford Fisher, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, and Senior Vice President, Clean Energy, Edison Electric Institute (EEI)
- Donnie Colston, Director, Utility Department, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- Michael Skelly, Founder and President, Grid United

Building Climate Resilient Communities

On Friday, June 11, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a remote hearing entitled “Building Climate Resilient Communities.” The hearing explored ways that the federal government can help reduce climate disaster risks in neighborhoods across the United States, while fostering equity and community leadership. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
- The Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor of the City of Atlanta
- The Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor of the City of Madison; and Co-Chair of Climate Mayors
- Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Executive Director, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

Transportation Investments for Solving the Climate Crisis

On Wednesday, June 30, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Transportation Investments for Solving the Climate Crisis.” The hearing explored how investments in transportation infrastructure could curb harmful pollution, increase climate resilience, redress historical inequities, and increase community quality of life. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Bill Van Amburg, Executive Vice President, CALSTART
- Robert Bryce, Visiting Fellow, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity
- Beth Osborne, Director, Transportation for America

Advancing Environmental Justice Through Climate Action

On Thursday, July 15, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a remote hearing entitled “Advancing Environmental Justice Through Climate Action.” The cross-cutting hearing explored how to advance environmental justice through climate action, including targeting infrastructure investments to environmental justice communities, understanding the impact of extreme heat on low-income workers and students, and supporting Tribal investments in clean energy and climate resilience. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Catherine Coleman Flowers, Founder, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice
- Nikki Cooley, Co-Manager, Tribes & Climate Change Program; and Interim Assistant Director, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Northern Arizona University
- Dr. R. Jisung Park, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California Los Angeles
- Derrick Hollie, Founder and President, Reaching America

Financing Climate Solutions and Job Creation

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Financing Climate Solutions and Job Creation.” The hearing reviewed financial incentives and investments to create jobs and accelerate deployment of clean energy and clean vehicles, including clean energy and clean vehicle tax credits, tax credits for domestic manufacturing, and a clean energy and sustainability accelerator. These types of financial policies can help ensure every American can access clean energy and drive zero-emission vehicles. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Duanne Andrade, Chief Financial and Strategic Officer, Solar and Energy Loan Fund
- Rich Powell, Executive Director, ClearPath
- John Larsen, Director, Rhodium Group
- Zoe Lipman, Director, Manufacturing and Advanced Transportation, BlueGreen Alliance

Good for Business: Private Sector Perspectives on Climate Action

On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Good for Business: Private Sector Perspectives on Climate Action.” The hearing reviewed business and private sector perspectives on the importance of investments in climate action. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Corley Kenna, Head of Communications and Policy, Patagonia
- The Honorable Mark W. Menezes, Former Deputy Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy; and Former Chief Counsel for Energy and Environment, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Gilbert Campbell, Founder and CEO, Volt Energy
- David Edsey, Climate Director, Technical Underwriting, Zurich North America

International Climate Challenges and Opportunities

On Thursday, October 28, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “International Climate Challenges and Opportunities.” The hearing explored the challenges and opportunities for international climate action as world leaders prepared to gather in Glasgow, Scotland, for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Taryn Fransen, Senior Fellow, World Resources Institute
- Tjada D’Oyen McKenna, Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Corps

- Charles Hernick, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES) Forum
- Alden Meyer, Senior Associate, E3G

Tribal Voices, Tribal Wisdom: Strategies for the Climate Crisis

On Thursday, November 18, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Tribal Voices, Tribal Wisdom: Strategies for the Climate Crisis.” In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the hearing focused on Tribal perspectives on climate change, the transition to a clean energy economy, and adaptation to climate impacts. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians; and Vice President, Quinault Indian Nation
- The Honorable Melvin J. Baker, Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Dr. Casey Thornbrugh, Climate Change Program Manager, United South and Eastern Tribes; Tribal Climate Science Liaison, DOI Northeast and Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Centers; and Citizen, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Pilar Thomas, Partner, Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Practice Group, Quarles & Brady LLP; and Member, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Cleaner, Cheaper Energy: Climate Investments to Help Families and Businesses

On Thursday, December 9, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Cleaner, Cheaper Energy: Climate Investments to Help Families and Businesses.” The hearing examined how the investments in the Build Back Better Act would reduce electricity bills, address volatile energy prices, and help transition to a clean energy economy. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Miranda Ballentine, Chief Executive Officer, Clean Energy Buyers Association
- Uday Varadarajan, Principal, RMI; and Precourt Energy Scholar, Sustainable Finance Initiative, Stanford University
- Alex Herrgott, President and CEO, The Permitting Institute
- Amy Myers Jaffe, Research Professor and Managing Director, Climate Policy Lab, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Manufacturing a Clean Energy Future: Climate Solutions Made in America

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Manufacturing a Clean Energy Future: Climate Solutions Made in America.” The hearing examined how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Build Back Better Act would attract new investment to the United States to clean up hard-to-decarbonize sectors, expand domestic supply chains and manufacturing of climate solutions, and create good-paying jobs. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Paul Browning, President and CEO, North America, Fortescue Future Industries

- Abigail Ross Hopper, President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association
- The Honorable Charles McConnell, Executive Director, Carbon Management and Energy Sustainability, University of Houston
- Jessica Eckdish, Vice President, Legislation and Federal Affairs, BlueGreen Alliance

Keeping the Lights On: Strategies for Grid Resilience and Reliability

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a remote hearing entitled “Keeping the Lights On: Strategies for Grid Resilience and Reliability.” The hearing reviewed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law policies and investments that would improve grid resilience and considered which additional climate investments are needed. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Nancy Sutley, Senior Assistant General Manager of External and Regulatory Affairs, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Dr. Karen Wayland, Chief Executive Officer, GridWise Alliance
- Mark Mills, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute; Faculty Fellow, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Co-Director, Initiative for Manufacturing Science and Innovation, Northwestern University
- Katherine Hamilton, Chair, 38 North Solutions and Chair, Council on Clean Electrification, World Economic Forum

Confronting Climate Impacts: Federal Strategies for Equitable Adaptation and Resilience

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Confronting Climate Impacts: Federal Strategies for Equitable Adaptation and Resilience.” The hearing examined the findings of the latest reports on climate impacts and the urgency to develop a national climate adaptation and resilience strategy that activates across all sectors and levels of government to deliver actionable climate risk science, information, and tools, and helps direct resources to vulnerable communities. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Dr. William Solecki, Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Hunter College-City University of New York
- Dr. Lara Hansen, Executive Director and Chief Scientist, EcoAdapt
- The Honorable Matthew Jewel, President, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana
- Dr. Lauren Alexander Augustine, Executive Director, Gulf Research Program, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

America’s Natural Solutions: The Climate Benefits of Investing in Healthy Ecosystems

On Friday, April 1, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “America’s Natural Solutions:

The Climate Benefits of Investing in Healthy Ecosystems.” The hearing reviewed the climate benefits of the investments made through the Great American Outdoors Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in ecosystem restoration and conservation and examined opportunities for further investment to create healthy and resilient habitats and communities. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Collin O’Mara, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Wildlife Federation
- Nick Loris, Vice President of Public Policy, C3 Solutions
- Dr. Sherry L. Larkin, Director, Florida Sea Grant College Program; and Professor, Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida
- Dr. Cristina Eisenberg, Courtesy Faculty, College of Forestry, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University

Cost Saving Climate Solutions: Investing in Energy Efficiency to Promote Energy Security and Cut Energy Bills

On Thursday, April 7, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Cost-Saving Climate Solutions: Investing in Energy Efficiency to Promote Energy Security and Cut Energy Bills.” The hearing examined how investments in energy efficiency would save Americans money, reduce carbon pollution, and promote energy security. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Paula Glover, President, Alliance to Save Energy
- Darnell Johnson, President and CEO, Urban Efficiency Group
- Dave Schryver, President and CEO, American Public Gas Association (APGA)
- Sara Baldwin, Director of Electrification Policy, Energy Innovation

Turning the Tide for Ocean Climate Action: Unleashing the Climate Benefits of Our Blue Planet

On Thursday, June 9, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Turning the Tide for Ocean Climate Action: Unleashing the Climate Benefits of Our Blue Planet.” This hearing examined the role the ocean plays in the climate crisis and the need to develop and invest in ocean-based climate solutions both at home and abroad to build resilient ecosystems and communities. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Richard W. Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere & Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- The Honorable Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State

State Perspectives on Cutting Methane Pollution

On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “State Perspectives on Cutting Methane Pollution.” The hearing featured the Governors of

New Mexico and Wyoming, who described their efforts to reduce harmful methane pollution from oil and natural gas infrastructure, highlighting lessons for Federal regulatory efforts and outlining how Federal policies and investments can complement state initiatives. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor, New Mexico
- The Honorable Mark Gordon, Governor, Wyoming

Cutting Methane Pollution: Safeguarding Health, Creating Jobs, and Protecting Our Climate

On Friday, June 24, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Cutting Methane Pollution: Safeguarding Health, Creating Jobs, and Protecting Our Climate.” The hearing examined opportunities for federal, state, and private efforts to reduce harmful methane pollution from oil and natural gas infrastructure, highlighting benefits for public health, jobs and the economy, and for tackling the climate crisis. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Patrice Tomcik, Senior National Field Manager, Moms Clean Air Force
- Dr. Robert L. Kleinberg, Senior Research Scholar, Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy; Senior Fellow, Boston University, Institute for Sustainable Energy; and Member, National Academy of Engineering
- Dr. Caroline Alden, Co-Founder and Vice President of Product and Markets, LongPath Technologies
- Sarah Ann Smith, Chief of Programs, Clean Air Task Force

Climate Smart From Farm to Fork: Building an Affordable and Resilient Food Supply Chain

On Friday, July 15, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Climate Smart from Farm to Fork: Building an Affordable and Resilient Food Supply Chain.” This hearing examined pathways to create a sustainable food system that is resilient in the face of climate change by decreasing greenhouse gases while ensuring access to affordable, safe, and healthy food for all Americans. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Dana Gunders, Executive Director, ReFED
- Kent Swisher, President and CEO, North American Renderers Association (NARA)
- Dr. Melinda Cep, Vice President, Natural Solutions and Working Lands, National Audubon Society
- Elly Brown, Co-Executive Director, San Diego Food System Alliance

Building Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities: Perspectives From Oregon’s State, Local, and Tribal Partners

On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid field hearing entitled “Building Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities: Perspectives from Oregon’s State, Local, and Tribal Partners.” This field hearing was held at Clatsop

Community College, Astoria, Oregon. This hearing examined challenges facing Oregon’s coastal communities and ecosystems due to the climate crisis and opportunities for the federal government to help state, local, and Tribal partners build resilient, climate-ready coasts. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Ms. Aja K. DeCoteau, Executive Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Dr. Elaine Placido, Executive Director, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Ms. Tyler Bell, Director, Rocky Mountain Region, Westervelt Ecological Services
- Dr. Francis Chan, Director, Cooperative Institute for Marine Ecosystem and Resources Studies; and Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, Oregon State University

A Big Climate Deal: Lowering Costs, Creating Jobs, and Reducing Pollution With the Inflation Reduction Act

On Thursday, September 29, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “A Big Climate Deal: Lowering Costs, Creating Jobs, and Reducing Pollution with the Inflation Reduction Act.” The hearing examined how the climate investments in the Inflation Reduction Act will help lower electric and fuel bills for American families, create jobs, and expand investments in U.S. manufacturing of clean energy, clean vehicles, and climate solutions. The Committee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Dr. Quinta Warren, Associate Director, Sustainability Policy, Consumer Reports
- Philip Rossetti, Senior Fellow for Energy and Environment, R Street Institute
- Josh Nassar, Legislative Director, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers (UAW)
- Samantha Sloan, Vice President, Global Policy, Sustainability and Marketing, First Solar, Inc.*

* Ms. Sloan was unable to testify; her testimony was submitted for the record

Solving the Climate Crisis: Key Accomplishments, Additional Opportunities, and the Need for Continued Action

On Tuesday, December 6, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hybrid hearing entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis: Key Accomplishments, Additional Opportunities, and the Need for Continued Action.” The hearing examined legislation passed by the U.S. Congress during its 116th and 117th sessions to address the climate crisis, invest in a clean energy economy, and support a healthy, resilient, and just America. It also explored additional policies and investments needed from Congress to address the challenges and consequences of the climate crisis.

- The Honorable Alice Hill, David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Climate Change Policy, Council on Foreign Relations
- Greg Wetstone, President and CEO, American Council on Renewable Energy

- Dr. Michelle Michot Foss, Fellow in Energy, Minerals, and Materials, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University
- Dana Johnson, Senior Director of Strategy and Federal Policy, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Rev. Dr. Jessica Moerman, Vice President for Science and Policy, Evangelical Environmental Network
- Brad Markell, Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLES

In addition to official hearings, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held Member-level roundtables to hear additional perspectives and discuss policies with invited experts.

Roundtable on Critical Minerals

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a remote roundtable on critical minerals. The roundtable examined the mineral supply chains of clean energy technologies, domestic and global critical mineral resources, and critical minerals-related efforts in the Federal government and private sector. The Committee was briefed by the following panelists:

- Dr. Sarah Ryker, Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior
- Dr. Steve Feldgus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior
- Dr. Michael McKittrick, Acting Director, Advanced Manufacturing Office, Department of Energy
- Angelos Kokkinos, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Clean Coal and Carbon Management, Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy
- Abigail Wulf, Director, Center for Critical Minerals Strategy, Securing America's Future Energy
- Chloe Holzinger, Investment Associate, The Engine

Roundtable With Faith Leaders

On Thursday, March 17, 2022, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a roundtable with a group of faith leaders. The purpose of the roundtable was to discuss the faith communities' perspective on climate issues and their engagement on climate action. The Committee was briefed by the following panelists:

- Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Executive Director, Coalition on Jewish Life and the Environment
- Dan Misleh, Founder, Catholic Climate Covenant
- Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church
- Rev. Dr. Galen Carey, Vice President for Government Relations, National Association of Evangelicals
- Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox, President, Evangelical Environmental Network
- Rev. Dr. Jessica Moerman, Vice President of Science and Policy, Evangelical Environmental Network
- Cassandra Carmichael, Executive Director, National Religious Partnership for the Environment

- Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Presiding Bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Sister Marianne Comfort, Justice Coordinator for Earth, antiracism, and women, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TRAVEL

Ranking Member Garret Graves Trip to Utah

From Friday, February 19, 2021 through Monday, February 22, 2021, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis' Ranking Member Graves traveled to Utah for the purpose of sharing climate priorities and concerns with other Members of Congress and engaging with climate policy stakeholders.

Congressman Sean Casten (Codel Keating) Trip to Iceland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)

From Sunday, October 10, 2021 through Sunday, October 17, 2021, Rep. Casten joined other Members of Congress to reaffirm the United States' support for the Good Friday Agreement and explore the role of women in peace negotiations, as well as to discuss energy security and climate change issues, and Arctic security concerns.

Select Committee Member Trip to UNFCCC COP 26

From Sunday, November 7, 2021 through Wednesday, November 11, 2021, Members of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis joined a bicameral Congressional Delegation led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the 2021 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, held in Glasgow, Scotland. The delegation engaged in several key non-governmental organizations to discuss concerns over equity, efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and climate change financing. The delegation also participated in bilateral meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, COP26 President, the Right Honorable Alok Sharma and First Minister of Scotland, the Right Honorable Nicola Sturgeon to discuss the work of Congress on climate and clean energy legislation. The bilateral meetings also included discussions of prioritizing climate action, and commitment to supporting the most vulnerable nations and communities around the globe.

Chair Castor Trip to Lisbon, Portugal for U.N. Oceans Conference

From Saturday, June 25, 2022 through Wednesday, June 29, 2022, Chair Castor joined Chair Grijalva and other Members of Congress at the United Nations Ocean Conference, focusing on mobilizing, creating, and driving solutions to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goal focusing on oceans (goal 14) and the related goal on climate change (goal 13) as it applies to ocean and coastal policies. Congresswoman Castor engaged with various government officials and civil society on these issues at the conference.

Select Committee Site Visit Trip to Coastal Oregon (Portland and Astoria)

From Monday, August 1, 2022 through Thursday, August 4, 2022, Chair Castor, along with Members of the Select Committee, Rep. Bonamici, and Rep. Carter, traveled between Portland, OR and Astoria, OR to explore the various impacts of climate change on Oregon's coast, as well as to see climate solutions in action. Site visits included: Electric Island where Daimler Trucks North America and Portland General Electric have opened a first-of-its-kind heavy-duty electric truck charging site; the Port of Portland Terminal 2, where the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition is working to enhance and expand Oregon's established mass timber industry ecosystem; Ruby Vineyard & Winery where they practice organic wine growing and a non-interventional process to enhance climate resilience and ensure minimal environmental impact; and Ecola State Park and Indian Beach where park rangers led the Members on a brief walking tour, explaining how coastal erosion has forced the Parks & Rec Department to confront the challenges of climate change to adapt to more extreme weather patterns. Following the Select Committee field hearing "Building Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities," the Members also had an opportunity to visit the Columbia River Maritime Museum, led by the Mayor of Astoria, where they learned more about the maritime history of the Columbia River region.

Select Committee Member Trip to UNFCCC COP 27

From Wednesday, November 9 through Saturday, November 12, 2022, Members of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis joined a Congressional Delegation led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the 2022 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference, known as COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The delegation engaged in several key bilateral discussions, including with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Foreign Minister and COP27 President Sameh Shoukry and other senior Egyptian officials to discuss their common goals in addressing the climate crisis. The discussion also touched on strategic security issues, and human rights concerns. Chair Castor participated in a moderated conversation with Kathy McLeod of the Atlantic Council and Speaker Pelosi discussing community resilience investments in the face of the climate crisis. The delegation also met with parliamentarians from the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) to discuss how extreme weather is impacting the most vulnerable communities around the world, and how to best support developing nations. The delegation also met with civil society, youth and business leaders and discussed their shared goals of investing in climate solutions. The delegation met with U.S. officials, including Special Presidential Envoy John Kerry, and Administrator Michael Regan, with both conversations touching on how the Biden Administration can continue to lead on climate action both at home and abroad. The delegation also had the opportunity to learn about and meet participants in various climate and clean energy educational programs in Egypt supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and discuss USAID's climate work with USAID Administrator, Amb. Samantha Power. Chair Castor, Rep. Bonamici

and Rep. Casten also participated in a panel discussion entitled “The Future of U.S. Climate Action” hosted by the Clean Air Task Force.

APPENDIX I

PRINTED MEETINGS

117-1—Organizational Meeting for the 117th Congress; Friday, March 19, 2021

PRINTED HEARINGS

117-2—Making the Case for Climate Action: The Growing Risks and Costs of Inaction; Thursday, April 15, 2021

117-3—Making the Case for Climate Action: Creating New Jobs and Catalyzing Economic Growth; Tuesday, April 20, 2021

117-4—Powering Up Clean Energy: Investments to Modernize and Expand the Electric Grid; Thursday, May 20, 2021

117-5—Building Climate Resilient Communities; Friday, June 11, 2021

117-6—Transportation Investments for Solving the Climate Crisis; Wednesday, June 30, 2021

117-7—Advancing Environmental Justice Through Climate Action; Thursday, July 15, 2021

117-8—Financing Climate Solutions & Job Creation; Thursday, July 29, 2021

117-9—Good For Business: Private Sector Perspectives on Climate Action; Wednesday, October 20, 2021

117-10—International Climate Challenges and Opportunities; Thursday, October 28, 2021

117-11—Tribal Voices, Tribal Wisdom: Strategies for the Climate Crisis; Thursday, November 18, 2021

117-12—Cleaner, Cheaper Energy: Climate Investments to Help Families and Businesses; Thursday, December 9, 2021

117-13—Manufacturing a Clean Energy Future: Climate Solutions Made in America; Wednesday, February 2, 2022

117-14—Keeping the Lights On: Strategies for Grid Resilience and Reliability; Tuesday, February 15, 2022

117-15—Confronting Climate Impacts: Federal Strategies for Equitable Adaptation and Resilience; Wednesday, March 9, 2022

117-16—America’s Natural Solutions: The Climate Benefits of Investing in Healthy Ecosystems; Friday, April 1, 2022

117-17—Cost-Saving Climate Solutions: Investing in Energy Efficiency to Promote Energy Security and Cut Energy Bills; Thursday, April 7, 2022

117-18—Turning the Tide for Ocean Climate Action: Unleashing the Climate Benefits of Our Blue Planet; Thursday, June 9, 2022

117-19—State Perspectives on Cutting Methane Pollution; Tuesday, June 14, 2022

117-20—Cutting Methane Pollution: Safeguarding Health, Creating Jobs, and Protecting Our Climate; Friday, June 24, 2022

117-21—Climate Smart from Farm to Fork: Building an Affordable and Resilient Food Supply Chain (POSTPONED from May 24, 2022); Friday, July 15, 2022

117-22—Building Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities: Perspectives from Oregon’s State, Local, and Tribal Partners; Wednesday, August 3, 2022

117-23—A Big Climate Deal: Lowering Costs, Creating Jobs, and Reducing Pollution with the Inflation Reduction Act; Thursday, September 29, 2022

117-24—Solving the Climate Crisis: Key Accomplishments, Additional Opportunities, and the Need for Continued Action; Tuesday, December 6, 2022

APPENDIX II

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

The Activity Report of the 117th Congress documents the extensive work of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis during this Congress. In addition, the Democratic Members also released the majority staff report “Solving the Climate Crisis 2022: Key Accomplishments and Additional Opportunities.” The staff report highlights the historic progress made during this Congress to reduce heat-trapping pollution, lower energy costs, and create good-paying jobs across America by addressing the climate crisis and deploying cleaner, cheaper energy. It also outlines progress made to help communities adapt to climate impacts and become more resilient in the face of worsening extreme weather events. Those accomplishments include investments in bills like the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS & Science Act, the Energy Act of 2020, the yearly appropriations bills, the National Defense Authorization Act, and more.

These additional views, submitted on behalf of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis’ Majority, include the Preface, Introduction and Summary of “Solving the Climate Crisis 2022” which sums up the climate and clean energy accomplishments during the course of the 117th Congress and the continued Congressional action needed to help solve the climate crisis. The full report of “Solving the Climate Crisis 2022: Key Accomplishments and Additional Opportunities” is available at <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/CN/CN00/CPRT-117-CN00-D001.pdf>. The 2022 staff report supplements the 2020 majority staff report “Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and Healthy, Resilient, and Just America” and is available at <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/CN/CN00/CPRT-116-CN00-D001.pdf>.

From “Solving the Climate Crisis 2022: Key Accomplishments and Additional Opportunities”

PREFACE

The climate crisis is unmistakably here, fueled by rising global temperatures and heat-trapping pollution. Climate disasters are putting America’s security and stability at serious risk and threatening our economy, our way of life, and our communities. The crisis is no longer a distant threat. Higher costs, harsh impacts, and greater injury and loss of life are upon us now. This summer, brutal heat waves shattered more than 7,000 daily temperature records across the United States. Persistent drought is quickly drying up our vital lakes and rivers, while wildfires like the Dixie Fire and the Camp Fire have unleashed unprecedented levels of destruction across the West. Massive floods have destroyed the homes

and livelihoods of countless Americans. And climate-fueled storms like deadly Hurricane Ian, the costliest storm on record for the State of Florida, which joins the growing list of severe storms—Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Ida, Maria—whose names are now synonymous with destruction.

Given the growing costs of these catastrophes, House Democrats have used the power of our majority to take bold action to solve the climate crisis. Led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Democrats have delivered on our pledge to reduce heat-trapping pollution in a way that creates good-paying American jobs, bolsters domestic manufacturing of clean technologies, reduces energy costs for families and businesses, invests in historically disadvantaged communities, and firmly positions the United States to remain the global leader of the 21st century. That includes this year’s passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest clean energy and climate investment in U.S. history, putting the United States on a path to reduce heat-trapping pollution by roughly 40% by 2030; the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which makes communities more resilient to droughts, wildfires, supercharged storms, floods, heat waves, and other extreme weather events; and the CHIPS and Science Act which empowers America’s industries to produce the semiconductor chips that are essential to our clean energy transition.

Solving the climate crisis is hard work, but the results already are encouraging—and the opportunities are exciting. Thousands of manufacturing jobs are popping up in states like Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Alabama, where companies are racing to produce the batteries and technologies that will power our economy. In states like Michigan and Ohio, the auto industry is investing billions to empower American workers to build the electric vehicles of the future. Utilities are increasingly adding wind and solar to their energy mix, taking advantage of their affordability and boosting America’s energy independence. And millions will breathe cleaner air thanks to zero-emission school buses, clean postal trucks, and investments that put families over polluters.

In this report, the majority staff of the Select Committee lays out the progress made over the past years to address the climate emergency and fulfill the recommendations in our 2020 Climate Crisis Action Plan, which provided a roadmap for Congress to build a clean energy economy. In addition to key accomplishments, the report lays out opportunities for additional action. And as the 117th Congress draws to a close, it provides a reminder that the fight for climate action must continue—guided by science, rooted in justice, and powered by American workers.

INTRODUCTION

Innovations and solutions to solve the climate crisis are as urgently necessary today as they were in 2019 when Speaker Nancy Pelosi created the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and directed the committee to deliver policy recommendations to start solving the climate crisis. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report makes clear that the next few years are critical to limit warming.¹ Thankfully,

¹ IPCC, “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change,” 2022.

progress begets progress—the landmark new laws passed by the Democratic-led 116th and 117th Congresses make enormous progress in moving America closer to our climate goals and a “net zero” future—and provides a basis to go further.

As Speaker Pelosi stated, the Select Committee’s work was not intended to be just an academic endeavor, but to guide major climate legislation across the committees to make informed recommendations and deliver on our moral obligation to children and future generations. The 117th Congress’s historic Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and CHIPS and Science Act together contain hundreds of recommendations laid out in the Select Committee’s June 2020 majority staff report, *Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America*.

Described as the “most detailed and well-thought-out plan for addressing climate change that has ever been a part of U.S. politics,”² the 2020 Climate Crisis Action Plan was developed after consulting with hundreds of stakeholders, scientists, and advocates across America, and conducting numerous fact-finding hearings on and off Capitol Hill. The Action Plan’s robust set of policy recommendations for ambitious climate action was intended to serve as the framework for comprehensive congressional action, with a focus on satisfying the scientific imperative to reduce carbon pollution as quickly and aggressively as possible, while also making communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change and building a durable and equitable clean energy economy.

After releasing this unprecedented framework for climate action, the Select Committee has focused on turning as many of the Plan’s 715 policy recommendations into legislation and then. As of December 2022, out of the 715 total recommendations in the Climate Crisis Action Plan, 436 passed the House and 314 were signed into law.³

These policies span the whole of American life and our economy: from investing in critical infrastructure and manufacturing, to restoring healthy habitats that strengthen community resilience, to deploying affordable clean energy that lowers costs and creates good-paying jobs. Building on the Energy Act of 2020, which authorized important research on climate solutions, the IRA, BIL, and CHIPS and Science Act of the 117th Congress are ground-breaking pieces of legislation that will guide climate action for the next decade. And we are pressing for meaningful climate action through the last days of the 117th Congress.

Despite the incredible progress made, the costly climate crisis still rages. The United States faced 35 “billion-dollar” extreme weather and climate-related disaster events in 2021 and 2022, with a cumulative price tag of more than \$180 billion in direct economic losses alone.⁴ The climate crisis did not spare other nations and regions, whether unleashing record-setting deadly heat waves in Europe, causing massive flooding in Pakistan that displaced millions,

² David Roberts, “House Democrats just put out the most detailed climate plan in US political history” *Vox*, June 30, 2020.

³ House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, “Tracking Our Progress,” Last Updated December 14, 2022.

⁴ National Centers for Environmental Information, “Summary Stats | Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters,” *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, 2022.

Nigeria’s worst flooding in a decade, and worsening drought in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia increasing food insecurity and leaving millions of children malnourished.⁵ Without action, the science points toward continued global catastrophe. In fact, the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres referred to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report as a “code red for humanity,” pointing to its dire findings on some of the irreversible trends set in motion by climate change.⁶ However, the IPCC concluded that it is still technologically possible to halve global climate pollution by 2030 and warned that global climate pollution must peak by 2025 in order to avoid the worst devastation.⁷

Government action alone cannot meet the scope and potential devastation of climate crisis. This is why the targeted actions of the federal government designed to spur private investment are crucial to unleashing, expanding, and deploying the technologies necessary to respond to the challenge of our lifetimes. New challenges also spurred on the Select Committee to tackle solutions for the rising costs of energy due to exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices and limit the leverage of petrodictators in light of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing war.

With these scenarios in mind, it is crucial that Congress continues to push for a clean energy economy that supports a healthy, resilient, and just America. The past four years have seen prodigious changes to the nation and the world, creating an unparalleled opportunity to comprehensively address these challenges. Doing so will have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans, lowering grocery store prices, slashing energy and fuel bills, creating good-paying jobs, fostering economic growth, advancing environmental justice, and improving public health. With all of these considerations in mind, the Select Committee presents this report, *Solving the Climate Crisis 2022: Key Accomplishments and Additional Opportunities*, building on and supplementing the recommendations included in the Climate Crisis Action Plan to capture what we have accomplished and what remains for future Congressional action to solve the climate crisis.

SUMMARY

“Solving the Climate Crisis 2022” highlights many of key climate and clean energy accomplishments of the 117th Congress, including:

- Laying the foundation to slash pollution across the board with tax credits that will drive investment in affordable clean energy, electric vehicles made in America, and cost-saving energy efficiency technologies;
- A massive down payment on the electrification of the entire economy, with substantial investments and policy changes

⁵ Diana Mandiá, “Record heatwaves drive EU’s July excess deaths to 2022 high,” *Reuters*, September 16, 2022; United Nations, “Pakistan floods: Six month wait for water to recede, warn relief agencies,” *UN News*, September 20, 2022; United Nations, “Millions at risk in flood-hit Nigeria; relief chief highlights hunger in Burkina Faso,” *UN News*, October 21, 2022; Jefferson Kahinju, “Northern Kenya faces hunger crisis as drought wipes out livestock,” *Reuters*, October 4, 2022.

⁶ United Nations, “IPCC report: ‘Code red’ for human driven global heating, warns UN chief,” *UN News*, August 9, 2021.

⁷ IPCC, “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change,” 2022.

in electric transmission and a historic deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;

- Making environmental justice a cornerstone of climate action, with a focus on stronger enforcement of environmental laws and increasing investments to EJ communities, including rural and tribal communities;

- Creating good-paying jobs for American workers as a key aspect of solving the climate crisis, with tax incentives that provide bonuses for high-road labor standards;

- Transformational incentives for domestic manufacturing of climate solutions to enhance American economic competitiveness and investments in clean energy demonstrations to commercialize advanced technologies;

- A cross-cutting approach to reducing methane pollution from the oil and gas sector, including the first-ever Methane Emissions Reduction Program;

- Transforming and strengthening our nation's core infrastructure from every corner, including transportation, clean water, broadband, and a reliable electric grid that can increasingly withstand climate impacts; Making unprecedented investments to deploy natural climate solutions, expanding conservation measures and harnessing the power of our lands and waters to capture heat-trapping pollution and boost resilience; Advancing climate science within the federal government, improving earth observations and data collection, climate and oceanic research, and emissions measurements;

- Working to protect the health of all Americans, reducing air and climate pollution and directing funding for disadvantaged communities to help reduce impacts on public health;

- Reaffirming America's leadership role in global efforts to reduce heat-trapping pollution and help vulnerable communities adapt to climate impacts; and

- Confronting the national security implications of the climate crisis, advancing mitigation and resilience for our nation's military, prioritizing energy resilience and security, and increasing preparedness for personnel, operations, and installations.

“Solving the Climate Crisis 2022” also highlights additional opportunities, including the need for:

- A comprehensive transmission strategy to meet the increased electric load from electrification of vehicles, buildings, and industrial processes;

- A Clean Electricity Standard, Zero Emission Vehicle sales standards, and other sector-specific standards to provide certainty for investments in pollution reduction;

- A comprehensive approach to critical minerals sourcing and recycling, including updating outdated mining laws to ensure critical minerals are secured in an environmentally, economically, and socially responsible way;

- Continued investments in research for hard-to-decarbonize sectors like off-road transportation and industry, and for carbon removal;

- Improving community engagement in the permitting process, addressing the cumulative impacts of plastic production

and disposal in fenceline communities, and supporting efforts to strengthen the environmental justice focus of agencies;

- Increasing support for workforce development and communities experiencing energy transitions, including through registered apprenticeships and a reimagined Civilian Conservation Corps, and ensuring all workers are protected by securing strong labor standards, especially during any extreme weather conditions or events;

- A National Adaptation and Resilience Plan, including strategies to advance climate science and tools, expand technical assistance to improve planning and access to federal programs, and prioritize investments in environmental justice communities;

- Advancing resilience-based codes and standards against rising flood, wildfire, and extreme weather risks, and accelerating disaster recovery and bridging the resilience and protection gap for communities at greatest risk;

- Implementing nature-based solutions on public, private, and working lands and waters, enshrining climate mitigation and adaptation in federal natural resource and land management, and protecting and conserving at least 30% of lands and waters;

- Increasing research on climate and public health impacts, prioritizing health equity in federal planning for climate impacts on the healthcare sector and public health, recognizing the disproportionate burden on disadvantaged communities; and ensuring all health sector infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change;

- Fulfilling our commitments to mobilize climate finance for developing countries, and expanding diplomatic, humanitarian, and military capacity to address climate issues; and

- Embedding climate considerations into all facets of national security and defense policy, including acquisitions, vehicles, technologies, construction, and other approaches.

Full report available at <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/CN/CN00/CPRT-117-CN00-D001.pdf>.

KATHY CASTOR,
*Chair, Select Committee on
the Climate Crisis.*

SUZANNE BONAMICI.

JULIA BROWNLEY.

JARED HUFFMAN.

MIKE LEVIN.

SEAN CASTEN.

JOE NEGUSE.

VERONICA ESCOBAR.

