

Congressman Blumenauer (D-Ore.) on the House floor today warned Congress of the looming dangers of ignoring the growing threat of global climate warming with the following statement:

“Mr. Speaker, as the damage, pain, and suffering of the recent hurricanes slowly recede in the memories of most Americans, we would do well to remember that this is but a small taste of what is likely to occur given the increase in global warming.

“A recent study by the Commerce Department's Geophysical Fluid Dynamic Lab in Princeton University, the most extensive to date, indicated that global warming is going to make it a lot worse. The typical hurricane is going to be one-half step greater on the 5-step scale, rainfall up to 60 miles away will be up to 20 percent more intense, and even if the number of storms remains the same, which is not at all clear, there will be much increased potential for damage, and the rising sea levels will create more flooding from the storm surges.

“It is time for the United States to work with other developed countries to recognize the threat of global climate warming, to cooperate on solutions to reduce greenhouse gases. Future generations will be grateful.”