

Thank you, Chairman Tonko, Ranking Member Shimkus, and Members of the Committee for the invitation to speak today about these important issues facing my community.

Minnesota is fortunate to be home to many pristine waters and natural treasures, including the Mississippi River, our infamous 10,000 lakes, and the Boundary Waters.

The Boundary Waters is the most visited wilderness in our country and a special place for Minnesotans. People from across the world visit to canoe, hike and fish.

In May, the Department of the Interior decided to renew two mining leases for a possible copper sulfide mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters in Minnesota, despite scientific evidence, economic data, ongoing litigation and a public record of opposition dating back 50 years.

This unilateral action from the Trump Administration to move forward on the copper sulfide Twin Metals mine is irresponsible and unacceptable. We must continue to protect our public lands and waters and ensure that Minnesota's wilderness can be enjoyed by future generations.

Minnesota's third district is home to one of the most visited lakes in our state, Lake Minnetonka – made famous by Prince's film *Purple Rain*.

Right now, Lake Minnetonka and the rest of our state's waters face the grave threat of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Aquatic Invasive Species including Asian carp, spiny waterfleas and zebra mussels, are not native to Minnesota and cause major harm to our waters' ecosystems. These species have been moving throughout Minnesota, clogging our lakes and rivers, and killing off native animals and plants. Life in our district revolves around lakes, so this problem is of high concern to our community.

In June I convened a roundtable of local experts to discuss the threat posed by these invasive species and the consensus was clear. Congress must invest resources and support state and local governments to prevent the further spread of invasive species in our lakes and rivers.

And unfortunately, the problem of Aquatic Invasive Species is exacerbated by our changing climate. Invasive species can now live in waterways that were uninhabitable a few decades ago, while native species are struggling to adapt fast enough to compete with them.

Climate change is right in our backyard and we must act.

I hear it from my constituents every day. Middle and High School students contact my office regularly to express their distress that our federal government has not taken bold steps to solve this issue. These young people are motivated to organize and contact their representative because they feel it is their only option- their life and future depends on it. I also hear from parents and grandparents worried about the world they will leave behind for their families.

Climate change is complex and will require a multi-pronged approach. We need to consider solutions and policies like federal support for research and development into renewable energy, extending and supporting new tax credits for renewables, supporting consumer purchase of electric vehicles, and other proposals. Another policy we need to explore is placing a price on carbon – like in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

This legislation places a fee on fossil fuels at the source, beginning at \$15/metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions. It will steadily increase annually by \$10/metric ton.

The fees would be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and allocated as dividend payments to U.S. citizens and lawful residents.

Thus, the bill would use market forces to provide incentives for the reduction of carbon emissions. This is an achievable solution that both parties could support, and I urge all who are present to do just that.

The American people have sent a message to Congress: take action on climate change. I hope you'll join me in doing all we can to keep our planet safe for generations to come.

Thank you.