

Questions of the Honorable Debbie Dingell
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on the Environment and Climate Change

HEARING

*Lessons from Across the Nation: State and Local Action to Combat
Climate Change*

April 2, 2019

OPENING STATEMENT

Thank you Chairman Tonko and Republican Leader Shimkus for holding this important hearing today to discuss the urgent threat from climate change we all face and to learn from state and local governments first-hand who are acting, arm-and-arm together, to address this existential threat.

At our last hearing on climate change, we learned that the abdication of American leadership at the federal level is having a significant cost in mitigating carbon pollution and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. In absence of this leadership, cities, states, businesses, and universities all across this country have stepped up and pledged to lead.

From the 23 states who have joined the United States Climate Alliance to the more than 400 mayors who have joined the Climate Mayors network, we are seeing a growing bipartisan collection of governors, mayor, city councils, and local decisionmakers—who are on the frontlines—working together.

The U.S. Climate Alliance now represents more than half the United States population and almost three-fifths of the domestic economy.

Today's hearing will allow Congress and the American people the opportunity to listen and learn from the state and local officials who are choosing to lead. Climate change is a threat to every generation, now

and to come. I look forward to learning what is working at the state and local levels and any recommendations our witnesses may have for the committee.

Thank you, and I yield back.