

Representative G. K. Butterfield

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Hearing on “Department of Energy Oversight: Status of Clean Coal Programs”

February 10, 2014

Statement for the Record

The Honorable G. K. Butterfield

Each year the science of climate change is reinforced. How much more proof is needed for my Republican colleagues to accept reality and acknowledge that humans contribute to climate change?

The number and intensity of severe weather instances are increasing according to NOAA. Science continues to point out the human impact on severe weather. My constituents in eastern North Carolina were hard hit by Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. A 15 year old girl in Goldsboro and a man taken in his home by a felled tree were amongst several North Carolinians who lost their lives.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the third largest coal spill in our nation’s history which occurred in Eden, North Carolina on February 2nd. The spill jeopardizes the drinking water of North Carolinians and the ecosystem of the Dan River and Lake Gaston. We must keep in mind the impacts on those in close proximity to power plants and their coal ash ponds, many of which are in low-income communities and communities of color.

The President’s Climate Action Plan will help our nation reduce our contribution to climate change. It is a decisive step toward creating new energy jobs and being innovative instead of remaining complacent. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to find sensible and affordable ways to reduce climate change.