

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

We watched your confirmation hearing in the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works with great interest. Although we are relieved that you acknowledged that climate change poses an existential threat to our way of life, it is unacceptable that you admitted you have not been fully briefed on the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Fourth National Climate Assessment.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of the 13 participating agencies in the U.S. Global Change Research Program. EPA scientists contributed to the National Climate Assessment and worked through a collaborative, peer-reviewed process to inform its findings. Surely the most comprehensive science-based evaluation of the consequences of climate change, the risks of inaction, and potential adaptation strategies for the United States to date bears enough significance to come across your desk.

The findings of the National Climate Assessment are incredibly dire for the U.S. economy and the environment, which the EPA is tasked with protecting. The Assessment outlines the devastating effects that climate change will have including catastrophic wildfires, crop failures, dramatic sea level rise, more acidic oceans, and crumbling infrastructure. The Assessment also makes clear that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the only explanation for the observed global warming over the last six decades and carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are now higher than at any time in the last three million years. And the Assessment even concludes that U.S. gross domestic product could be reduced by one tenth by the year 2100 as a result of climate change.

The points we make in this letter only scratch the surface of the report. We have enclosed a copy of the Assessment so you can familiarize yourself with its contents.

We urge you to read this report promptly, and we are confident that you will find its conclusions alarming. Finally, we welcome any serious action you will propose to address the climate crisis as a result.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



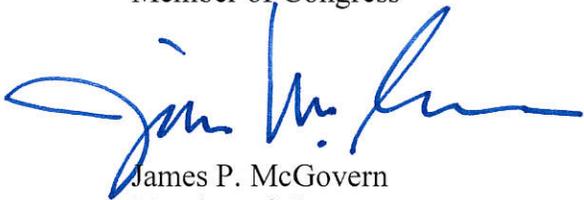
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress


Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

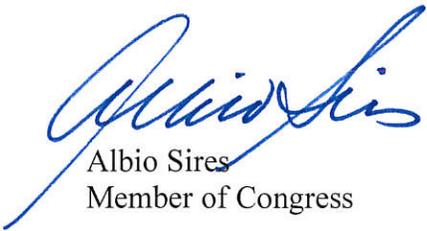

Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Jerry McEnerney
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



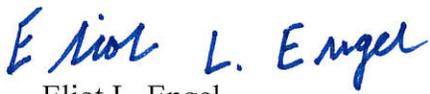
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress