



**Opening Statement (*As Prepared for Delivery*)**

**Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), Chair  
U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis**

**Solving the Climate Crisis: Manufacturing Jobs for America's Workers  
September 10, 2019**

I'm glad to see everyone back in Washington. We have a number of climate action votes on the House floor this week to ban dangerous offshore drilling, protect the Arctic Refuge, clean up diesel pollution, and boost energy efficiency.

Our committee is also ramping up its work. We just released a public request for information, which you can find on our website – [climatecrisis.house.gov](https://climatecrisis.house.gov). We want to hear your ideas and your recommendations for our Congressional climate action plan.

Hurricane Dorian is just the latest reminder of the need for solutions that reduce carbon pollution and prepare our communities for the growing dangers of the climate crisis. Our neighbors on the East Coast recovering from Hurricane Dorian and the climate refugees fleeing the Bahamas right now need our support.

I hope everyone had productive visits back to their districts. Last month, I also got to visit some of our colleagues in their districts. Representative Casten hosted me to talk about climate resilience and clean energy in Illinois. And I also went to Detroit to learn more about what the transition to electric vehicles means for the auto industry, workers and their communities.

One thing I kept hearing on these trips is that people see addressing the climate crisis as an opportunity to lead the world in new technologies and create millions of new jobs. But they also want them to be the kind of quality, family-sustaining jobs that built the American middle class.

There used to be about 20 million manufacturing jobs in America. That was in 1979. Today, there are only 12.4 million manufacturing jobs in the United States. Pursuing policies that create jobs while providing solutions to the climate crisis will be critical.

Meeting the Paris climate goals means we're going to see a \$23 trillion-dollar clean energy market emerge between now and 2030. So we have a choice. We can build on America's competitive edge in innovation. We can help American workers tap into that market. Or we can let China eat our lunch.

When Congress passed the Recovery Act, we provided \$88.5 billion in funding to clean energy businesses. That funding supported 100,000 clean energy projects and provided hundreds of thousands of jobs for American workers.



We can do more – much more. We need millions of workers to design, build, and manufacture wind turbines, solar panels, electric cars, new mass transit, energy efficient products, and state-of-the-art industrial facilities.

But last month we actually saw the manufacturing sector contract for the first time since 2009. When we have a president who denies climate change, who thinks that wind turbines cause cancer, and who undermines consumers and businesses by undoing energy saving rules for cars and light bulbs, America is missing out on a huge economic opportunity.

We need to pass long-term policies that support manufacturing in America. Clean energy technology should move from American labs to American production facilities to the enormous global market that will pay top dollar for innovative solutions to the climate crisis.

I believe we can do this. And I believe we must do this. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on how we can make a prosperous clean energy future a reality for American workers.