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6 LESSONS FROM ACROSS THE NATION:

7 STATE AND LOCAL ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

8 TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

9 House of Representatives

10 Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change

11 Committee on Energy and Commerce

12 Washington, D.C.

13

14

15

16 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:02 a.m., in
17 Room 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Paul Tonko [chairman
18 of the subcommittee] presiding.

19 Members present: Representatives Tonko, Clarke, Peters,
20 Barragan, Blunt Rochester, Soto, Schakowsky, McNerney, Ruiz,
21 Pallone (ex officio), Shimkus, Rodgers, McKinley, Johnson, Long,
22 Flores, Mullin, Carter, Duncan, and Walden (ex officio).

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23 Also present: Representative Gianforte.

24 Staff present: Jeff Carroll, Staff Director; Adam Fischer,
25 Policy Analyst; Jean Fruci, Energy and Environment Policy
26 Advisor; Tiffany Guarascio, Deputy Staff Director; Caitlin
27 Haberman, Professional Staff Member; Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor
28 and Staff Directory, Energy and Environment; Brendan Larkin,
29 Policy Coordinator; Dustin Maghamfar, Air and Climate Counsel;
30 Mike Bloomquist, Minority Staff Director; Jerry Couri, Minority
31 Deputy Chief Counsel, Environment & Climate Change; Peter Kielty,
32 Minority General Counsel; Mary Martin, Minority Chief Counsel,
33 Energy & Environment & Climate Change; Brandon Mooney, Minority
34 Deputy Chief Counsel, Energy; Brannon Rains, Minority Staff
35 Assistant; Zach Roday, Minority Communications Director; and
36 Peter Spencer, Minority Senior Professional Staff Member,
37 Environment & Climate Change.

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38 Mr. Tonko. The Subcommittee on Environment and Climate
39 Change will now come to order. I recognize myself for five
40 minutes for the purpose of an opening statement.

41 In February, this subcommittee held a hearing examining
42 President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from
43 the Paris Agreement. Since that announcement, states, cities,
44 businesses, and universities across the country have stepped up
45 to say they are still in.

46 They are not only making pledges but are taking concrete
47 actions. While this administration has failed to rise to the
48 challenge of our climate crisis, others are leading the way and
49 keeping our national emissions reduction targets within reach.

50 Investing in infrastructure and creating local jobs and
51 transitioning to a clean energy economy are goals that leaders
52 on both sides of the aisle at all levels of government should
53 be able to support.

54 That is why 23 states have joined the U.S. Climate Alliance.

55 More than 400 local governments have joined the Climate Mayors
56 network, organizations that are helping state and local
57 governments work together and encourage greater action.

58 Today, we have a chance to learn from some of the elected
59 officials now leading our nation's climate response. This

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60 includes a former colleague who served on this committee, Governor
61 Jay Inslee of Washington State.

62 Thank you, Governor, and welcome back to the Energy and
63 Commerce Committee. During his time here, Governor Inslee was
64 a leader on clean energy and climate issues.

65 He played a major role in developing the American Clean
66 Energy and Security Act, and in transformative clean energy
67 investments included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment
68 Act.

69 He also co-founded the House Sustainable Energy and
70 Environment Coalition. I was at that charter effort and I now
71 am proud to say that I co-chair today's efforts with SEEC.

72 Governor Inslee, along with former Governor Jerry Brown and
73 my home state governor, Andrew Cuomo, founded the U.S. Climate
74 Alliance. The states in the alliance represent more than
75 one-half of the U.S. population and almost three-fifths of the
76 U.S. economy.

77 I cannot think of a better witness to share the experiences
78 of states transitioning to a cleaner, healthier, more
79 competitive, and more sustainable economy.

80 Local governments are also doing their part implementing
81 solutions to transition their communities and create good-paying

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82 jobs while doing it.

83 Today we ask what can Congress learn from our state and local
84 experiences and how can our federal government be a better partner
85 in these efforts?

86 This committee has established itself in recent years as
87 a force for bipartisan and environmental legislation including
88 drinking water infrastructure, Brownfields redevelopment, and
89 nuclear waste cleanup, and in every case we started with these
90 same questions.

91 Our response to climate action should be no different. We
92 are at a crossroads in the climate crisis. We are going to meet
93 this crisis head on. We will need every idea and every proposal
94 we can muster.

95 I recently released a set of climate principles that should
96 help guide our efforts in Congress to develop legislation.
97 Before coming to Congress, I ran a state energy office and served
98 in state and county government.

99 I know how much work gets done at these levels. They do
100 not have the luxury of burying their heads in the sand when climate
101 change comes to their communities and threatens their
102 constituents.

103 It is falling upon them to harden their infrastructure and

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104 deal with increasingly frequent and severe wildfires, flooding,
105 droughts, and air quality issues.

106 These disasters jeopardize property values and undermine
107 local tax bases. In some cases, they threaten future economic
108 development and revitalization, especially waterfront
109 development.

110 We have seen the damaging effects of climate change extend
111 far beyond natural disasters. It is hurting tourism, recreation,
112 agricultural production, and other industries that many American
113 communities rely upon.

114 Empowering state, local, tribal, and territorial governance
115 needs to be at the foundation of our climate response in Congress.

116 State and local leaders are often in the best position to enact
117 innovative policies to promote a cleaner a cleaner economy and
118 deal with climate damage.

119 We also need to recognize that we live in a big country.

120 Each state and region faces unique challenges. Program
121 flexibility is indeed critical.

122 Today, as we hear from mayors from across the country, we
123 need to make sure they have the tools and resources necessary
124 to meet their needs. Some solutions will be best suited for
125 federal action. But a comprehensive approach will take all hands

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126 on deck.

127 Other levels of government will need to adopt policies that
128 work for their unique local conditions. A few of these locally
129 driven programs may include efforts to strengthen community
130 resilience, increase energy efficiency through building codes
131 and energy benchmarking, improve the efficiency and operation
132 of municipal buildings, and promote cleaner transportation
133 options including transit and pedestrian and bicycle
134 infrastructure.

135 But despite the exciting testimony we will hear this morning,
136 let us not fool ourselves. Subnational action is not a substitute
137 for greater federal leadership. America's response to the
138 climate crisis needs to be a partnership and, currently, the
139 federal government is simply not holding up its end of the bargain.

140 And with that, I yield back.

141 Before we recognize our ranking Republican for the committee
142 -- the Republican leader for the subcommittee -- I ask unanimous
143 consent for Representative Gianforte of Montana to participate
144 in today's subcommittee hearing, including the opportunity to
145 ask questions of witnesses and submit a written opening statement
146 into the record.

147 [Laughter.]

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148 Mr. Tonko. I thought I heard a whimper but we didn't.

149 Without objection, so ordered.

150 [The information follows:]

151

152 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 1*****

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153 Mr. Tonko. With that, the chair now recognizes Mr. Shimkus,
154 our ranking Republican for the Subcommittee on Environment and
155 Climate Change, for five minutes for his opening statement.

156 Mr. Shimkus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome back,
157 Governor Inslee. There is no question ever since your time on
158 the committee that you have been a vocal passionate advocate for
159 federal policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

160 In fact, as I was thinking about our chance to visit today,
161 you were for climate change before climate change was cool. You
162 are trying to save the planet while I was trying to save jobs
163 and the economy, and we served on some panels debating that years
164 ago, and I also remember -- I think you hit my slider for a double
165 in the congressional baseball game but don't tell anybody that.

166 Some of your policies and ideas may not be supportable by
167 our side of the aisle. The proposals may not even be supportable
168 in portions of your home state.

169 But you have thought a lot about climate policy. We have
170 worked well together in the past. So I look forward to your
171 testimony this morning.

172 Mr. Chairman, when we began this subcommittee's climate
173 hearings at the beginning of February, I made a point that just
174 because you agree climate change is a risk to address does not

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175 mean that you must accept unquestionably the standard Democrat
176 and climate activist solutions to the problem.

177 For too long this has been a false choice in the policy debate
178 where if members question the cost and effectiveness of solutions
179 they are portrayed as not being serious about the problem.

180 I would suggest that if we are serious about the problem
181 we should examine the cost and effectiveness of proposed policies.

182 For nearly 30 years the standard treaties and international
183 requirements have not worked so well.

184 In 1990, energy-related carbon dioxide emissions were 20.5
185 gigatons. By 2018, energy-related CO2 emissions had increased
186 to 33.2 gigatons, or by 62 percent, according to the most recent
187 report from the International Energy Agency.

188 Between 2017 and 2018 alone, global emissions of carbon
189 dioxide increased by 560 million metric tons, a half a gigaton.

190 China's emissions increased by 230 million metric tons, or a
191 little more than 40 percent of the worldwide increase.

192 U.S. energy emissions also tracked up, but as IEA notes,
193 despite this increase, emissions in the United States remain
194 around the 1990 levels, which is 14 percent and 800 million tons
195 of CO2 below their peak in the year 2000.

196 This is the largest absolute decline among all countries

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197 since 2000. The United Nations' own November 2018 Emissions Gap
198 Report states that nations will still have to triple their efforts
199 to meet the Paris Agreement's basic goals.

200 Yet, given the reaction to even modest targets in Europe
201 and elsewhere and the realities of future fossil energy demand,
202 this is not a realistic prospect.

203 The point here is the scale of the global energy and
204 industrial growth should put the effectiveness over U.S. actions
205 in perspective.

206 The focus on the Obama administration's economy wide
207 emissions commitments does not appear to be a realistic solution
208 to global emissions growth, though enforcing the commitments here
209 at home could create realistic hardship on our electricity,
210 transportation, and industrial sectors in communities around the
211 nation.

212 We will hear today what states and cities associated with
213 the We Are Still In coalition are doing to reduce emissions and
214 take other actions to address climate change.

215 I look forward to what we can learn, especially about
216 preparing for future climate impacts. But I think we should pay
217 close attention to the testimony of two of the elected officials
218 who we will hear from this morning, Mayor Jerry Morales of Midland,

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219 Texas, and Commissioner Daniel Camp, who chairs the Board of
220 County Commissioners in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, over the
221 border from Mr. Johnson and Mr. McKinley's district in the upper
222 Ohio River Valley.

223 They provide powerful examples of what our oil and gas
224 revolution in the United States has meant to communities in terms
225 of tax base, quality of life, economic potential, and community
226 and environmental health.

227 These officials can testify as to what a focus on energy
228 access, affordable energy, and embracing technological
229 development can mean for the economic vitality of communities.

230 Their experience is experience developing nations around
231 the world are striving for and which the U.S. should promote.

232 The community wealth and security, the high-quality jobs, and
233 manufacturing prospects, the economic ability to strengthen
234 infrastructure and protect communities from natural disasters
235 are benefits that we should not abandon in the search of climate
236 solutions.

237 Instead, these are essential attributes we should embrace
238 as providing the potential for continued innovation that will
239 actually foster the technologies necessary to reduce the global
240 emissions.

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241 And, again, it is great to see you back. Welcome back to
242 2123 and I look forward to hearing your testimony and answering
243 our questions.

244 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

245 Mr. Tonko. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

246 The chair now recognizes Mr. Pallone, chairman of the full
247 committee, for five minutes for his opening statement.

248 The Chairman. Thank you, Chairman Tonko.

249 This morning we are going to be hearing from elected
250 representatives of state and local governments about what they
251 are doing to address climate and their actions are more important
252 than ever, considering the Trump administration denies climate
253 change is happening and continues to push policies that will only
254 make it worse.

255 And I am particularly pleased to welcome Governor Jay Inslee
256 back to the Committee on Energy and Commerce where he served with
257 many of us while he was in Congress. You look good. You don't
258 -- no less weary from being the governor. A lot of governors
259 I meet they, like, kind of deteriorate.

260 [Laughter.]

261 The Chairman. But anyway, Governor Inslee's focus on
262 climate change is not new. In 2002, he championed an Apollo-style

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263 effort to support technologies and policies to transition the
264 nation to a low-carbon economy and now, as governor of Washington,
265 he is showing that addressing the climate crisis is not only good
266 policy -- it is good business.

267 He also co-founded the bipartisan U.S. climate alliance,
268 leading the way for other states to take meaningful steps towards
269 fulfilling our commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement.

270 Now, the mayors on our second panel reflect the dedication
271 and ingenuity of local leaders facing the climate crisis head
272 on and the success of nonpartisan community-focused solutions.

273 The impressive work of the leaders here today is heartening.

274 But they can't address the magnitude of the climate crisis alone.

275 They need the support and leadership of a strong federal partner.

276 State and local government initiatives to reduce greenhouse
277 gas pollution stand in stark contrast to the recent actions by
278 the Trump administration. This administration is doing all it
279 can to lean in to more greenhouse gas pollution, more global
280 warming, and a more uncertain and dangerous future for our country
281 and the rest of the world.

282 And scientists warn us that some of these impacts will get
283 worse if we fail to act now, and the evidence is very clear,
284 particularly to the communities on the front line of climate

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285 change.

286 Whether they are represented by Democrats or Republicans,
287 they are well aware that the costs of climate change go far beyond
288 the cost to which we can attach a dollar figure.

289 Now, you know, my district is one where we were hit the
290 hardest, I think, by Superstorm Sandy and, you know, many of my
291 communities were devastated and haven't even fully recovered.

292 I have to tell you, I don't -- I have a lot of Republican
293 mayors, council people, county legislators, and it doesn't matter
294 whether they are Democrat or Republican. They all want us to
295 address climate change. It is not and should not be a partisan
296 issue.

297 So today, as we sit here, there is record flooding in the
298 Midwest, claiming lives and destroying homes, communities, and
299 businesses that people spent a lifetime building, and those
300 communities know that the time for debate and inaction should
301 have been over long ago.

302 State and local governments acting on climate change are
303 positioning themselves as leaders in new low-carbon economy.
304 Seventeen states with a climate alliance reported last year that
305 they attracted more than \$110 billion in clean energy and those
306 are, you know, obviously, investments -- create jobs -- and they

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307 realize billions of dollars in public health and environmental
308 benefits.

309 Our nation has always been at the forefront in the creation
310 of new industries, new technologies, and new jobs and this
311 committee has always been a leader and we should strive to improve
312 upon that record.

313 Unfortunately, the Trump administration wants to take us
314 backwards by withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. We simply
315 can't allow that to happen, which is why Democrats have introduced
316 H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

317 This legislation would stop President Trump from pulling
318 out of the Paris Agreement and require him to submit a plan from
319 meeting our obligations under the pact.

320 We will be marking up that legislation tomorrow here in the
321 full committee. But we can't stop there. I would like to move
322 legislation that will support state and local government efforts
323 to address climate change and give members on both sides of the
324 aisle an opportunity to help communities save money, create jobs,
325 and cut our greenhouse gas emissions.

326 So, Governor Inslee, it is not that we want you to just talk
327 about what you are doing. We want you to give us ideas about
328 what we can do to help you at the state and local level.

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329 And taking action on climate will lead to the development
330 of new industries and new jobs and make our communities safer
331 and more resilient.

332 But, again, as I said before, state and local governments
333 can't do it alone. The federal government must be strong as a
334 partner by expanding the use of clean energy and reducing fossil
335 fuel emissions and the scientific communities continues to warn
336 us about the dangers of unchecked greenhouse gas pollution.

337 We have to heed their warning. We have the technology to
338 address this problem but we need to apply it more broadly and
339 more aggressively, and state and local governments are
340 demonstrating that it can be done and we should join with them
341 and reaffirm that the U.S. is indeed committed to acting on
342 climate.

343 So thank you again for being here, Jay. Thank you for all
344 your leadership both when you were here and now as governor.

345 I yield back.

346 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

347 The chair now recognizes Mr. Walden, Republican leader of
348 the full committee, for five minutes for his opening statement.

349 Mr. Walden. Well, good morning, Mr. Chairman, and thanks
350 for having this hearing. As you know, you and I have discussed

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351 Republicans are ready and willing to work with you on policies
352 to continue America's leadership role in developing innovative
353 technologies to produce energy with little or no emissions.

354 Republicans are ready and willing to work with you on
355 conservation, on innovation, on adaptation, and preparation
356 policies that help the environment and do not harm consumers.

357 In fact, we have a pretty clear record of bipartisan
358 legislation from this committee to do just that. Republicans
359 have worked with Democrats over the past several Congresses to
360 remove regulatory barriers to new technological advances in power
361 generation, from hydroelectric power to small modular nuclear,
362 from carbon capture and storage incentives to power grid reforms
363 because innovation is where the long-term solutions to climate
364 change are.

365 We want America to lead the world in innovation as we always
366 have, especially on clean energy and environmental cleanup. It
367 is disappointing today that this hearing is really more about
368 the politics of climate change than rolling up our sleeves and
369 getting to work on domestic solutions.

370 I can't recall a time in my more than 18 years on the committee
371 where we have cleared the decks for a presidential candidate to
372 come take center stage.

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373 Now, I want to join those in welcoming Governor Inslee back
374 to the Energy and Commerce Committee room. We also served
375 together on the Resources Committee.

376 And as an advocate for the Green New Deal, I am sure you
377 would agree with me that it is time that this committee actually
378 had a hearing on that legislation.

379 Both of my senators signed on and were at the news conference
380 when it was announced, and I know one of the biggest proponents,
381 the new Congresswoman from New York, said it was unfair for the
382 Senate to vote on the Green New Deal without first having had
383 a hearing.

384 So we should take note of her comments and schedule a hearing,
385 Mr. Chairman, in this committee.

386 Meanwhile, as I noted a few weeks ago, the focus on U.S.
387 commitments in the Paris Agreement distracts from the work we
388 could get done together. Certainly, many states and cities
389 around the United States have made commitments to meet the Paris
390 goals. But these commitments don't necessarily work nationally.

391 However, I do believe this hearing will be useful to review
392 some of the actions states and cities are taking to adapt and
393 become more resilient to a changing climate.

394 Now, in the great Pacific Northwest, we have benefitted from

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395 clean hydroelectric power. We have wind power, we have
396 geothermal power, and we have solar power, among other sources.

397 And while our energy emissions are better than most, we have
398 suffered greatly from the lack of management of our federal forest
399 lands, which are burning up every summer, choking our citizens
400 and polluting our atmosphere.

401 I know when Governor Inslee was in the House, he -- we went
402 toe to toe and you opposed most of my efforts to get our forests
403 back in balance and to reduce the threat of wildfires.

404 Now, even in the United Nations Climate Change Panel, they
405 called for active forest management. So, hopefully, perhaps your
406 views on these matters have changed as you read the IPCC reports
407 from 2007 and beyond.

408 After this hearing is behind us, Mr. Chairman, I hope we
409 can work together as we have in the past to reduce the barriers
410 to innovation and unleash the best and brightest among our
411 citizens to develop new technologies to help confront the climate
412 challenges in the future and put America in the driver's seat
413 to lead those technologies and sell them abroad.

414 Mr. Chairman, I would also raise the issue that it is
415 unfortunate the measure that we will markup tomorrow was only
416 introduced on Thursday and it is unfortunate that your

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417 subcommittee, this one, does not have an opportunity to markup
418 that measure.

419 That would be the regular order that you are proud of and
420 I am proud of, and I am sorry we are not going to have that
421 opportunity to have a markup on the underlying legislation.
422 Instead, it is going to be taken straight to full committee and
423 straight to the floor to meet some arbitrary deadline.

424 So with that, Mr. Chairman, thanks again for having this
425 hearing. We look forward to working with you where we can, and
426 I yield back the balance of my time.

427 Mr. Tonko. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

428 The chair would like to remind members that pursuant to
429 committee rules all members' written opening statements shall
430 be made a part of the record.

431 Now I would like to introduce our first witness for today's
432 hearing, the Honorable Jay Inslee, governor of the State of
433 Washington.

434 I want to thank you, Governor, for joining us today. We
435 look forward to your testimony. Again, I have to thank you for
436 inspiration you provided not only in the House but across Congress
437 to look at this with -- the climate change issue with great
438 seriousness and approaching it in a scientific and evidence-based

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439 way and thank you for leading us in that effort.

440 Before we begin, I would like to explain the lighting system
441 in front of our witnesses. There is a series of lights. The
442 light will initially be green at the start of your opening
443 statement. The light will turn yellow when you have one minute
444 left.

445 Please bring wrap up your testimony at that point. The light
446 will turn red and your time expires, and I am certain you recall
447 those days but always a refresher course is helpful.

448 At this time, the chair --

449 Governor Inslee. We never abided by them.

450 [Laughter.]

451 Mr. Tonko. There you go.

452 So at this time, the chair will recognize the Honorable Jay
453 Inslee for five minutes to provide his opening statement and,
454 again, welcome, Governor.

455

456 STATEMENT OF JAY INSLEE, GOVERNOR, STATE OF WASHINGTON

457

458 STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR INSLEE

459 Governor Inslee. I thank you, Chair Pallone and Tonko,
460 Representative Shimkus, Walden, our Congresswoman Rodgers.

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461 Thanks for having me.

462 I can assure you, in the last six years none of you have
463 deteriorated at all from this front except for the Shimkus
464 fastball. That has lost five miles a hour. But that is another
465 matter.

466 I think I can share just as a top comment here three things
467 that I think there is wide agreement on out in the states, if
468 I can report.

469 Number one, we recognize that we are the first generation
470 to feel the sting of climate change and we are the last generation
471 that can actually do something about it.

472 Number two, we recognize this is a moment of great peril
473 but it also a moment of great economic promise with tremendous
474 job creation opportunities that I will talk about in a moment.

475 And number three, I think we have decided, because the facts
476 are in, there are a heck of a lot more jobs fighting climate change
477 than there is in denying climate change, and that is good news
478 for the United States, and I will talk about that and success
479 in many of our states in a few moments.

480 So we do hope that we can help the federal government take
481 a look at some of the actions that states are taking in the hopes
482 that the federal government can join the states in really working

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483 to build a clean energy economy. So I hope I can be helpful to
484 you in this regard.

485 I won't dwell too much on the peril part of this. It should
486 be kind of obvious to us with the floods and the hurricanes and
487 the fires.

488 But I will tell you that when you visited Paradise,
489 California -- when I did, a town of 25,000 -- and you go for an
490 hour at dark and there is nobody there and it looks like a
491 post-apocalypse movie, you know we have got to do something about
492 climate change. So I hope that you all can get together to figure
493 out some things to do.

494 I want to point to our state's experience because I think
495 it has been helpful. The first thing I want to say about our
496 state's experience is we have been dedicated to developing a clean
497 energy economy and in part, because of that, we have the best
498 economy in the United States.

499 We have the fastest GDP growth, the fastest job growth, and
500 the fastest wage growth in the United States. Business Insider
501 magazine said we are the best place to do business. OxFam said
502 we are the best place to work, and that is in part because of
503 the clean energy policies that we have adopted, and we have had
504 some considerable success.

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505 We have built a wind turbine industry from zero to 3,000
506 megawatts in the last 12 years. In a clean energy fund that we
507 have developed, we have leveraged about \$200 million of private
508 equity and now are putting people to work.

509 We are on track of putting \$50,000 electric cars on our road
510 including the governor's little General Motors Bolt built in
511 Orion, Michigan, with American workers -- a spiffy little safe
512 car. Those policies are working in my state. But we are not
513 done.

514 We now, in my legislature, have several bills to move this
515 clean energy revolution forward -- 100 percent electrical bill
516 -- excuse me, 100 percent clean grid bill, which is advancing
517 in my state, an improvement of our renewable energy portfolio;
518 a provision to make sure that we wean ourself off of coal-fired
519 electricity and several other bills I am happy to talk about in
520 more length.

521 But I am not the only governor and the only state that has
522 been moving forward. We have had significant advances across
523 the United States.

524 In Colorado, Jared Polis just signed an order accelerating
525 widespread electrification of cars and busses. In New Jersey,
526 Delaware, and Virginia they are considering adoption of a regional

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527 greenhouse gas initiative that has been modeled somewhat on the
528 RGGI program.

529 And New Mexico just voted to double renewable energy use
530 in the state by 2025 and have joined Hawaii and California by
531 calling for 100 percent electricity to be carbon free by 2045.

532

533 Illinois has just passed the Future Energy Jobs Act, which
534 has expanded solar energy in setting 25 percent renewable energy
535 goals, and because of these actions we are experiencing profound
536 transformation of the economy to a clean energy economy today.

537

538 Today, there are 3.2 million Americans working in the clean
539 energy sector today and it is the fastest growing sector of the
540 economy.

541 You know, the number-one fastest growing job classification
542 in the United States today is solar panel installer and number
543 two is wind turbine technician, and you can't go anywhere in this
544 country and not see small businesses putting people to work
545 developing clean energy jobs and that is why it is so exciting.

546

547 I mean, I just looked at Illinois, for example, because I
548 wanted to honor Representative Shimkus. It has 8,633 wind jobs.

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549 It has 4,879 solar jobs. There are 7,357 electric vehicles on
550 the road. This is a 93 percent increase.

551 We are in the midst of a great transition and I am hopeful
552 that we can help you in some way figure out how to accelerate
553 that transition.

554 Thanks very much. I look forward to your softball questions
555 and gentle criticisms.

556 [The prepared statement of Governor Inslee follows:]

557

558 *****INSERT 2*****

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559 Mr. Tonko. And whatever else might follow. Thank you,
560 Governor, for your opening statement. We now will move to member
561 questions.

562 Each member will have five minutes to ask questions of our
563 witness. I will start by recognizing myself for five minutes.

564 Governor, again, welcome. I know many of my colleagues will
565 have questions about how the federal government can better support
566 your efforts as well as the specific solutions you are pursuing
567 in Washington.

568 I want to take stock of where we have been. I think back
569 to 10 years ago, the last time Congress had a meaningful debate
570 on climate pollution and the need for and opportunities from a
571 clean energy transition.

572 During this time, the cost of cleaner alternatives such as
573 renewable energy have dropped at previously unimaginable rates.

574 Clean energy jobs have been created across our country and a
575 greater public awareness of the climate science threat we face
576 and of the urgency at which we must respond has taken hold.

577 So, Governor, what are the biggest developments of the
578 climate debate or policy since you left this House?

579 Governor Inslee. Well, I think that the most significant
580 thing that has happened is that our research and some of our

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581 policies are actually bearing fruit.

582 There is a really good news story here. I just had breakfast
583 with a woman leader in the clean energy industry and she was
584 pointing out that the suite of some of the small policies we
585 adopted during the Recovery Act, for instance, during some of
586 our tax policies, which have been supremely successful driving
587 economic development and driving down the cost of these systems.

588 So the cost of solar energy in the last 10 years has come
589 down 80 percent. The cost of wind turbine energy has come down
590 about 20 percent.

591 That has been the product to some degree of some of the
592 policies that we have adopted and I think that is really an
593 optimistic thing to say that when we do put our shoulder to the
594 wheel we can drive reductions in cost and, therefore, further
595 deployment.

596 The other thing I would say is that this has been successful
597 not just as an urban but it is an urban and rural and it is a
598 small and big state effort. I will just give you an example.

599 In my state, in part because of some of our policies, some
600 of our greatest clean energy job creation are in rural parts of
601 our state in smaller communities.

602 So the largest, for instance, carbon fiber manufacturer in

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603 the Western Hemisphere that goes into electric cars is not in
604 Seattle. It is in Moses Lake, Washington, in central Washington,
605 kind of a smaller town.

606 One of the largest biofuels manufacturer is not in Seattle.
607 It is Gray's Harbor, Washington, which is a town that has had
608 some stress because of the diminution of the forest industry.

609 I just went to the ribbon-cutting of the largest solar farm
610 in our state, which is near Lind, Washington, which is a town
611 of 300. So you have these beautiful solar panels surrounded by
612 wheat fields. This is an economic development program that is
613 available to all Americans throughout our country and I think
614 that's a lesson that is important.

615 The other thing we have learned is that you can do these
616 things with essentially no or de minimis cost to consumers because
617 as the technology has come on, we have actually got cheaper
618 products.

619 So if you are driving an electric car today you have 80 --
620 probably 80 percent lower fuel costs to run your car and that
621 is why we are happy in my state to have one of the largest
622 percentage of use of electric cars to meet our goals. Those
623 things are working.

624 Mr. Tonko. So -- thank you, Governor -- so in that near

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625 decade that has passed since we last visited this issue, what
626 important lessons are the most -- that speak most clearly to us
627 about learning from our past efforts?

628 Governor Inslee. Well, I think the most important lesson
629 is one that is really rarely noted, which is that the cost of
630 inaction is enormous. I think that is an important lesson here.

631 Somebody asked me about the cost of investment in solar energy.
632 It is a lot cheaper than when your town burns down, like Paradise,
633 California.

634 It is a lot cheaper than the \$1.6 billion we have lost in
635 agricultural production because of these recent floods. It is
636 a lot cheaper than the U.S. Navy is going to have to invest because
637 of sea level rise at our Norfolk facility.

638 So one of the lessons is these investments pay off ultimately
639 if we can reduce the level of damages that we are occurring.

640 Second is that when you -- when you make relatively small
641 investments, you can start huge industries. Just give you an
642 example.

643 So several years ago, we started this little clean energy
644 development fund. It was \$140 million -- relatively small. But
645 it is designed to leverage private equity to be in partnership
646 with private equity and to help small-scale startups start up.

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648

Started a little company called UniEnergy which does vanadium flow battery, at that time, essentially, research, and they brought in some private equity and today that company is making the largest vanadium battery in the world, which is really important to be able to integrate renewable energy into the grid.

649

650

651

652

653

My neighbor's kid went to work with them a couple years ago and really likes the job.

654

655

Now, this is an important issue because, you know, we have a president of the United States that says, you know, your television will blank out if the wind doesn't blow.

656

657

658

Well, you know, that is just not true. We have this new invention called batteries and now we are integrating batteries into the grid.

659

660

661

I turned on the first ones -- some of the first ones at Washington State University. So we know these things work. We know that these small policies can develop big, big industries.

662

663

664

We have seen it happen. We just need to accelerate it.

665

Mr. Tonko. Thank you very much, Governor.

666

And the chair now recognizes Representative Shimkus, Republican leader of the subcommittee, for five minutes.

667

668

Mr. Shimkus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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669 Jay, welcome back. Nuclear power -- where does it fit into
670 the this carbon-free society?

671 Governor Inslee. Well, I think that we need to continue
672 to do R&D in any potential low-carbon or zero carbon emission
673 and that includes nuclear power.

674 I think we need to continue research to figure out whether
675 we can solve some of the things we need to solve for nuclear power
676 which, obviously -- and they are well known to you. We need to
677 bring down the cost.

678 We need to have a more passive safety system. We would need
679 to have something that solved the nuclear waste problem, either
680 by eliminating the waste or finding something in the waste.

681 And fourth, you would have to win public support. So those
682 things would need to happen and I support R&D on those. Some
683 of that is going on in my state right now.

684 Mr. Shimkus. Let us follow on the closing of the fuel cycle,
685 and you know -- you are probably prepared. You and I, obviously,
686 worked diligently on this years ago and you co-sponsored the
687 amendment -- you know, the act.

688 We have nuclear waste, spent fuel -- 39 states, 121
689 locations. We have a law. That is the '82 nuclear waste policy
690 act along with the amendments of '87. Has your position changed

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691 on finishing the scientific study to see if it's safe to store
692 waste at Yucca Mountain?

693 Governor Inslee. Well, I think that we need -- I think what
694 the last few years have shown is that we need to find a more
695 consensus-based approach on waste disposal. I do believe that.

696 Mr. Shimkus. But don't you -- don't you believe that if
697 a prior sitting federal legislator and a president signed it that
698 they have already done that hard work? I mean, the legislative
699 branch already passed it. The president signed it into law.

700 I think my concern is we are relitigating a law that has
701 already passed and in the past -- and I am not trying to pile
702 on. I consider you a friend.

703 But I just hope we would rethink this because closing that
704 fuel cycle is part of the solution that we would like to -- because
705 I do think nuclear power, especially major baseload power, is
706 critical.

707 Some of the wind production tax credits which you talked
708 about has really hurt the cost-benefit analysis of nuclear power
709 and that is my Exelon, one of them major generators, is starting
710 to close nuclear power plants, which is, in essence, contrary
711 to this goal of a carbon-free generation world that people are
712 trying to push and I think that is something that we will talk

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713 about as we move on this committee.

714 Let me ask another question that deals with -- oh, I wanted
715 to tell you my son graduated from Western Washington University
716 and interned in Olympia. So I am not sure what is happening with
717 my family.

718 Governor Inslee. Well, he is going to be a Democrat -- I
719 know that -- if he went to Western, that is for sure.

720 [Laughter.]

721 Mr. Shimkus. So the -- and I want to thank Cathy for getting
722 him there. So for the sake -- this committee will deal with the
723 spent fuel debate. We passed a bipartisan bill out of the --
724 of the floor last Congress 340 to 70, I think -- bipartisan --
725 and more Democrats voted for it than against it.

726 Did -- can you, for the sake of this committee, just briefly
727 talk about the problems you have at Hanford as far as the defense
728 toxic floods that we have and those -- I don't how many containers
729 and buried underneath the ground and you can weave the story a
730 lot better than I can.

731 Governor Inslee. Well, one of the problems we have is that
732 the administration at the moment is not, at least in our view,
733 complying with some of the --

734 Mr. Shimkus. No, and I get that, and we can go through

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735 administrations. Just weave the story about what the challenges
736 are there. I mean, we could look at Obama. We can look at Bush.
737 We can look at negligence across the spectrum.

738 But what do we -- I mean, there are how many tanks there
739 at Hanford?

740 Governor Inslee. So we have millions of gallons of sludge,
741 as you are well worth -- knowledgeable about. We are having
742 technological challenges and we want to get the vitrification
743 plant up and running.

744 It would help if the administration, rather than looking
745 this as kind of a financial sacrifice zone, will actually help
746 make this happen.

747 Mr. Shimkus. Yes, and explain for my colleagues who may
748 not have been there, what is this sludge? What are we talking
749 about?

750 Governor Inslee. Well, we are talking about leftover waste
751 from the nuclear facility that one the Cold War and we expect
752 any administration, whether it's Republican or Democrat, to help
753 us in the cleanup effort. And if you will allow me to finish
754 --

755 Mr. Shimkus. And are we not close to the Columbia River?

756 Governor Inslee. Would you like to testify, John, and I

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757 will just sit here?

758 [Laughter.]

759 Mr. Shimkus. No, I am just -- I am just -- actually the
760 defense waste and the spent fuel is one package and it's just
761 part -- when we have to deal with this it's not just spent fuel
762 from nuclear power plants. This is a solution to our defense
763 portfolio and that's the only reason why I bring it up. I don't
764 --

765 Governor Inslee. That is correct.

766 Mr. Shimkus. I am not trying to do the gotcha.

767 Governor Inslee. No, I just -- I do want to make the point,
768 though, that the administration is not fulfilling its obligation
769 to the people of the state of Washington in a variety of contexts.

770

771 We have had some safety concerns for workers, particularly,
772 that we have been concerned about, and we will continue to be
773 diligent to hold this administration's feet to the fire and I
774 hope this committee does the same, whether it's Republican or
775 Democrat, and right now the administration is not doing its job
776 to get this job done, and I think it owes it to the whole country
777 and to the state of Washington.

778 Mr. Shimkus. We should move the waste. That would be

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779 helpful.

780 [Laughter.]

781 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

782 The chair now recognizes Mr. Peters for five minutes.

783 Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you,
784 Governor, for being here. I am excited about having you here.

785 In your testimony, you talk a little bit about the
786 accomplishments of the federal government. Recently -- you are
787 not complimentary -- you mentioned that the administration has
788 rolled back the clean power plan that has poised transition of
789 our grids into the 21st century, attacked fuel economy and clean
790 car standards that have saved lives and lowered consumer costs,
791 gutting modest standards that would have lowered methane leaks
792 in the oil and gas industry.

793 I don't think that gets enough attention. And increasing
794 illegal rules to bring back inefficient equipment and appliances
795 that cost consumers money. You might have also mentioned that
796 we withdrew from the Paris Agreement and a number of other things
797 that have gone in the wrong direction.

798 Assuming we could get back to zero and deal with all those
799 things, what would be your priorities for federal action if we
800 got back in the game in a significant way?

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801 Governor Inslee. Well, let me -- let me just follow up on
802 what you said. It is important to get back to quote "zero" because
803 zero we were making progress.

804 These things you rattle off are extremely important,
805 extremely effective, and they are not small things, and I believe
806 they can be done through executive action of whoever is in the
807 office in the future, and should be.

808 And I think they flow -- the current president's policies
809 on this have flowed from a really dangerous pessimism about our
810 ability to build a clean energy economy. I think there is too
811 much fear about this and I think if we look at the success we
812 have had we have seen that these things actually work.

813 When I heard the president the other day saying that, you
814 know, your television will turn off if the wind doesn't blow,
815 I don't know why someone has not explained to him the existence
816 of batteries.

817 I don't -- you know, batteries run tweets so I don't know
818 why you couldn't understand batteries can run your grid. In fact,
819 we are making huge progress in the ability to do that.

820 And not just electric batteries. We have pumped storage
821 that is now -- there is a pump storage program that can put hundreds
822 of thousands of people to work in central Washington.

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823 So I think we have to have a little more optimism and if
824 we do follow the can do spirit of America we will embrace these
825 executive actions.

826 But going forward, I would suggest that the things that the
827 states are doing very successfully are things that are a template
828 for success federally. That includes 100 percent electrical grid
829 goal for electrical grid.

830 It includes a clean fuel standard for our transportation
831 fuels. It includes a very, very significant expansion of our
832 federal research and development and a whole slew of technologies.

833

834 When I was sitting where you were, I noted that we spent
835 more money developing one kind of Jeep than we did in the entire
836 clean energy research budget of the United States, and when you
837 have an existential threat, which is of the equivalent of a world
838 war, in some sense, you got to have an R&D budget that in fact
839 does that.

840 We have shown that increased building codes to be consistent
841 with the existing building technology can be very effective and
842 we are, hopefully, going to pass a bill at my legislature this
843 year that will upgrade our building codes so we don't waste energy
844 at all.

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845 Investments in infrastructure are extremely important. We
846 have had \$70 billion of transportation infrastructure in my state
847 that are putting thousands of people to work. Seventy percent
848 of that is in public transportation, which is low-carbon systems.

849 So building an infrastructure program, which I would hope
850 Congress would do soon, and making sure a significant part of
851 it goes to reduce our carbon footprint in transportation is
852 extremely important.

853 Assistance to consumers and small businesses for some of
854 the capital needs to get these technologies in our hands is very,
855 very useful.

856 What we know is that most of these technologies if you do
857 an investment of \$10 you save \$80 on your costs over the lifetime
858 of the program. Don't hold me to those numbers. This is just
859 a hypothetical for the moment.

860 But the point is once you can get a little capital that allows
861 the initial investment, you save money over the lifetime of your
862 investment. All of these things as a suite of policies in some
863 part are being placed in states around the country. The RGGI
864 program has been very successful.

865 Mr. Peters. Well, except I would say the particular thing
866 you raised, which is not being done and probably can't be done

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867 by states, is the research part of it. I would say --

868 Governor Inslee. Yes. I think that is where maybe the
869 federal government could be most important, having the financial
870 resources that the federal government does, and having a unified
871 R&D program nationally I think would be extremely important.

872 When we do --

873 Mr. Peters. Do you believe that it is -- do you believe
874 it is important for the federal government to be involved in making
875 sure that the grid is interoperable state to state? Is that
876 important?

877 Governor Inslee. Yes. It is extremely important, and we
878 also want to have developed policies so that we can move renewable
879 energy to its most productive usage and the federal government
880 can be helpful in that interplay with different grid systems and
881 I would love to talk to you about that.

882 Mr. Peters. Love to. My time has expired. Thank you.

883 Governor Inslee. Thank you.

884 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

885 The chair now recognizes the gentlelady from the state of
886 Washington, Representative Rodgers, for five minutes.

887 Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you.

888 Governor Inslee, welcome back to the House Energy and

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889 Commerce Committee. Out of curiosity, I just wanted to start
890 about by asking you how you travelled here and what the carbon
891 footprint was associated with that travel and if you had laid
892 out specific steps to offset that impact?

893 Governor Inslee. Yes. I intend to develop a clean energy
894 system for the United States and the state of Washington and that
895 will be the most tremendous offset of anything I have ever done
896 in my entire life, because we will give my grandchildren an
897 opportunity to have a life that is not severely degraded.

898 And I travelled here the same way that everybody on this
899 committee travelled here, which is on a jet airplane, and we are
900 now developing biofuels and we have developed in my state,
901 something we should be proud of at Washington State University,
902 and Alaska Airlines --

903 Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

904 Governor Inslee. -- that have developed a biofuel that
905 we could fly. We have flown a Boeing airplane across the Atlantic
906 Ocean.

907 Mrs. Rodgers. Yes. Yes. Thank you. Yes. Thank you.

908 And I am excited about the biofuels, too, because it helps
909 us address what is going on in our forests.

910 Governor Inslee, as you know, in Washington State our largest

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911 source of clean renewable reliable affordable energy is
912 hydropower -- 70 percent. The Columbia and Snake River system
913 provide important energy for us.

914 They also provide irrigation to water our crops, making
915 agriculture our number-one industry. Flood control, preventing
916 catastrophic floods that we had in years past. Barging a product
917 up and down the river -- it is really a superhighway with
918 significantly less carbon impact than trucks or trains.

919 So I just had some yes or no questions I wanted to ask you.
920 Do you support removal of the dams?

921 Governor Inslee. I support what we are doing in our state,
922 which we have a task force to help respond to the federal court
923 order to evaluate the potential of that both from the positive
924 and negative consequences, and there are both positive and
925 negative consequences.

926 And I support a way for Washington citizens to have their
927 voices heard so that they can look at the cost to agriculture,
928 of difficulty moving wheat, for instance. They can look for the
929 costs of transportation.

930 But they can also look at the potential positives from the
931 salmon recovery standpoint and, as you know, we are on a federal
932 court order to determine all of these things.

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933 So I support Washington State's citizens being able to have
934 a system which we have developed, as you know, on our task force
935 to be able to address that issue and I will be working with citizens
936 to evaluate all of those things.

937 Mrs. Rodgers. Okay. I have some other questions.

938 Do you acknowledge that fish rates are maintaining even
939 levels or even increasing as was outlined in your own state of
940 the salmon report?

941 Governor Inslee. I am sorry. Did you say fish rates?

942 Mrs. Rodgers. Yes. Fish return rates, up and down the
943 river.

944 Governor Inslee. No, I am not confident that over a long
945 term that we have stability on the Columbia system and the reason
946 I say that is that the system is dependent on things in the salmon
947 life cycle that are not on the system itself.

948 They depend, for instance, on food chains out in the Pacific
949 Ocean and, unfortunately, we are seeing some degradation of those
950 food chains because of climate change, because of increasing
951 temperatures, both in the mainstream and in the ocean, and in
952 different acidification of the ocean.

953 Mrs. Rodgers. Yes or no?

954 Governor Inslee. So the answer is no.

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955 [Laughter.]

956 Mrs. Rodgers. Okay. Thanks. I have another one.

957 Do you agree if the dams are removed Washington's agriculture
958 industry will be negatively impacted?

959 Governor Inslee. It would be if we did not find some other
960 alternative for transportation and that is one of the things that
961 this group is going to be evaluating is to determine whether there
962 are feasible alternatives for transportation and that is
963 something that I think deserves a great scrutiny where everyone's
964 voice is heard to look at those potential alternatives.

965 And there may be potential alternatives in rail and trucking
966 and the like, and I think that that is appropriately investigated
967 in a real sense where we can really get down to it.

968 And here is the reason I say that. I think it is important
969 for people to have a forum to look at this on a scientifically
970 credible way rather than just press releases or bumper stickers.

971 We need people listening to one another and I hope that that
972 will happen.

973 Mrs. Rodgers. Okay. I think I will just go to my last
974 question, which is about your recent travel increases and
975 increased security detail -- expenses to run for president.

976 Do you plan to reimburse the taxpayers of Washington State

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977 for these expenses that you are incurring on nonofficial business
978 and do you plan to offset the carbon emissions associated with
979 that nonofficial travel?

980 Governor Inslee. So we plan to follow the law and plan to
981 follow the current law, and that is what we will be doing.

982 Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you. I yield back.

983 Mr. Tonko. The gentlelady yields back.

984 The chair now recognizes the representative from the state
985 of Delaware, Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, for five
986 minutes.

987 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome
988 back, Governor.

989 I am pleased to be joining this important hearing on state
990 and local action on climate change. While the federal government
991 has chosen to take a back seat on climate change, my state of
992 Delaware doesn't have that luxury.

993 My state has the lowest mean elevation of any state in the
994 nation and my constituents don't need any convincing that this
995 climate crisis is real.

996 It has touched every corner of Delaware with chronic flooding
997 threatening homes in our cities, harsher and harsher storms
998 eroding our beautiful beaches and threatening our natural

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999 heritage, and changing growing seasons threatening the way of
1000 life of our farmers.

1001 Governor, I was pleased to see that my state made it into
1002 your prepared testimony for our low-carbon transportation
1003 initiative. While our state has made great strides in combatting
1004 climate change, as the challenges we face continue to grow in
1005 scope and severity, we know that the solutions must grow in equal
1006 measure.

1007 As governor of a coastal state, can you talk to us about
1008 the unique challenges that climate change poses on coastal
1009 communities and what solutions that you found to be most impactful
1010 during your time as governor.

1011 Governor Inslee. Unfortunately, everyone with a coastline
1012 has this issue. It is a unifying issue, Republicans and
1013 Democrats. If you have got a coastline you are a potential
1014 victim.

1015 And by the way, I want to mention who the first victims of
1016 climate change are. It is most frequently marginalized
1017 communities. It is the front line communities, frequently
1018 communities of color.

1019 It is people living in poverty who are living next to the
1020 freeways, breathing those diesel smoke, living next to polluting

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1021 industries.

1022 And part of our just transition we have to make during this
1023 transition to a cleaner energy source I think has to take that
1024 into account. We need a just transition to a clean energy system,
1025 not just a transition.

1026 So as far as this, this is a unifying thing and I took-as
1027 you know, I co-authored a little book here years ago about this
1028 and I was looking at it the other night, and it had a picture
1029 of the first house in America that was maybe lost.

1030 It was in Shishmaref, Alaska -- of a house that has fallen
1031 into the sea because the tundra was collapsing. That was -- that
1032 was a window into the future. But it is not too far off.

1033 I was in Miami Beach a few months ago with the mayor where
1034 they have had to build up their roads a foot and a half. Now
1035 when you go shopping in Miami Beach you walk down to the shops.
1036 It is kind of an unusual circumstance.

1037 The U.S. Navy is very concerned at Norfolk about damage and
1038 threats of sea level rise to a very important naval base. We
1039 had Andrew Fowler -- excuse me, Admiral Fallon in Seattle talking
1040 about the national security risks of rising sea levels and we
1041 have actually even just -- I just read an island in Hawaii --
1042 a small little uninhabited island has gone under. So it doesn't

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1043 take rocket science to understand this and it is something that
1044 unifies us all.

1045 Ms. Blunt Rochester. You know, Delaware -- we are small,
1046 as everyone knows, so we have an average annual budget of somewhere
1047 around \$4 billion, and when we talk about these issues you even
1048 mentioned those environmental justice communities. These are
1049 like major infrastructure investments that will need to be made.

1050 Could you talk about any low-cost high-impact projects that
1051 you have seen during your tenure?

1052 Governor Inslee. Well, there is a whole slew of them. But
1053 I will give you an example. When you talk about a just transition
1054 issue, we are closing our last remaining coal-fired plant in
1055 Centralia, Washington, and that happened because of a community
1056 consensus, and we embedded into that program about \$65 million
1057 for what you might call a just transition to help workers with
1058 training costs, to help small businesses to develop in their local
1059 communities, to help develop different utility systems to help
1060 people through that transition.

1061 And that was embedded in the program and it was done through
1062 a consensus, and it was important because it recognized that there
1063 are transition costs and difficulties when you do go through a
1064 transition.

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1065 In our bills this year in our state legislature we have
1066 provisions in our 100 percent clean electrical grid bill that
1067 will assure that utilities cushion any impacts with low-income
1068 people through their utility bills in a variety of different
1069 measures.

1070 So these things are working. I know they are working in
1071 other states. And the interesting thing, too -- I would just
1072 get one other point -- the 23 states that are now part of the
1073 U.S. climate alliance, which has been very successful because
1074 no one else has followed Donald Trump off the cliff on this --
1075 they are the ones with the best economic performance. So these
1076 things lead to economic performance. They don't degrade it.

1077 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Governor, I have three seconds left,
1078 and I just want to thank you so much for raising the visibility
1079 of this nationally because it is an issue of our time.

1080 Thank you, and I yield back.

1081 Governor Inslee. Thank you.

1082 Mr. Tonko. Gentlelady yields back.

1083 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from the state of
1084 West Virginia, Representative McKinley, for five minutes.

1085 Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome back,
1086 Governor.

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1087 I remember when you were here on the committee and we had
1088 some exchanges.

1089 Let me just -- curious, I read your testimony and on about
1090 the third or fourth sentence from the end of it or paragraph,
1091 you made an interesting remark.

1092 You said states cannot solve this problem, a magnitude of
1093 this, on their own, and I can't agree with you more. We are going
1094 to need that, not only all the states working together but we
1095 got to have a global approach towards this problem, because states
1096 in and of itself can't.

1097 And I would submit to you that I think states can cause part
1098 of the problem as well. Your own -- you had a report put out
1099 -- it was 122-page greenhouse gas emissions technical report --
1100 that said -- that you all funded in the state of Washington --
1101 that exporting U.S. coal would have the benefit of reducing total
1102 global greenhouse gases.

1103 Let us look at that again. Would have the benefit of
1104 reducing greenhouse gas emissions by exporting. Now, having said
1105 that, your administration -- you have been fighting exporting
1106 coal.

1107 I find a disconnect there. Your own report says that would
1108 help on greenhouse gases. But yet, with all due respect, you put

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1109 up roadblocks to prevent exporting of coal through Washington.

1110 Can you explain how you think that does not negatively impact
1111 the environment by preventing American coal from being burned
1112 overseas rather than low quality Indonesia or Australian or other
1113 coal? Can you give me something, briefly, on that?

1114 Governor Inslee. I think you are referring to a failure
1115 of an applicant for a particular project to obtain the legally
1116 required permits by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

1117 Mr. McKinley. If that is the case, did you -- can you work
1118 with them rather than deny it? Can you work with them so that
1119 they can?

1120 Would you support exporting coal in compliance with your
1121 report that said that would reduce greenhouse gases around the
1122 world? Would you support that?

1123 Governor Inslee. Yeah. I want to make sure that in
1124 answering your question I am answering it not in respect to that
1125 particular applicant. So I am going to give you an answer to
1126 your question.

1127 But it does not have anything to do with that previous cite
1128 that I just referred to because that was a decision by the State
1129 Department of Ecology.

1130 But, in general, here is my thinking about coal and we have

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1131 to realize, I think, a fundamental scientific fact, and it is
1132 difficult to recognize --

1133 Mr. McKinley. With all due respect --

1134 Governor Inslee. You asked me a question --

1135 Mr. McKinley. I heard your testimony when you were here
1136 in committee. I know where your position is anti-coal and I
1137 respect that, where you are coming from.

1138 Governor Inslee. Not enough to let me answer the question,
1139 apparently.

1140 Mr. McKinley. No. I don't need for you to go on a diatribe
1141 about coal. My question is, if it's a global effort that we need
1142 to do, and America is already reducing its CO2 emissions, which
1143 are important for us to do it, but the rest of the world is not
1144 engaging, I want the record, everyone, to understand that we may
1145 very well be able to decarbonize perhaps in America and upset
1146 our economy.

1147 But if the rest of the world doesn't do something about its
1148 emissions, particularly in China and India, we are still going
1149 to have droughts, wildfires, severe weather alerts. We are still
1150 going to have coastal increase problems with water increasing
1151 -- the oceans increasing with it.

1152 My concern is why aren't we working on a global stand rather

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1153 than individually trying to put up roadblocks, as you are, in
1154 the state of Washington?

1155 The Paris Accord did not have the teeth, and you and I both
1156 know that -- it did not have the teeth. The nations were not
1157 complying with the Paris Accord.

1158 Therefore, that is one of the reasons I read the -- led the
1159 letter to encourage the president to withdraw until we can put
1160 some teeth into that Paris Accord that makes people comply with
1161 that standard and lower the standard.

1162 But what you have done is actually put impediments in
1163 Washington to prevent that from happening.

1164 Governor Inslee. Sir, if you will allow me to answer I will
1165 try to answer those three questions.

1166 Number one, we should work with other countries, just like
1167 our states are working with one another. Our states are a
1168 template for success. We now have 23 states that are committed
1169 to moving forward, and all of those states in their own individual
1170 way are making progress.

1171 We have ought to have the same degree of cooperative spirit
1172 with other nations. But that has not happened because the
1173 president of the United States decided to try to withdraw us from
1174 the Paris Agreement.

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1175 As you know, he can't legally until the next year, and it
1176 is hardly helpful when the vast, vast, vast, majority of humanity
1177 is recognizing this existential threat to their life on this
1178 planet and then have the leader of the free world tear it up and
1179 walk away in a petulant juvenile fit.

1180 That is not helpful in developing international cooperation.
1181 That is number one. Let me finish, because you asked me three
1182 questions.

1183 Number two, coal is just a scientific fact that is very
1184 difficult that we have to realize, that if we burn all of the
1185 coal that we have we will not have something, anything that looks
1186 like the way we live today.

1187 Now, that is just a scientific fact. So to some degree,
1188 we have to manage a transition to a cleaner energy economy over
1189 the next several decades and I think we all ought to work together
1190 to figure out how to do that to manage that transition to help
1191 the communities that are part of that transition.

1192 And I may reference to the Centralia plant as a way that
1193 we have done that. And three, we ought to be all working together
1194 to develop alternatives to coal, which we are doing, and these
1195 23 states are showing success.

1196 So I approach this with optimism and confidence because we

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1197 are the most can do people in the history of the planet, and I
1198 believe we can do -- we can get that job done.

1199 Mr. McKinley. Thank you. I guess I have run out of time.

1200 I guess what I would conclude, you said you would not put
1201 a roadblock up to exporting coal. Washington filled the
1202 application outright -- is that what I am hearing you saying?

1203 Governor Inslee. I am saying that we follow the law in the
1204 state of Washington and the law in the state of Washington as
1205 developed through the permitting process that one of these
1206 particular plants, according to the Washington State Department
1207 of Ecology did not satisfy the laws of the state of Washington.
1208 That is what I am saying.

1209 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1210 The chair now recognizes Mr. Pallone, full committee chair,
1211 for five minutes to ask questions.

1212 The Chairman. Thank you, Chairman Tonko, and again, welcome
1213 back, Governor Inslee.

1214 At our last subcommittee hearing, we had a productive
1215 discussion about subnational actors like city, states, and
1216 companies stepping up to the plate after President Trump rashly
1217 announced the U.S. would abandon the Paris Agreement.

1218 And you have been very active in that regard not only in

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1219 your role as governor but also as co-founder of the U.S. Climate
1220 Alliance, which has been very successful over the last few years
1221 in expanding bipartisan membership and forging a path to
1222 effectively address climate change.

1223 But in your testimony you say, and I quote, "The truth remains
1224 that without leadership from our federal government the country
1225 won't be able to do enough fast enough," unquote.

1226 So I just wanted you to expand on that point. Why is the
1227 federal leadership still needed and are there tools available
1228 to the federal government that states don't have at their
1229 disposal?

1230 Governor Inslee. Well, the first reason is that today we
1231 have 23 states and, by the way, those include three governors
1232 who have joined this -- three Republican governors who are part
1233 of that alliance.

1234 But and that represents the majority of the American people,
1235 I believe, and about 60 percent of the U.S. economy, and I believe
1236 if it was a separate nation it would be the third largest economy
1237 in the world -- these 23 states.

1238 So this is what you might call a big deal. But it is not
1239 all of the United States and it is important that we all work
1240 together and it is important that industries have consistency

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1241 as much as we can for policies.

1242 We would all like to have the most consistent policies that
1243 we can for investment policy decisions. So having consistency
1244 would be useful in addition to having the entire United States
1245 economy associated with that.

1246 In addition, the federal government just has the resources
1247 that the states do not have, particularly in the research and
1248 development, which is extremely important. We have seen what
1249 R&D can do when we defeated fascism federally.

1250 We see what R&D can do when we went to the moon nationally
1251 and we ought to be able to achieve the same levels of federal
1252 R&D to really make this happen.

1253 Now, it also is an issue of, for instance, transportation
1254 infrastructure. The federal government can be very -- a driving
1255 force in that regard that can really, really help in
1256 infrastructure.

1257 The federal government can help in the procurement policy
1258 so that when we buy products we can help drive a clean green
1259 procurement system that can be very useful. Secretary Mabus of
1260 the Navy started that and it really helped when he had the Green
1261 Fleets program to drive the development of biofuels and the like.

1262 So there is so many multiple tools that the federal

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1263 government has that could assist the states in moving forward.

1264 I mean, we are making big progress when you see what is happening.

1265 But we need a federal partner and I hope people will work
1266 together to get that done.

1267 The Chairman. Well, I appreciate that, and let me get to
1268 the last point you made. While not a substitute for federal
1269 leadership, I do believe that renewed congressional action on
1270 climate change is a step in the right direction and I am interested
1271 in moving legislation to support state and local government
1272 efforts to respond and prepare for the effects of climate change.

1273 The mayors on the second panel are going to suggest, among
1274 other things, that Congress should reauthorized the Energy
1275 Efficiency Community Block Grant.

1276 So what policies or initiatives should Congress consider
1277 enacting to support and further expand what your state and other
1278 states and local climate -- on the front of climate action and,
1279 you know, what policies or initiatives should Congress prioritize
1280 in that regard to help the states and the towns?

1281 Governor Inslee. The first priority would be to remove the
1282 shackles that prevent us from moving forward in states, and there
1283 are some that prevent us, for instance, in transportation fuels.

1284

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1285 Federal policies have prevented us from moving forward with
1286 some of our CAFE standards and the like. So the first order of
1287 business was take off the weights that we carry of the federal
1288 restrictions, particularly the ones that have come from this
1289 administration.

1290 A second, and this is -- look, I just think the best thing
1291 the federal government can do is to adopt federally what our states
1292 are doing from a state perspective, and it doesn't really require
1293 to mandate or even assist states. It is just to get the federal
1294 government in the same business with the same templates of success
1295 and I believe the states are a template of success.

1296 Look, you know, I am criticized by parties, criticized
1297 frequently of saying that your policies will somehow be
1298 destructive of economic growth.

1299 I hear the president saying we won't have planes or trains
1300 or cars and that is just not the case when we are driving electric
1301 cars. The governor has a little electric car that works.

1302 We have been accused of doing things that will retard
1303 economic progress. But the facts just don't bear that out.
1304 Look, my state is the most rapidly growing economy in the country
1305 and when you look at the 23 states that are doing things on clean
1306 energy, by and large they are the ones that have the greatest

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1307 rate of economic growth.

1308 So I just suggest the most important thing to do is for the
1309 federal government to be as confident and optimistic as the states
1310 are right now in our capability to build a clean energy economy.

1311 If we infect the U.S. Congress with the confidence we have
1312 and Massachusetts, with a Republican governor, and Maryland with
1313 a Republican governor and Vermont with a Republican governor and
1314 Vermont with a Republican governor good things are going to
1315 happen, and that is why I am here today and I wish some of my
1316 colleagues were here. I understand others were invited but I
1317 am the one who had the most friends here, so I came.

1318 The Chairman. Well, thank you, Governor. Thank you for
1319 what your state is doing and for the U.S. climate action. We
1320 appreciate it. Thank you.

1321 Governor Inslee. Thank you.

1322 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1323 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from the state of
1324 Georgia, Representative Carter, for five minutes.

1325 Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1326 Governor, thank you for being here. This is an extremely
1327 important subject and we appreciate your participation.

1328 Climate change is real. Climate has been changing since

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1329 day one. Protecting our environment is real. We all recognize
1330 that.

1331 I noticed in your seven pages of testimony that you mentioned
1332 a number of renewable energies such as wind, solar, and hydro,
1333 but you didn't mention nuclear.

1334 I am just wondering, it would appear to me that we are going
1335 to have to use a number of different resources in order to --
1336 in order to get to the common goal that we want to get to but
1337 -- and certainly carbon capture and nuclear power are going to
1338 be a part of that.

1339 I am just wondering why did you omit nuclear power in your
1340 testimony?

1341 Governor Inslee. I didn't know because I didn't write it.
1342 So I will have to ask my staff the answer to that question.

1343 Mr. Carter. Okay. Fair enough.

1344 Governor Inslee. But I have been very forthright in saying
1345 that we need to have under consideration any low-carbon or
1346 zero-carbon technology and I think we have to be non-ecumenical
1347 about this and I have been in my policies.

1348 I will give you an example. In my state -- Representative
1349 Rodgers brought up hydroelectric. We now are classifying
1350 hydroelectric in our clean energy 100 percent grid, which has

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1351 been a concern of some folks.

1352 I have been supportive of research and development in the
1353 nuclear industry. There are some modular nuclear systems that
1354 might be productive if -- now, this is a big if -- we got to make
1355 sure we understand this. We need to make sure that they are cost
1356 effective and they are not to date.

1357 As you know, the cost is what has been the biggest problem
1358 in the nuclear industry, that they are safer, that they have a
1359 waste disposal problem, and they have public acceptance.

1360 So my view is it makes sense to find out if any of those
1361 things can be solved. They would have to be solved before nuclear
1362 would become a meaningful component of an energy future, going
1363 forward.

1364 But I think it makes sense to look to find out if they can
1365 be. I have had a couple questions from this side of the panel
1366 about nuclear. The one comment I would make is I think it is
1367 really important for all of us to be non-selective amongst
1368 multiple low- and zero-carbon solutions here.

1369 I think that it important because some of them are going
1370 to pan out and some of them aren't, and I am for having a broadest
1371 view of all possible measures.

1372 Mr. Carter. Okay. To follow up on that comment, let me

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1373 ask you this then. Do you think it is the states' -- the states'
1374 role to mandate to power companies how they are going to lower
1375 their emissions or would you agree that it would -- it would really
1376 be advantageous to allow the power companies to come up with their
1377 own plans because what may work in Washington State may not
1378 necessarily work in the state of Georgia.

1379 I can tell you that in Georgia, Southern Company has done
1380 a good job of decreasing their emissions and has made a lot of
1381 progress and yet the state hasn't mandated to them what types
1382 of decreases they should make.

1383 Governor Inslee. You know, it is -- that is an interesting
1384 question and I will give you two contradictory answers. One of
1385 this is yes, we are always looking for the most cost-effective
1386 clean energy source to get the job done from a cost-effectiveness
1387 standpoint.

1388 But there is an argument for policies that will help specific
1389 industries move forward, and I will tell you why. For instance,
1390 in a renewable portfolio standard if you just have a standard
1391 for multiple technologies the only one that gets developed is
1392 the next most cost-effective one even though you know you have
1393 got plans B, C, and D that you are going to have to develop to
1394 get the job done.

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1395 So I think there are some circumstances where policies that
1396 are specific to particular technologies make sense because if
1397 you know you are going to have to have four different tools you
1398 need to find a way --

1399 Mr. Carter. Okay.

1400 Governor Inslee. -- to make sure all those tools are
1401 developed.

1402 Mr. Carter. Right. We may have some minor differences on
1403 that. But nevertheless, I do want to get to this before my time
1404 runs out and that is, obviously, Washington State is a big forestry
1405 state.

1406 Georgia is the number-one forestry state in the nation, by
1407 the way, and I noticed, again, you didn't mention and I am just
1408 wondering if you might speak to that because biomass is certainly
1409 something that is American made, if you will. It is something
1410 that we can -- we can actually do here.

1411 Governor Inslee. Yes. I think that sequestration of
1412 carbon in biological systems is something we should explore and
1413 we ought to see if there is a way even to create a revenue stream
1414 for people in the timber industry and the agriculture industry
1415 to sequester carbon in topsoil, and the reason that that makes
1416 sense is not only can it help sequestration of carbon in topsoil

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1417 but it also, when you do those things, you prevent erosion in
1418 a lot of the low and no-till technologies. These things make
1419 sense.

1420 The same thing to be said in the timber industry. The
1421 difficulty we have had is that some of the folks who are interested
1422 in these industries have been the most resistant to actually doing
1423 things that would allow us to create that kind of program.

1424 So it will be helpful when folks -- and we have some leaders
1425 in our timber industry who are interested in developing policies
1426 to actually allow that to happen. It will help when we have more
1427 folks in the ag industries want to develop policies to create
1428 a revenue stream possibly for sequestration of carbon in topsoil.

1429
1430 I really look forward to that day and I look forward to the
1431 day when this is a more bipartisan effort.

1432 Mr. Carter. Well, and I recognize my time has expired.
1433 Let me say that I think this is going to be tremendous opportunity
1434 for us. Working together and as innovative as we are in America,
1435 I look forward to this because I think there is just so much
1436 innovation out there that can be accomplished and I look forward
1437 to working toward it.

1438 Governor Inslee. Yeah, let me -- if the chair will allow

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1439 me to just comment on this. I think this is an important point.

1440 I want to -- I agree with you with this caveat and I will just
1441 tell you about a conversation I had with the second President
1442 Bush.

1443 It was the first time I talked to him, and we were talking
1444 about the potential of sequestering carbon from coal plants and
1445 he said he was very excited about clean coal technology of maybe
1446 being able to sequester and put coal in the ground.

1447 And but what I pointed out to him is that that would involve
1448 additional costs and no one is going to do it unless there is
1449 some system to create a reason to do it and an ambition to do
1450 it and an incentive to do it.

1451 And so the only reason to actually do it, even if the
1452 technology worked, is if you had some limitation on pollution
1453 or some other market mechanism to drive incentives.

1454 And it is this same for sequestration in topsoil or in the
1455 timber. So we have to have some mechanism to reduce -- to create
1456 an incentive not to put carbon in the atmosphere in the first
1457 place for any of these programs to work and that is where we need
1458 some more bipartisan help in this regard.

1459 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1460 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from the state of

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1461 Florida, Representative Soto, for five minutes.

1462 Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Governor Inslee,
1463 welcome back. Obviously, you are getting varied welcomes here
1464 but I hope that you are enjoying your time here.

1465 As you may know, eight of the last 10 years have been the
1466 hottest years on record and we have had 1.4 percent increase in
1467 temperature Fahrenheit wise since the 1880s. We are scheduled,
1468 if nothing is done, for that to go even higher.

1469 Three inches in sea rise since 1993, and the idea of global
1470 warming, I think, can be misleading in that it is not just that
1471 the world is getting warmer but we can see more extreme weather,
1472 whether it is hotter summers or colder winters.

1473 In my own home state of Florida, we have to deal with sea
1474 barriers and new water treatment plants and sewer systems and
1475 we are very vulnerable to that. But Washington also faces kind
1476 of a double threat. Isn't that correct?

1477 Like both colder winters and coastal threats from rising
1478 seas. I think Mount Rainier even got snowed in for a while this
1479 year, if I remember correctly, because the jet stream is no longer
1480 maintaining a lot of that Arctic air just in the north.

1481 So what are some of the effects you are seeing as far as
1482 increasing cold temperatures and then what your state is doing

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1483 to combat these coastal threats?

1484 Governor Inslee. Well, I think what you point out is
1485 something -- this originally was called global warming and it
1486 has turned out to be global warming because it is disrupting all
1487 kinds of patterns, and it is so strange because you get it on
1488 both ends. You get drought.

1489 I have just -- may declare a drought emergency -- and
1490 increasing droughts in one season whereas you have increasing
1491 precipitation flooding events in a different season. So we have
1492 had fires in the summer.

1493 Last year one day in Seattle was the worst air quality in
1494 the world because of the particulates from the fires that were
1495 raging and our fires in the Cascade Mountains and in British
1496 Columbia were on fire and we had, you know, weeks of smoke.

1497 We had to close some of our swimming pools in the state of
1498 Washington because of air quality hazards to our kids.

1499 You have infectious disease problems where insects are
1500 moving forward. We are now getting tick infestations, which are
1501 spreading diseases, moving forward fairly rapidly.

1502 Our sea level rise is now affecting some of our coastal
1503 communities. We are actually having to move some of the
1504 infrastructure in that regard.

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1505 And here is one that I don't think gets enough discussion
1506 here and that is the acidification of the water in my state.
1507 So the pH level is dropping rapidly. It is about 30 percent more
1508 acidic than it was before we started to burn fossil fuels.

1509 That has prevented us from growing baby oysters because they
1510 can't precipitate calcium carbonate out of the water. We now
1511 have to grow the baby oysters in tanks where you put, like, soda
1512 to increase the pH.

1513 So this is having so many untoward effects. It is not from
1514 one direction. It is from many directions and as from governor,
1515 look, this is a first hand deal with me. You know, when you go
1516 into Wenatchee, Washington and you see a couple crying in front
1517 of their house that was torched and a man holding his wife and,
1518 you know, and is, like, collapsing, climate change is not an
1519 abstraction to governors.

1520 We see it when we go to these emergencies. And so you are
1521 correct, there is a lot of reasons to do this work. But I always
1522 end on a positive note, which is the angst I feel about these
1523 multiple emergencies I am having to declare I have the opposite
1524 spectrum when I see my friends' kids going to work in clean energy.

1525 Mr. Soto. And I wanted to talk a little bit about that.
1526 You all have been a tech leader in so many ways in Washington.

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1527 But \$6 billion in renewable investment, a \$125 million clean
1528 energy fund you mentioned -- how has renewable energy -- the new
1529 renewable energy economy changed your GDP and can you talk a little
1530 bit about that technology boom that you all have?

1531 Governor Inslee. You know, I will try to get you a number.
1532 I actually don't have a number on GDP. But all I can tell you
1533 is it is significant because every county I go to has some sort
1534 of sense because we have been very broad minded in our policies.

1535 The gentleman from Georgia asked the question about
1536 sequestration. So biomass by law is carbon neutral in our
1537 statute. We have actually declared biomass to be carbon neutral
1538 so that we can get an advantage to help the ag industry and the
1539 timber industry using biomass.

1540 And right now, we are developing a cross-laminated timber
1541 industry that can be of assistance to the timber industry using
1542 some of the that waste product coming out of the timber potentially
1543 as a fuel source as well.

1544 So the fact that we have been eclectic and nonjudgmental,
1545 looking at all spectrum of jobs has been very effective for us
1546 and I hope the federal policy will follow.

1547 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1548 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina,

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1549 Representative Duncan, for five minutes.

1550 Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield to the
1551 gentleman from Illinois as much time as he may need.

1552 Mr. Shimkus. I thank my colleague and, Governor, again,
1553 welcome and I do relish our friendship and the work we have done
1554 together and the battles we have had.

1555 I just wanted to make sure I had time to -- because of other
1556 aspirations that you have just put some facts on the table.
1557 President Bush got more votes in Nevada in 2004 than in 2000 after
1558 he approved the site selection.

1559 President Obama got fewer votes in Nevada in 2012 than in
1560 2008 after he helped delay the licensing project. Nine of the
1561 16 counties -- I go to Nevada quite a bit -- nine of the 16 counties
1562 have passed resolutions in support of at least adjudicating the
1563 scientific study.

1564 As you know, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was tasked
1565 under law to evaluate the site and after litigation they were
1566 finally allowed to release the report which said if used as
1567 designed Yucca Mountain would be safe for a million years.

1568 So where we are at in the process now is just providing the
1569 money to allow the state of Nevada to contest that science and
1570 that is what has been blocked through the last two years of the

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1571 Obama administration and then we faltered because of politics.
1572 You know, last cycle it was Dean Heller and now it is -- we don't
1573 know.

1574 The point being is that this appropriation debate is just
1575 to debate the science, which, you know, this whole things and
1576 you stand firm on, you know, let us look at the science.

1577 So I would just hope if things go well for you in the future
1578 that we would have the same standard of evaluating and using
1579 science to determine the safety so we can at least address this
1580 defense issue and the spent fuel issue, and you know it is
1581 something I have been working on for -- many times.

1582 Let me go to -- and actually I just wanted to throw that
1583 out there -- let me mention some of the issues about -- and we
1584 are going to have a panel of mayors in the next panel and some
1585 are going to be all on board and we have got two that will probably
1586 be sceptical of your testimony.

1587 But let me get -- I got a letter from Mayor William Wescott
1588 of the city of Rock Falls, Illinois. The city owns and operates
1589 its own electric utility and it participates in the Illinois
1590 Municipal Electric Agency, a collection of nonprofit public power
1591 municipalities within the state.

1592 Mayor Wescott outlines the clean energy investments the city

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1593 has made but he also talks about the critical investments in
1594 baseload in the state-of-the-art coal-fired generation
1595 facilities, a 1.6 gigawatt Prairie State Energy campus, and this
1596 is where he -- this is his warning to policy makers.

1597 He warns that if federal and state policies that force
1598 premature closure of the coal-fired units his city would still
1599 have the purchase energy, but then he would also be burdened to
1600 make payments on the closed facility.

1601 So it is like a double whammy for some -- for a local
1602 municipality and a government agency to say, we are going to
1603 address our electricity generation needs by the elected people
1604 that they are designed to represent.

1605 Should policies be designed to ensure cities and ratepayers
1606 are not burdened with this stranded cost and what would be a
1607 solution?

1608 Governor Inslee. Well, it is a broad question but I think
1609 the solutions to these matters are, again, doing the kind of thing
1610 that we did in Centralia, which is to come up with a
1611 consensus-based approach to have a transition period that
1612 everyone can live with, and I think that process could be a
1613 template for other communities to be successful and we have been
1614 successful in that regard.

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1615 The policies that we have adopted in Washington State I
1616 really don't think there is an argument it has had any meaningful
1617 disruption to any communities or any utility or any ratepayer.

1618

1619 We passed a renewable portfolio standard provision maybe
1620 a decade-plus ago. We had zero wind turbines or any significant
1621 wind turbines. We now have six --

1622 Mr. Shimkus. But you have all that hydroelectric that was
1623 credited as renewable, correct?

1624 Governor Inslee. Well, actually it wasn't. So the hydro
1625 at that time was not, quote, credited as a renewable because --

1626 Mr. Shimkus. Is it now?

1627 Governor Inslee. It's going to be under the new 100 percent
1628 system. My point is is that during that debate -- I was active
1629 in it -- it was an initiative to the people and there was a lot
1630 of concern expressed by utilities and some industrial customers
1631 that this is just going to drive rates through the roof and this
1632 was technologically not possible.

1633 We now have 3,000 megawatts. They are growing rapidly.
1634 We have \$6 billion of investment. The proof has been that we
1635 are much more adept at creating substitutes for some of the fossil
1636 fuel industry than we have thought, and I will mention one other

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1637 thing, too, and I think this is important.

1638 When we listen to people about these issues, I think it is
1639 really important to listen to some of the new players in clean
1640 energy rather than the incumbent utilities that are huge and have
1641 representatives here, and those new players are pretty inspiring.

1642

1643 A&D Electrical Supply in Greenville in Illinios, Cooper
1644 Eaton in Troy, who are installing solar, Lake Land College in
1645 Mattoon, Paradise Energy Solutions in Sullivan -- these are small
1646 companies to start with. They don't have a lot of representatives
1647 here. But I think their voice is worth listening to because --

1648 Mr. Shimkus. They have one.

1649 Governor Inslee. Huh?

1650 Mr. Shimkus. They have one representative here.

1651 Governor Inslee. All right.

1652 Mr. Shimkus. That is me.

1653 [Laughter.]

1654 Governor Inslee. Good. All right. I will agree to that.

1655 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1656 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from California,
1657 Representative McNerney, for five minutes.

1658 Mr. McNerney. I thank the chair.

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1659 Welcome back, Governor. I hope you have noticed that there
1660 has been a change in the committee since you left and that there
1661 is a general consensus that CO2 emissions are a problem.

1662 Like you, Governor, I am bullish about the economic
1663 opportunity that comes with the transition to clean energy. I
1664 worked in the wind industry for 20-plus years. I saw the job
1665 creation but I also saw American-developed technology and jobs
1666 go overseas because of inconsistent federal policies.

1667 Could you comment on the importance of consistent and
1668 predictable federal policies?

1669 Governor Inslee. Yes. I think there are some of
1670 importance. One of the things that perhaps would be most useful
1671 is allow integration of our grid system, also responding to our
1672 cybersecurity concerns about the grid, which we know you are --
1673 we are all attentive to.

1674 But finding ways to make the grid more effective to allow
1675 renewable energy to be -- to be wield, if you will, and move more
1676 efficiently and effectively. That could be of assistance.

1677 A second -- the thing I mentioned before, to remove the
1678 restrictions on states that are now preventing us from moving
1679 forward on transportation fuels improvements, we are ready to
1680 -- we are in the gate, ready to go, if the federal government

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1681 will just remove those requirements.

1682 Mr. McNerney. Well, what I am talking about is consistency.

1683 I mean, American-developed technology went overseas because
1684 American subsidies ended and it looked more appealing to Germans
1685 and Spanish and so that is where the technology went.

1686 Governor Inslee. It is a heartbreak to see some
1687 technologies that -- in the lab were created in our labs be
1688 deployed in China and Germany because they have had policies to
1689 make them economically competitive in their grid and
1690 transportation systems.

1691 And I just -- I just don't like to see our technology
1692 developed in our universities that then other people get jobs
1693 for and that has happened big time because we have withdrawn
1694 support significantly and is happening because this
1695 administration has really been an ostrich with its head in the
1696 sand and its tail feathers in the air on this issue.

1697 Because they are withdrawing policies today that will help
1698 development of clean energy and utilities, because they are
1699 withdrawing policies today in transportation, some of those jobs
1700 are going overseas.

1701 We want our kids having those jobs and I hope that we resolve
1702 this issue.

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1703 Mr. McNerney. Thanks. Unfortunately, I am not bullish
1704 about our ability to present the growing impacts of climate
1705 change. I personally believe we are going to blow past the
1706 two-degree increase in global temperatures no matter what we do
1707 in this country to reduce emissions.

1708 What should we do to enhance cooperation with countries
1709 overseas so that it is not just us reducing emissions?

1710 Governor Inslee. Well, the first thing is get it back in
1711 the Paris Agreement, which is the first commitment and I think
1712 that is important.

1713 Look, we are the leader of the world. We are an
1714 indispensable nation because of the power of our economy and we
1715 need them to keep -- you know, it is kind of interesting to me.

1716
1717 I hear a lot of people who are critical of saying we shouldn't
1718 do something until the last person on Earth does something, and
1719 then they turn around and say we shouldn't be in the Paris
1720 Agreement.

1721 It is not very inspiring to the rest of the world to encourage
1722 them to do things if we tear up an international agreement that
1723 we are a part of. If you want folks to do work in the rest of
1724 the world, the last thing we should be doing is abandoning an

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1725 agreement that we have had with the rest of the world.

1726 You can't say you want the rest of the world to act and then
1727 turn around and say you are not part of the Paris Agreement.
1728 That is not going to inspire representatives in India or China
1729 or Germany who are sitting in the seats that you guys are sitting
1730 in to take action.

1731 We want to inspire those people to take action. In some
1732 sense, we want to demand those people to take action. So yes,
1733 we should become part of the international community. The
1734 country that did the Marshall Plan and went to the moon I think
1735 ought to take that position.

1736 Mr. McNerney. Governor, clearly, we need to reduce CO2
1737 emissions but I would like to ask your opinion on climate
1738 intervention. Specifically, do you support research on climate
1739 intervention including sunlight reflection aerosols?

1740 Governor Inslee. Well, I am one that believes that the use
1741 of aerosols, the use of solar screens, if it is in the lab it
1742 shouldn't go beyond the lab until we have about a hundred years
1743 more understanding of how systems work.

1744 I am very, very anxious to think that we could intrude in
1745 these basic systems without understanding what we are doing.

1746 The consequences are things we have no idea about and I would

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1747 suggest that while our house is on fire it is more important to
1748 grab buckets right now and put the water out than design something
1749 that, you know, would prevent the -- a match from being allowed
1750 in town.

1751 So I really believe that we got to focus on preventing carbon
1752 emissions in the first place. That is the battle we are in right
1753 now and I encourage us to stay in it.

1754 Mr. McNerney. So what do you think the biggest single threat
1755 from climate change is?

1756 Governor Inslee. Well, he is -- the man whose name I will
1757 not utter here.

1758 Mr. McNerney. No, a physical threat.

1759 Governor Inslee. He is a physical threat, actually. But
1760 --

1761 [Laughter.]

1762 Mr. McNerney. Do you think it is a disease or ocean
1763 acidification or West Antarctic ice sheet? What do you think
1764 is the worst -- the biggest threat?

1765 Governor Inslee. I could not choose the disaster scenarios
1766 amongst them because it is difficult for me to know what is --
1767 what tragedy has been worse since I have been governor the forest
1768 fires are the ones where I have, you know, comforted families

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1769 that have lost people in forest fires. But we have had other
1770 measures as well that may be just as bad.

1771 Talking to -- I remember talking to a 14-year-old young woman
1772 and lived next to a freeway in Seattle. She told me that she
1773 was 11 years old before she knew someone that didn't have asthma.
1774 She thought everybody had asthma because they are all breathing
1775 that diesel smoke and toxic fumes.

1776 And it was interesting. She went out and did her own sort
1777 of research and she found every quarter mile you live closer to
1778 a freeway your asthma rates go up significantly.

1779 And when I tested that with the epidemiologists at the
1780 University of Washington, her research was exactly the same as
1781 theirs. The thought that our kids are having trouble breathing
1782 might be the biggest one, and this is something that young people
1783 understand and it is really close to their hearts.

1784 I was at Dartmouth a couple months ago and talked to a young
1785 woman who said that she had been involved in two conversations
1786 that week with young women who were asking themselves whether
1787 it was right to bring a child into the world that could potentially
1788 be so degraded.

1789 Now, the fact that that has reached that level of personal
1790 decision making would suggest that we need the Congress to move.

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1791 Mr. McNerney. Thank you.

1792 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1793 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri,

1794 Representative Long, for five minutes.

1795 Mr. Long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And talking about
1796 raising children in that type of environment I was in China a
1797 few years ago and one of the young ladies that works at the American
1798 embassy in Beijing there -- you with me?

1799 Governor Inslee. Yes, I am sorry.

1800 Mr. Long. What was I asking you?

1801 [Laughter.]

1802 Governor Inslee. Well, I thought you were in Beijing and
1803 you were talking to a person there.

1804 Mr. Long. A young lady.

1805 Governor Inslee. Yes.

1806 Mr. Long. Been there four years and had two children since
1807 she had been working at our American embassy in Beijing. And
1808 I asked her -- I said, why would you have children in this
1809 environment. I am sure you have travelled to Beijing many times.

1810

1811 You cannot see across the street and everyone, I think, has
1812 come around to the idea that climate change is real and we do

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1813 need to do what we can to protect the environment and protect
1814 two young kids like hers there in Beijing, not to mention all
1815 the people in China that are raising their children with that
1816 kind of an environment where you literally can't see across the
1817 street.

1818 Did you say you drive a electric car?

1819 Governor Inslee. Yes, mostly the state patrol drives. But
1820 on occasion, I sneak in a little trip. It is a GM Bolt.

1821 Mr. Long. But you say ride in a GM Colt?

1822 Governor Inslee. Bolt. B as in boy, yes.

1823 Mr. Long. Bolt. Is that 100 percent electric?

1824 Governor Inslee. Yes. Yes.

1825 Mr. Long. Okay. What is your range on that?

1826 Governor Inslee. It is 238 miles and I know that because
1827 we just upgraded. My last one was 160 and so now it is 238.

1828 Mr. Long. All right. Well, I use 300 miles so my math is
1829 going to be off. But if my governor, Mike Parson, in Jefferson
1830 City, Missouri, wanted to come see you in Olympia, it would take
1831 -- at 300 miles it would take seven -- I am assuming you have
1832 to charge it overnight but it would take about seven days to come
1833 see you in Olympia, and if I drove a gasoline engine it would
1834 take one day and five hours.

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1835 So while we have to address this, still we have to keep
1836 practical things in mind, in my opinion, and driving a vehicle
1837 from Jefferson City, Missouri, to Olympia, Washington over a
1838 period of seven days, I understand why you flew here today and,
1839 as you said, most of us flew here.

1840 You testified that you would support the will of the people
1841 with regard to the removal of hydroelectric dams. Is that
1842 correct?

1843 Governor Inslee. What I said is we are developing that.
1844 What we are doing is we are under a federal court order to review
1845 the usage of the Snake River dams and as part of that process
1846 we have just started a task force at my request, which is going
1847 to have citizens from across the state evaluate the pros and cons
1848 of potential removal and breaching of the dams, and that is a
1849 process that is just in its infancy and this is in response to
1850 a federal court order to evaluate that.

1851 We have made some changes in the operations of the dams
1852 already to try to increase fish flows so more water is coming
1853 down so that the salmon have more survival. As you know, we have
1854 some endangered species in that river system and we are trying
1855 to recover our orcas as well that are very much endangered.

1856 Mr. Long. But you would support the will of the people in

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1857 regard to that if they want to remove hydroelectric dams, correct?

1858 Governor Inslee. I would --

1859 Mr. Long. I thought that is what your -- I thought you were

1860 --

1861 Governor Inslee. I am sorry?

1862 Mr. Long. I thought that is what you testified to earlier

1863 here.

1864 Governor Inslee. Well, we are not -- there is no initiative

1865 where the will of the people are going to have any up or down

1866 vote. The will of the people will be expressed through our

1867 democratic process legislatively.

1868 Mr. Long. If they did have an up or down vote on an issue

1869 would you support the will of the people?

1870 Governor Inslee. Well, if it is the law of the state of

1871 Washington of course I would respect the law of the state of

1872 Washington. But there is another entity involved and that is

1873 the federal courts, and the federal courts now have ruled that

1874 we have an obligation to investigate the potential removal of

1875 the dams.

1876 That is a judicial decision and we are bound by that judicial

1877 decision. We are also under a judicial decision to improve our

1878 culverts. We have culverts that block fish passage.

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1879 Mr. Long. Okay. Let me -- I am running short on time.
1880 Let me get in another question here about of concern to me in
1881 my homes state of Missouri and that is keeping transportation
1882 costs low is crucial for both my constituents and industries like
1883 trucking and agriculture, which we have a lot of in the state
1884 of Missouri, and they are very prevalent in my district.

1885 Washington State has the highest gas prices behind only
1886 California and Hawaii. Missouri, on the other hand, is always
1887 in the top ten, usually lower than that. On gas prices for premium
1888 gas and diesel it is the cheapest in the country. How do the
1889 policies that you advocate for keep transportation costs low for
1890 rural districts like my own?

1891 Governor Inslee. Well, when you drive an electric car your
1892 transportation fuel is about 80 percent cheaper than when you
1893 are driving a gasoline-powered car. It is a sweet deal.

1894 The price of gasoline when I drive my car is zero because
1895 I don't use any gasoline and that is a pretty sweet deal and it
1896 is a sweet ride. And you were -- you were --

1897 Mr. Long. Seven days to get to Olympia is a stretch, too.
1898 So I thank the -- I yield back.

1899 Governor Inslee. We'll welcome you to land at Sea-Tac
1900 Airport.

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1901 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

1902 The chair now recognizes the representative of the state
1903 of New York -- the gentlewoman from the state of New York,
1904 Representative Clarke, for five minutes.

1905 Ms. Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank our ranking
1906 member. It is so good to see you back here, Governor, and I am
1907 really excited about your passion around this issue.

1908 I want to thank Governor Inslee for testifying before us
1909 today. Your leadership on climate change has inspired other
1910 states to step up to the plate and it is time for the Congress
1911 to do the same.

1912 I happen to co-chair with Mrs. Brooks of Indiana the Smart
1913 Cities, Smart Communities Caucus where I believe that there is
1914 a sweet spot, if you will, on the confluence of renewable sources,
1915 technology, as part of a sustainable 21st century energy delivery
1916 infrastructure.

1917 Have you given any thought to as we are going through our
1918 conversations about infrastructure -- we talk about the grid
1919 oftentimes.

1920 We have oftentimes heard of smart grids. There is so much
1921 that technology avails us of today, whether it is sensors that
1922 give us an indication of high CO2 in certain congested areas,

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1923 there is a whole host of things and when you are talking about
1924 different renewable sources how we can look at sort of the
1925 development of ways in which we can maximize on that through our
1926 electric grid and through smart technology.

1927 Have you given any thought to that? Have you had any
1928 conversations around that?

1929 Governor Inslee. You bet, and our -- one of the things we
1930 are really proud of is the development of systems that can manage
1931 the grid much more effectively to integrate renewable energy and
1932 use storage capacity together.

1933 So I mentioned the Clean Energy Development Fund that we
1934 had. One of the companies that is coming out of this is now
1935 developing software to help manage the integration of electric
1936 batteries with the grid and that is moving forward very, very
1937 rapidly.

1938 Spokane, Washington, has a system of trying to have an
1939 integrated system and that is becoming more and more important
1940 because we also are developing better battery technology, and
1941 this is kind of the Holy Grail, actually, of renewable energy.

1942 Solar is coming down 80 percent. Wind is coming down 20
1943 percent. Now we need to continue the improvement of battery
1944 technology and that is happening.

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1945 I will tell you just one little story. I had a young fellow
1946 come in from Jackson High School a few months ago. He won the
1947 National Science prize for the most, you know, scientifically
1948 productive high schooler in America or one of the few, and he
1949 said, look, I want to do something about climate change.

1950 And so he went out and he said, what is the most important
1951 thing I can do in clean energy, and he said, well, it is developing
1952 a better membrane for a battery that has better density and more
1953 heat management system.

1954 So this guy at age 17 or 18 went and invented a new kind
1955 of membrane that now has some real commercial possible potential.

1956 That type of innovation is going on like crazy and it is putting
1957 people to work in my state.

1958 Ms. Clarke. And when we talk about sort of creating that
1959 infrastructure, it would also address the concern that Mr. Long
1960 had about how you travel across a wide swath of area, given the
1961 life of a battery in one particular car.

1962 If you have an infrastructure where individuals are able
1963 to swap out cars, say, in a particular area where we have cars
1964 charging, then you get across a large state fairly rapidly. That
1965 is a whole new industry, that if we are creative enough, can be
1966 developed while we are decreasing our use of fossil fuels.

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1967 So I think it is really just a matter -- and I would love
1968 to get your thoughts on it, on ways that we are bringing up new
1969 industry while phasing out older.

1970 Governor Inslee. So Mr. Long was talking about electric
1971 cars and I think electric cars are kind of an interesting example
1972 and, by the way, in Representative Long's district last year,
1973 2,268 people bought electric cars.

1974 So you got 2,000 people that like them and there has been
1975 a 97 percent increase in the electrical car purchase in
1976 Representative Long's district last year. So there is people
1977 that are getting this across the country.

1978 But here is a story about electric cars. In about 2007 --
1979 2007, 2008 maybe -- I brought -- I asked General Motors to bring
1980 their Volt to Congress to show my colleagues what was coming and
1981 when they brought it we wheeled it off on the backside of the
1982 Longworth Building.

1983 They brought it in a U-Haul truck because it didn't even
1984 have an engine in it. This was just 10 years ago. And my buddies
1985 came down and looked at it and said, Inslee, what are you doing
1986 -- this is like a little toy here. It doesn't even have an engine
1987 in it. It's just a shell. This is ridiculous.

1988 This was only 10 years ago. Okay. Now you got the governor

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1989 in Washington driving one and thousands of people doing it and
1990 we are increasing -- we are on the map to hit 500,000.

1991 So this is moving so fast in this technology. Today, when
1992 I bought the first Bolt a year and a half ago the range was 160.
1993 The second version is 238, okay, today. I don't know what it
1994 is going to be a year from now but it is going up.

1995 So we ought to be optimistic about this and --

1996 Ms. Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Inslee. My time is up and I
1997 yield back to our chairman.

1998 Mr. Tonko. The gentlelady --

1999 Ms. Clarke. Thank you so much. I look forward to further
2000 conversations with you.

2001 Mr. Tonko. The gentlelady yields back.

2002 I will remind all of us that the governor has a hard stop
2003 at noon, I believe. So if we can stay within that framework.

2004 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Texas,
2005 Representative Flores, for five minutes.

2006 Mr. Flores. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the
2007 governor being here for his testimony today.

2008 I want to say, Governor, there is one area where I totally
2009 agree with you. Well, let's say two areas. One, as like you
2010 have heard from most of the panel, we all agree that climate change

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2011 is real. We all agree that man is having some impact on that.

2012 I also agree with you that we need to look at investment
2013 in R&D. R&D is where we develop the seed corn for the economy
2014 that is 10 to 20 years down the road.

2015 From a personal perspective, I am the largest residential
2016 producer of solar-generated electricity -- solar power in Brazos
2017 County, Texas. I am pleased with that.

2018 I did this 10 years ago when it was still expensive to do
2019 it. And I was just looking at my little app here and it says
2020 I produced over 70 percent of my power for the last 70 days --
2021 excuse me, seven days.

2022 I have also converted about 95 percent of my lighting to
2023 LED. So I put my money where my mouth is when it comes to trying
2024 to reduce my environmental footprint.

2025 I was going through your testimony and in it it says that
2026 you want to transform your electricity system over the next decade
2027 to phase out coal power -- coal-fired power by 2025 and increase
2028 the amount of renewable energy resources like solar and wind by
2029 2030 and you want to be 100 percent clean by 2045.

2030 Where will you get the baseload power to do that? Because
2031 solar and wind are intermittent, where will you get your baseload
2032 power?

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2033 Governor Inslee. Well, we have considerable different
2034 sources and they all -- when they can be integrated they can become
2035 baseload power and that is the great magic of storage systems
2036 that we are developing.

2037 Mr. Flores. Okay. So storage is part of the solution?

2038 Governor Inslee. Storage is part of the solution -- a big
2039 part.

2040 Mr. Flores. Okay. I want to come back to that in a minute.

2041 Also, one of the things -- I want to go off on a tangent
2042 for a minute, and I heard you say that your bill is part of a
2043 package of legislation to leap further and faster into the clean
2044 energy economy.

2045 One of the things you said it includes is the use of cleaner
2046 transportation fuels. Can you elaborate on that for a minute?

2047 I imagine my friend, Mr. Shimkus, and I would be interested in
2048 that.

2049 Governor Inslee. We have a whole host of alternatives that
2050 provide us cleaner transportation systems. We have electric
2051 vehicles, which are much cleaner than fossil fuel-burning
2052 vehicles. We have biofuels-driven vehicles where biofuels have
2053 a lower carbon footprint -- many of the biofuels.

2054 Mr. Flores. Okay.

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2055 Governor Inslee. We also have transportation systems --
2056 public transportation systems that are extremely efficient in
2057 low-carbon transportation systems and finding a way to use all
2058 or some of those are very effective ways in trip reduction --
2059 trip reduction is an important low-carbon reduction opportunity
2060 as well and we are having a lot of success in that.

2061 Mr. Flores. In terms of fuels, you were talking about
2062 biofuels as well. We will drill into that offline somewhere.

2063 I would like to get your ideas on what you think about biofuels.

2064 You also talk about having an acceleration of deployment
2065 of electric vehicles on your roads and electrification of
2066 passenger ferries and you talk about putting you on track to reach
2067 a goal of 50,000 electric cars on the roads by the end of the
2068 year. How are you doing versus that goal of 50,000 electric cars?

2069 Governor Inslee. We are on track to our ultimate goal and,
2070 by the way, I forgot to mention we do intend -- we hope to build
2071 the first electric ferries what I believe will be the Western
2072 Hemisphere. We think that is both from a health and cost
2073 effective policy.

2074 Our electrification of our transportation fleet is going
2075 well because we have had several things --

2076 Mr. Flores. I have a shortage of time so I am going to run.

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2077 Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind I would like to request
2078 unanimous consent to introduce four exhibits into the record
2079 today. The first one is by the Institute for Energy Research.
2080 It is entitled "China Has a New Environmental Problem: Battery
2081 Disposal."

2082 The next one is by engineering.com. It says, "Will Your
2083 Electric Cars Save the World or Wreck it?" The third one is by
2084 Amnesty International where amnesty challenges industry leaders
2085 to clean up their batteries. The fourth is the mounting solar
2086 panel waste problem.

2087 [The information follows:]

2088

2089 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 3*****

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2090 Mr. Flores. The challenge is is that every time we try to
2091 come up with a new solution that it creates an environmental
2092 problem and I think we need to be responsible when we do that.

2093 Batteries and silicon have an environmental impact. We need
2094 to deal with that. In order to make lithium batteries we also
2095 create slave labor problems in certain Third World countries and
2096 also huge environmental problems.

2097 This all leads me to where I want to go and that is if we
2098 really want to have zero-emissions baseload capable power, we
2099 need to look again at next-generation nuclear.

2100 That is the key to having zero emissions that's clean
2101 baseload power. Solar panels can't do it without batteries.
2102 Wind can't do it without batteries. The only two sources that
2103 could do it are hydro and nuclear, and nuclear -- excuse me, hydro
2104 seems to have its own set of environmental challenges these days.

2105 So I think we need to look at nuclear, Mr. Chairman. I
2106 haven't heard much about that in these conversations and I hope
2107 that we do.

2108 I yield back.

2109 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

2110 The chair now recognizes from California, Representative
2111 Ruiz, for five minutes.

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2112 Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Chairman.

2113 Governor Inslee, it is great to see you here today. It is
2114 good to see you back in the committee where you served and thank
2115 you for coming to discuss local and state initiatives and policies
2116 to address the pressing issue of climate change. I represent
2117 California's 36th Congressional District.

2118 A bit biased -- I think it is the best district in our nation.
2119 It produces the most renewable energy on federal land in the
2120 country. We produced the most renewable energy on federal land
2121 in the entire United States.

2122 Last year, the city of Palm Springs, located in my
2123 congressional district, was designated as a sole smart gold city
2124 by the National League of Cities for its effort to incentivize
2125 and use solar energy.

2126 In fact, many of the cities including Palm Desert, Indio,
2127 Cathedral City have put solar panels throughout their city halls,
2128 parking structures, and other facilities, even school districts.

2129 Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert have adopted solar ordinances for
2130 all-new constructions, et cetera.

2131 So it is a very renewable energy-friendly location and I
2132 am looking forward to see if there is any partnerships,
2133 communications structures, or anything that we could -- we could

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2134 work together on.

2135 In addition, the San Geronio Pass -- it is famous for its
2136 windmills in the movies that you see of cars and motorcycles
2137 driving through the 10 -- is one of the windiest places in my
2138 district and California and is home of nearly 2,000 wind turbines.
2139 Beautiful.

2140 And as you mentioned in your opening statement, the state
2141 of Washington is doing substantive work to promote renewable
2142 energy and strengthen our economy.

2143 Could you elaborate more on some of your successful renewable
2144 energy strategies you have implemented as governor, particularly
2145 in the solar and wind renewable energy industries?

2146 Governor Inslee. Yes. I talked a little bit about this.
2147 But we have had a spectacular success with our renewable
2148 portfolio standard and I say spectacular because we went from
2149 zero -- essentially, zero commercial wind energy, you know, 11
2150 or 12 years ago to a \$6 billion industry in our state.

2151 You think -- I mean --

2152 Mr. Ruiz. How did you do that?

2153 Governor Inslee. So our voters were wise enough to pass
2154 something I backed, which was a provision that says you basically
2155 needed 15 percent of your utilities to develop from these clean

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2156 energy sources.

2157 Mr. Ruiz. What did the state do to incentivize this?

2158 Governor Inslee. So it was a requirement for utilities and
2159 it was resisted to some degree, who people did not think technology
2160 could solve this problem.

2161 But we developed from scratch a \$6 billion industry. We
2162 also have a nascent solar industry, which a lot of people don't
2163 think of, you know, Washington. But two-thirds of our state is
2164 kind of semi-arid.

2165 So now we are building solar farms and one of the largest
2166 manufacturer of polysilicates that goes into solar cells is in
2167 Moses Lake, Washington. I think it is the largest manufacturer
2168 in the Western Hemisphere that supplies material that basically
2169 goes into solar cells. Some of it might be in Mr. Flores' rooftop
2170 right now.

2171 Mr. Ruiz. Have you done anything in regards to the
2172 workforce? Because if that is the energy of the future then we
2173 need to develop the workforce of the future.

2174 I introduced a bill called the Renewable Energy Jobs Act
2175 that will provide pilot programs for training individuals for
2176 employment in renewable energy and energy-efficient industries
2177 on site in these companies.

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2178 But have you done anything -- can you talk about any
2179 successful program in your state that promotes job growth and
2180 workforce training in the renewable energy industries?

2181 Governor Inslee. Yes. In fact, we have a program we call
2182 Career Connect Washington. We are building a whole new avenue
2183 of career success because we think we have made a mistake telling
2184 people if you don't get a four-year degree you are a failure.

2185 That is just wrong.

2186 The most rapidly growing two jobs is solar installer and
2187 wind turbine technician and those are good-paying jobs right now.

2188 We want to make sure they are. So we are building whole new
2189 apprenticeship protocols for development in our community
2190 colleges with our unions.

2191 I was recently at the IBEW training programs that are so
2192 successful. I think it was in Portland where I had a thousand
2193 -- they have a thousand apprenticeships, many of them in the solar
2194 part of that training program.

2195 So we know we can set people up for really successful careers.

2196 Mr. Ruiz. So what can we do in Congress to help states like
2197 yours and California and other places to develop this workforce
2198 and to foster more of the solar and wind energies?

2199 Governor Inslee. Well, you can adopt federally what we have

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2200 adopted, which will create a demand for these new careers.

2201 We certainly are always looking for financial support for
2202 our higher ed facilities that are involved in these training
2203 programs and we know that we have helped to try to -- to help
2204 people finance these programs. We have one of the richest
2205 financial support networks for people in college but we could
2206 always use a little help.

2207 Mr. Ruiz. Excellent. I yield back my time.

2208 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

2209 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr.
2210 Mullin, for five minutes.

2211 Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2212 Governor, thank you for -- thank you for being here. A
2213 couple questions for you, and I am going to try to reserve some
2214 time for my good friend from Montana.

2215 You're supporting eliminating all fossil fuels by the end
2216 of 2045, correct?

2217 Governor Inslee. In the grid that's the goal.

2218 Mr. Mullin. In the grid?

2219 Governor Inslee. Yes.

2220 Mr. Mullin. So and you are proposing eliminating electric
2221 coal in less than six years, correct?

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2222 Governor Inslee. I am sorry. You said electric --

2223 Mr. Mullin. Electric-generated coal.

2224 Governor Inslee. In our state we are closing the remaining
2225 coal-fired plant --

2226 Mr. Mullin. And you're replacing those with what?

2227 Governor Inslee. A whole host of different systems
2228 including efficiency. It is one of the things we haven't
2229 mentioned here today, the first --

2230 Mr. Mullin. No. What are you replacing it with?

2231 Governor Inslee. Efficiency, solar power --

2232 Mr. Mullin. Like what?

2233 Governor Inslee. -- hydro, public transportation,
2234 electric cars, biofuel -- the whole mix. And this is an important
2235 issue.

2236 Mr. Mullin. So are you -- would you consider you are an
2237 all-the-above energy guy where you are looking to bring stability
2238 for reliable low cost or reliable cost to homes and businesses?
2239 Would you consider yourself an all-of-the-above person?

2240 Governor Inslee. I am not sure what you mean by
2241 all-of-the-above.

2242 Mr. Mullin. I am talking about all the above. Like, you
2243 are not really interested in picking winners and losers but

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2244 letting the consumer have choice.

2245 Because Washington -- the state of Washington is drastically
2246 different than, let us say, the state of Oklahoma or the state
2247 of Montana, where hydro may work for you. Wind and solar may
2248 work for you. But there is parts of the country there it won't
2249 work.

2250 So what would do about the states where it doesn't work
2251 because it's about reliability. I mean, if you were to talk --
2252 if you were to take all the fossil fuels off the market to generate
2253 electricity and you only had solar and wind, you would have to
2254 have 12 percent of the land mass just to cover that. That is
2255 the size of Texas. So are you really proposing that?

2256 Governor Inslee. Yes. We are proposing in my state --

2257 Mr. Mullin. Where are you going to get the 12 percent of
2258 the land?

2259 Governor Inslee. We are proposing in my state to --

2260 Mr. Mullin. Where are you going to get the 12 percent of
2261 the land? Because you are running for a higher office, so where
2262 would you get the 12 percent of the land?

2263 Governor Inslee. Well, to start with, I don't know if you
2264 have heard me but I have said I support research and development
2265 in multiple fields to try to develop other --

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2266 Mr. Mullin. So you are all-of-the-above then?

2267 Governor Inslee. If that is how you define it.

2268 Mr. Mullin. Well, I mean, are you -- if you really want
2269 to eliminate fossil fuels then that is not all-of-the-above.
2270 So either you are or you aren't.

2271 Governor Inslee. Well, look, I just want to be straight
2272 with you. Here is what I -- here's what I --

2273 Mr. Mullin. I am trying to. I am trying to give you an
2274 opportunity to be straight and you haven't been yet.

2275 Governor Inslee. The first order of business is to set a
2276 goal and the goal --

2277 Mr. Mullin. But your goal is already set. You want to
2278 eliminate all fossil fuels by 2045. That is your goal. So where
2279 are you going to get the land mass to be able to eliminate all
2280 fossil fuels?

2281 Because if you just depend on batteries for storage because
2282 we know that wind doesn't always blow and the sun isn't always
2283 shining. So where are you going to store it? We are going to
2284 rely on China for the special metals it is going to take to develop
2285 the batteries to which you are going to store?

2286 Governor Inslee. As far as I can tell, you are in the same
2287 league with the president of the United States who has never heard

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2288 of batteries. We have a thing called batteries -- let me finish.

2289 Mr. Mullin. No, I have heard of batteries. No. No, sir.

2290 No. No.

2291 Governor Inslee. Let me finish -- let me finish one

2292 question, will you?

2293 Mr. Mullin. No, don't accuse me of -- don't accuse me of

2294 saying that I am in some type of league. Don't do that to me.

2295 I am asking you a question. If you are really about batteries

2296 and you are about the dependence -- I am all-of-above-type guy.

2297

2298 I am all about the storage. I have no problem with that.

2299 But if you only go to one area where it is going to rely on storage

2300 of power when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing,

2301 then where are you going to get the resources? Doesn't that

2302 recall -- doesn't that require mining?

2303 Governor Inslee. We have abundant sources and what we are

2304 finding in our state -- and these are the arguments I heard when

2305 we had the renewable portfolio standard.

2306 Mr. Mullin. It is not an argument. It is a question.

2307 Governor Inslee. Well, people argued -- people argued --

2308 people argued that it was impossible to integrate these systems.

2309 Mr. Mullin. Sir, it's not -- it is not an argument. It

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2310 is a real question.

2311 Governor Inslee. I can't have an argument because you won't
2312 let me answer my question --

2313 [Laughter.]

2314 Mr. Mullin. With that, I am going to yield to the gentleman
2315 from Montana.

2316 [Laughter.]

2317 Mr. Gianforte. I thank the gentleman, and Governor, thank
2318 you for being here. You testified today that you are going to
2319 ban coal-fired electricity in your state. I appreciate that.

2320 My time is short here. I just want to highlight the fact
2321 that, you know, today in your state House you are considering
2322 a bill that would eliminate all coal-fired electricity.

2323 Much of this electricity is generated in Montana and
2324 particularly in the town of Colstrip. It is a small town, 2,300
2325 people. Their livelihoods are threatened.

2326 You testified today that your policies have had no
2327 detrimental effect on any community and, Mr. Chairman, I would
2328 like to enter into the record this report from -- if there is
2329 no objection -- June 2018, the "Economic Impact of Early
2330 Retirement of Colstrip Units 3 and 4."

2331 That report by the University of Montana shows that Montana

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2332 would lose over \$5 billion in revenue. Montana would lose nearly
2333 two-thirds -- 3,300 jobs and our population would go down by 7,000
2334 people.

2335 And I would just offer that those are devastating impacts
2336 of your policy on Montana and our communities. You have also
2337 opposed building of a coal plant. I don't think that in your
2338 position as governor you have jurisdiction over Japan. Japan
2339 wants to buy our coal. I think it's a constitutional issue.

2340 So I here just to state that, you know, closer to home, you
2341 know, we have real issues with these policies, and I appreciate
2342 you being here, Governor, and I hope my colleagues can learn from,
2343 honestly, Washington State's mistakes instead of repeating them
2344 on a national level.

2345 And with that, I yield back.

2346 Governor Inslee. Let me comment on this. I would -- I would
2347 suggest that you look at the model that we have for the transition
2348 of our coal-fired plant in Centralia, Washington. I think you
2349 will find it has been very successful in helping that community
2350 through that transition because it was a consensus-based product.

2351

2352 It involved a substantial investment to help the working
2353 people who were associated with it and the consumers and the small

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2354 business people.

2355 Mr. Gianforte. Governor, I would invite you to come to
2356 Colstrip, Montana with me to meet the people whose livelihoods
2357 you are extinguishing. You have my open invitation.

2358 Governor Inslee. And I would -- I would invite you to come
2359 meet the people who are having trouble breathing because of
2360 coal-fired electricity pollution. These are the children of the
2361 state of Washington and the people whose houses are burning down.

2362

2363 We both have constituents. All of them deserve our respect
2364 and attention and I think if we work together we can help them
2365 all.

2366 Mr. Gianforte. Sir, I would be happy -- at this point, I
2367 take that as a no, you won't meet with the people of Colstrip.

2368 That is unfortunate.

2369 Governor Inslee. I am happy to discuss this with you
2370 further.

2371 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields. The chair now recognizes
2372 our last individual who asks questions here and that will be
2373 Representative Schakowsky from the state of Illinois.

2374 Ms. Schakowsky. Well, I am so happy to be with former
2375 colleague and good friend, Governor Inslee today.

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2376 I wondered if you wanted to talk a little bit more. This
2377 is the basis, I think, of many of the debates. Are we sacrificing
2378 jobs and communities for what I see as an existential threat from
2379 global warming and problems. Is there a way for us to balance
2380 that?

2381 Governor Inslee. Well, I appreciate an opportunity to say
2382 that. The way I look at this is there is a greater risk that
2383 we will lose jobs because we are not capturing here and they go
2384 to China and Germany.

2385 These jobs are going to be created. We are going to create
2386 millions of jobs because we have no choice but to do so. We know
2387 that over the next several decades we need to build a new clean
2388 energy system in the United States and worldwide and so there
2389 is going to be millions of jobs in these industries.

2390 I want them to be in the United States in Washington State,
2391 not just China and Germany, and that is the central issue. We
2392 know that humans, I don't think, are consciously going to allow
2393 this place to become uninhabitable.

2394 I don't think we should. So this is a question of where
2395 the jobs are going to be created, not whether they are going to
2396 be created, and the central lesson I would share with you on my
2397 trip here is that they are being created when we have smart

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2398 policies to build them and the people that I know now working
2399 in these clean energy sources, some of whom are children of my
2400 friends of 60 years, is really exciting for me to see these new
2401 careers.

2402 You know, a young family, a widow -- she lost her husband
2403 -- I got to know this family well. Now their kid's working in
2404 the solar industry making polysilicate that goes into solar
2405 panels.

2406 The folks that used to be in the timber industry now doing
2407 biofuels in Gray's Harbor -- this is exciting when you get people
2408 to have new careers and that is what this effort is about, and
2409 I am just here saying we ought to have confidence to be able to
2410 do that.

2411 Now, I think it will help when both parties propose solutions
2412 to actually do that. I look forward to that happy day when the
2413 spirit of Teddy Roosevelt is here on both sides.

2414 Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, because I think we are going
2415 to have to deal with this issue as we -- as we go forward if we
2416 want bipartisanship and I appreciate your answer.

2417 My governor -- new governor -- Governor Pritzker has joined
2418 the Climate Alliance and I wanted to ask you about it. From your
2419 perspective, what has motivated many states to join the Climate

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2420 Alliance?

2421 Governor Inslee. Well, in part, election returns motivated
2422 people on occasion because they have seen people who have been
2423 elected recently. Seven governors -- new governors were elected
2424 on our side and they all recognize the importance of acting on
2425 climate change.

2426 Your governor has joined the alliance and taken some actions
2427 on I believe it is a 25 percent move towards clean energy in the
2428 grid, I believe, if I am not mistaken.

2429 We are looking at advances in wind and solar in Nevada and
2430 New Mexico. We are just looking at people seeing success. I
2431 think success is what has inspired people to move forward and
2432 that is why we -- that is why I have come here in confidence.

2433 Ms. Schakowsky. So is this a matter -- this Climate Alliance
2434 a matter of sharing information so that states can move forward
2435 without having to reinvent the wheel?

2436 Governor Inslee. So we formed the Alliance for several
2437 reasons. One, to share information, share policies, share
2438 experiencing, share things that don't work so that we can learn
2439 from each other's mistakes and that has been very successful.

2440 Second, it was formed to make sure that the rest of the world
2441 does not give up on the United States. We want the rest of the

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2442 world that is moving forward to know that we are still moving
2443 forward in our country and we are.

2444 This group represents over 60 percent of the economy of the
2445 United States. That has worked. The rest of the world is
2446 continuing to move forward in the Paris Agreement. So it has
2447 been successful in that regard and I have enjoyed working on a
2448 bipartisan basis.

2449 As I said, we have three governors in this effort and we
2450 are working together. I hope that happens here, too.

2451 Ms. Schakowsky. What is the consequence, do you see -- are
2452 the practical consequences of the United States pulling out of
2453 the Paris Accord?

2454 Governor Inslee. Jobs going overseas and I don't want to
2455 see that. I want to see these jobs right here and I hope this
2456 Congress will help me do that. Look to your leadership.

2457 [Laughter.]

2458 Ms. Schakowsky. I see you looking at -- I see you looking
2459 at the clock, Governor, and I don't want to keep you any longer.

2460 But I really appreciate your leadership on this issue, which
2461 I do see as an existential issue for humanity.

2462 Thank you. I yield back.

2463 Governor Inslee. Thank you.

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2464 Mr. Tonko. The gentlelady yields back.

2465 That concludes our first panel. We, again, thank you,
2466 Governor Inslee -- the Honorable Jay Inslee -- for joining us
2467 to testify on Washington State's efforts to combat climate.

2468 And at this time, I will ask that staff prepare the witness
2469 table so that we may begin our second panel shortly.

2470 Let us take that five-minute recess to get that done.

2471 [Recess.]

2472 Mr. Tonko. Okay. We are going to start with our second
2473 panel. We will hear from a group of local leaders from across
2474 our country that will share their work in combatting climate
2475 change in their local communities.

2476 Those leaders include, from my left, the Honorable Steve
2477 Benjamin, mayor of the city of Columbia, South Carolina. We are
2478 -- oh, there we go. Welcome, Mayor.

2479 Next to him is our other mayor, the Honorable Jerry F.
2480 Morales, mayor of the city of Midland, Texas. We then have the
2481 Honorable Jackie Biskupski, mayor of the city of Salt Lake City,
2482 Utah, the Honorable Daniel C. Camp, III, chair of the Beaver County
2483 Board of Commissioners, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and then
2484 we have the Honorable James Brainard, mayor of the city of Carmel,
2485 Indiana.

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2486 We want to thank our witnesses for joining us today. We
2487 look forward to your testimony. We will be recognizing each of
2488 you for five minutes.

2489 I will make the note that we will recognize that Honorable
2490 Steve Benjamin needs to -- he has got a hard time to leave --
2491 a hard 12:45 by which he needs to leave. We are welcoming him
2492 here and he needs to get back to South Carolina for city business.

2493

2494 So we will try to do as much business here as possible.
2495 We will begin with perhaps Mayor Benjamin first and, again, we
2496 welcome all of our panellists here.

2497 Mayor, the opportunity for you is to be recognized for five
2498 minutes now.

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2499 STATEMENTS OF THE HONORABLE STEVE BENJAMIN, MAYOR, THE CITY OF
2500 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA; THE HONORABLE JACKIE BISKUPSKI, MAYOR,
2501 THE CITY OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH; THE HONORABLE JAMES BRAINARD,
2502 MAYOR, THE CITY OF CARMEL, INDIANA; THE HONORABLE DANIEL C. CAMP,
2503 III, CHAIRMAN, BEAVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BEAVER
2504 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; THE HONORABLE JERRY F. MORALES, MAYOR, THE
2505 CITY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS

2506

2507 STATEMENT OF STEVE BENJAMIN, MAYOR OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

2508 Mr. Benjamin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2509 Chairman Tonko, Ranking Member Shimkus, and members of the
2510 subcommittee, my friend, Congressman Duncan, from South Carolina.

2511 Thank you for allowing me to get in and get out of there.

2512 We believe, in South Carolina, also in government by ambush.

2513 So if I am not at a city council meeting tonight I don't know
2514 what happens. So I am going to make sure I get back home.

2515 Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the
2516 subcommittee. Climate change is perhaps the biggest challenge
2517 we face as a nation, as a people, and I am pleased that the
2518 subcommittee is holding this hearing.

2519 My name is Steve Benjamin. I serve as mayor of Columbia,
2520 South Carolina, the capital of our state -- a thriving and diverse

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2521 city, home to over 134,000 people and the hub of a metropolitan
2522 area of over 800,000 citizens.

2523 In addition to state government, Columbia hosts nearly
2524 50,000 students attending the University of South Carolina,
2525 Columbia College, two historically black colleges and
2526 universities -- Benedict College and Allen University -- and we
2527 also are the proud home to Fort Jackson, the Army's largest
2528 training base in the country which trains approximately 45,000
2529 soldiers per year.

2530 For the past year, I have had the honor of representing my
2531 fellow mayors throughout the country as president of the United
2532 States Conference of Mayors. At the national level, I also served
2533 as chairman of Municipal Bonds for America, co-chair of the Sierra
2534 Club's bipartisan Mayors for 100 Percent Clean Energy Initiative,
2535 and as a past president of the African-American Mayors
2536 Association.

2537 I have been fortunate to serve in these national leadership
2538 positions at a moment when mayors and local government officials
2539 have attained renewed prominence and have been widely recognized
2540 as being in the forefront of public policy innovation, including
2541 climate change.

2542 However, we cannot tackle this challenge alone. We need

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2543 a strong federal partner and I hope this hearing will be the first
2544 step in the development of a climate action program, one that
2545 recognizes and bolsters the efforts mayors and cities are taking
2546 to address this existential challenge.

2547 As with so much of what mayors and cities do, our leadership
2548 in climate change has been pragmatic. Mayors and cities,
2549 Republican, Democrats, independents have been pragmatic because
2550 we have no choice.

2551 Climate change is already impacting our communities and
2552 testing our infrastructure. We have acted because our
2553 constituents expect us to tackle challenges and fix problems while
2554 also delivering a balanced budget on time each year.

2555 In Columbia, unfortunately, we witnessed firsthand in 2015
2556 over three days in October the remnants of Hurricane Joaquin
2557 stalled over central South Carolina, inundating Columbia with
2558 nearly 30 inches of rain.

2559 Across the Carolinas, 12 trillion gallons of water fell.
2560 Hurricane Joaquin's impact on Columbia was dire, taking the lives
2561 of precious South Carolinians.

2562 In addition, the storm nearly wiped out the Columbia Canal,
2563 which serves as our main drinking water treatment plant, ruptured
2564 dozens of water and sewer mains, closed over 100 streets, flooded

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2565 one fire station and a primary fire training facility, breach
2566 multiple dams and damage nearly 400 homes and 60 businesses.

2567 Since then, we have had other -- several other major rain
2568 events. Though Joaquin was a 500-year event, heavy rain events
2569 are apparently becoming the new normal.

2570 Like cities throughout our country, the city of Columbia
2571 has been addressing climate change on several fronts for over
2572 decade. In 2009, with assistance from the Energy Efficiency
2573 and Conservation Block Grant, we conducted an energy audit and
2574 implemented several of the audit's recommendations, including
2575 upgrading lighting systems, HVAC upgrades on city buildings, and
2576 installing solar panels on fire stations.

2577 These projects reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and
2578 energy consumption and save Columbia taxpayers approximately
2579 \$337,000 per year. In addition, one of my first priorities when
2580 I took office was to upgrade and rationalize our regional
2581 transportation to increase ridership.

2582 We have also accelerated our efforts to deliver more
2583 pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure throughout our city.
2584 Combined with the thousands of new units of being deployed in
2585 open and downtown Columbia, this has set the stage for us to truly
2586 offer meaningful options to the car with the added bonus of

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2587 creating a vibrant, lively, and beautiful downtown.

2588 Two years ago, Columbia took the next step, setting a target
2589 of powering our community with 100 percent clean and renewable
2590 energy by 2035.

2591 In addition to our climate change prevention efforts, we
2592 have been actively addressing mitigation. We bit the bullet and
2593 increased storm water fees to fund a wide array of projects to
2594 improve our storm water system using both gray and green
2595 infrastructure.

2596 We also issued our first ever green bond in December,
2597 allowing the city to finance upgrades and improvements to our
2598 storm water system, earning the first climate bond initiative
2599 certification of a stand-alone storm water project in the country.

2600

2601 We have worked hard in Columbia, as cities have throughout
2602 the country. But I am here today to tell you that mayors and
2603 cities alone cannot tackle this challenge. We need the strong
2604 federal partner.

2605 I have attached my testimony to the 2007 open letter to
2606 presidential candidates, signed by 100 mayors from across South
2607 Carolina, including my predecessor, calling for federal
2608 leadership on climate change.

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2609 That letter is 12 years old, asking for a strong federal
2610 partner. Since then, the need for action has become that much
2611 more urgent.

2612 I am also very pleased that Chairman Tonko has issued a
2613 blueprint for action, a framework for climate action in the United
2614 States Congress, and we are particularly pleased that the
2615 framework empowers state and local governments and strengthens
2616 community resilience and certainly avoids harm to first movers.

2617 We recognize that it takes bold leadership and bold action
2618 to make some moves here first. In January, the Conference of
2619 Mayors released its own mayors' call for climate action. That
2620 is included as an attachment to my written testimony.

2621 I would respectfully suggest that some of our specific
2622 proposals provide Congress a way to flesh out and implement some
2623 of Chairman Tonko's framework in a manner that would help mayors
2624 and cities meet the climate challenge.

2625 Many of these proposals could be implemented and produce
2626 results quickly while Congress debates a larger package, a more
2627 comprehensive climate strategy that helps meet the needs of our
2628 respective communities all across the country.

2629 These include -- as I conclude -- reauthorizing and fully
2630 funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

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2631 Program in fiscal year 2020 and beyond, establishing and
2632 implementing a national greenhouse gas emission reduction
2633 standard by 2030, a DOT -- an aggressive national renewable
2634 portfolio standard and providing sensors for electric utilities
2635 including municipal electric utilities to invest in clean and
2636 renewable energy, direct the EPA to maintain and approve CAFÉ
2637 standards provide incentives for the energy sector to ramp up
2638 and research investments in renewable energy, modernize the
2639 nation's electric utility grids, to provide transportation
2640 funding to help metropolitan areas and local areas invest in
2641 low-carbon mode-neutral transportation options, creating
2642 increased funding for the surface transportation block grant,
2643 increase funding for transit. Invest and improve inter-city
2644 passenger rail.

2645 Mr. Tonko. Mr. Mayor?

2646 Mr. Benjamin. Yes, sir.

2647 Mr. Tonko. I need you to wrap up.

2648 Mr. Benjamin. Yes, sir. And I will close with this. One
2649 major issue, Congress has shown leadership in preserving the tax
2650 exemption on municipal bonds that allows us to deliver the
2651 infrastructure.

2652 We did, however, make a mistake in the Tax Cut and Jobs Acts

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2653 by removing the ability to advance refund bonds and save us money
2654 as we deliver on that infrastructure -- the vast majority of
2655 American infrastructure. We need that addressed by Congress.

2656 Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I hope our
2657 testimony and the attachments in the much larger proposal can
2658 give Congress some ideas to quickly implement and help bolster
2659 our local government efforts.

2660 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2661 [The prepared statement of Mr. Benjamin follows:]

2662

2663 *****INSERT 4*****

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2664 Mr. Tonko. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Good to see
2665 you again and thank you for --

2666 Mr. Benjamin. Thanks again. Thank you.

2667 Mr. Tonko. -- appearing before the subcommittee.

2668 Next we will move to Mayor Morales, please. You are
2669 recognized for five minutes.

2670

2671 STATEMENT OF JERRY MORALES, MAYOR OF MIDLAND, TEXAS

2672

2673 Mr. Morales. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. It is
2674 an honor to be here among -- thank you very much. Exciting to
2675 be able to be here to represent Midland, Texas, west Texas, and
2676 the Permian Basin. I am Mayor Jerry Morales.

2677 I have been in office for six years and been on city council
2678 since 2008. So it is -- you can't understand how honored I am
2679 to represent the city of my hometown, Midland, Texas.

2680 Midland, Texas, is also known as the Tall City. Many would
2681 think that a city out there in the middle of the desert would
2682 not have any tall buildings. Very similar to the city of Houston,
2683 Texas, but on a smaller scale -- size of 165,000 people.

2684 The city of Midland itself is approximately 90 square miles.
2685 Since 2014, Midland has been ranked one of the largest and fastest

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2686 growing cities in the nation -- fastest growing cities in the
2687 nation, not the largest, right -- during this time.

2688 We are home to 20 major oil and exploration companies. The
2689 Permian Basin is a large sedimentary basin in the southern western
2690 part of the United States of America.

2691 The Greater Permian Basin comprises several components of
2692 basins. Of these, Midland is the largest. The Delaware Basin
2693 is the second largest and the Marfa Basin is the smallest.

2694 The Permian Basin covers more than 86,000 square miles and
2695 extends across an area approximately 250 miles wide and 300 miles
2696 long. The Permian Shelf is one of the top five producing shelves
2697 in the world and soon will be in the top two.

2698 To date, the Permian Shelf transports 3 million barrels of
2699 crude oil per day and by the summer of 2019 may be transporting
2700 42 million and by 2020, when transportation lines could hit over
2701 6 billion barrels -- 6 million barrels of oil a day.

2702 The Permian Basin is already a star, but now it will even
2703 shine brighter. What the U.S. Geological Survey numbers mean
2704 is that the Permian Basin is the largest single reservoir oil
2705 and gas in the United States of America and is also one of the
2706 largest on local soil.

2707 We are challenged, of course, being a shining star and

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2708 growing so fast. Today, one of the issues challenging Midland
2709 is 15,000 oil workers are lacking in our industry.

2710 In the last -- Midland's unemployment rate for the last six
2711 years has been on an average of 1.9 to 2.55 percent, which makes
2712 us one of the lowest unemployment in the nation. Midland also
2713 has a housing crisis due to the influx of oil and gas families
2714 moving into the area. Our inventory as of today has less than
2715 300 homes, where two years ago we had more than 3,000 homes.

2716 The Midland-Odessa area recently came out of a seven-year
2717 drought and during that drought Midland reduced its water
2718 consumption by 20 percent. We call it the blue gold.

2719 During that drought and even today the oil companies played
2720 a responsible part in retracting their need of water for
2721 production by going under the Ogallala Reservoir and pulling the
2722 brackish water and repurposing it for their own industrial use.

2723

2724 These oil companies are not allowed to use municipalities'
2725 water resources and in the last 100 years there have not been
2726 any incidents of earthquakes or tremors that have been associated
2727 with drilling activity in the Permian Basin.

2728 Air quality has always been -- maintained a good bill of
2729 health, probably due to our west Texas tornadic winds that we

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2730 have out there, so it keeps it kind of fresh and clear. Property
2731 values have increased. Sales tax receipts are at record highs
2732 and businesses have seen 15 to 25 percent growth in the respective
2733 businesses.

2734 Two years in a row Midland has been ranked third by
2735 SmartAssets as the best city in the nation for living the American
2736 Dream. The Permian Basin Board of Realtors reported that the
2737 average price for a home was sold for more than \$269,000 and
2738 Midland has a median income of \$75,000.

2739 Mr. Sheffield, CEO of Pioneer Resources, stated that the
2740 sustainable operation could continue for a minimum of 10 to 15
2741 years.

2742 With this recent announcement, Pioneer and the city of
2743 Midland entered into a public-private partnership where Pioneer
2744 will spend an excess of \$130 million to rehabilitate the city's
2745 secondary and water treatment plant. The city of Midland will
2746 then sell this treated water back to Pioneer to be used for
2747 operational purposes.

2748 This partnership will save taxpayers money, ensure that
2749 Midland has treated water in case of another drought, and reduce
2750 truck traffic through transportation lines and for infrastructure
2751 uses.

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2752 While methane emissions have been raised as concerns by
2753 detractors of the industry, a large majority of methane emissions
2754 from production of the Permian Basin centers around flaring
2755 necessitated by lack of takeaway capacity.

2756 However, there is an estimated 14 billion cubic feet per
2757 day of additional natural gas, pipeline capacity that is scheduled
2758 to come online in the Permian Basin by the end of 2022, according
2759 to the Texans on natural gas.

2760 Once these pipelines are in place, even with the increased
2761 production, methane emissions in the field will be greatly
2762 reduced. The entire Permian Basin is a region larger than the
2763 states like Alabama.

2764 With such a large footprint you can find diversity of people
2765 and communities. Some companies have also -- are also
2766 contracting with cities like Midland and Odessa to use their
2767 wastewater in these recycling processes.

2768 Even in the relatively sparse populated Permian Basin, there
2769 are concerns about protecting our native species in their
2770 habitats. Unprecedented efforts such as the range wide plan for
2771 the lesser prairie chicken, which covers five states including
2772 Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado as well as more
2773 localized conservation plans for species like the dunes sagebrush

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2774 lizard and the Texas hornshell mussel.

2775 Municipalities do not regulate down-hole drilling nor do
2776 they control where water comes from from the drilling and fracking
2777 process. The state of Texas' agencies regulate these areas.

2778 The city of Midland does not encourage operations to use
2779 water from deeper depths, being the Santa Rosa, water instead
2780 of freshwater aquifers. In addition, many operations are
2781 reclaiming water production, which is produced by -- as a
2782 byproduct of oil and gas production.

2783 Diamondback Resources has switched to an alternative of deep
2784 burial pits recently which meets state guidelines to more
2785 environmental alternative of biotechnology treatment, which is
2786 a pit remediation process. The pit closure will meet or exceed
2787 the requirements of the applicable Railroad Commission rules and
2788 Texas Commission of Environmental Quality.

2789 So these are some ideas to show that what we are doing in
2790 west Texas and Midland is working with our 20 majors, being
2791 responsible of not only the environment, the climate, but of our
2792 communities and the people who work there and live there.

2793 We are excited that our shelf is not only productive
2794 economically for the city of Midland but for the state of Texas,
2795 United States of America, and even the world.

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2796 Thank you for the opportunity to be here to speak.

2797 [The prepared statement of Mr. Morales follows:]

2798

2799 *****INSERT 5*****

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2800 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mayor.

2801 We are supposed to have votes around 1:00 o'clock so I am
2802 going to ask that everyone stay strictly to the five-minute time
2803 frame so that we can get questions in.

2804 Next, we will move to the Honorable Jackie Biskupski of the
2805 city of Salt Lake City. Welcome.

2806

2807 STATEMENT OF JACKIE BISKUPSKI, MAYOR OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

2808

2809 Ms. Biskupski. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and members of the
2810 committee. It is an honor to be here before you.

2811 I come as the mayor of Salt Lake City, home to over 200,000
2812 residents, including my two sons, Archie and Jack. I mention
2813 them because my plea to you today has everything to do with their
2814 future and the future of millions of young people like them in
2815 America's cities.

2816 As both a mayor and a mother, I am working to protect the
2817 health and well-being of all people as the causes and effects
2818 of climate change are felt across the state of Utah. Surrounded
2819 by the towering peaks of the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountains, my
2820 city is beautiful on most days.

2821 Thirty years ago, I arrived in Salt Lake City for a ski trip

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2822 and I never left. Unfortunately, each year since during the hot
2823 summer months and the cool winters our air is filled with a dirty
2824 haze we know as the dreaded inversion.

2825 On these days, parents along the Wasatch Front send their
2826 kids to school wearing face masks to protect them from the harmful
2827 pollution trapped in the air.

2828 This pollution, almost half of which is caused by vehicle
2829 emissions, impacts our quality of life almost daily and is
2830 contributing to the long-term effects of climate change such as
2831 wildfires and droughts.

2832 Some of you may know of Salt Lake City as the winter sports
2833 paradise. As the host city of the 2002 Winter Olympic and
2834 Paralympic Games, and now the USOC's choice to host a future Winter
2835 Games, Salt Lake City is, without question, the U.S. capital of
2836 winter sports.

2837 This distinction helps drive nearly \$1.3 billion to our
2838 state's economy. Our water and winter sports industry are
2839 partners in driving thousands of jobs, driving tourism and
2840 businesses into the region.

2841 So you can imagine how alarmed we are when reports indicate
2842 we have lost five weeks of snowpack just in the last 20 years.

2843 Surface water such as snow also makes up the vast majority of

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2844 our drinking water, and although Salt Lake City population is
2845 just over 200,000 people, the city provides water to more than
2846 a million people in our valley.

2847 With every degree of warming, we experience, we estimate,
2848 nearly a 4 percent decrease in overall water volume emanating
2849 from the streams and creeks in the Wasatch Mountains. As one
2850 of the fastest growing regions in the nation, we cannot afford
2851 to lose more of our snow.

2852 Yes, we have had a good winter this year. But we are still
2853 recovering from a 30-year low in 2018 and many years of drought.

2854 While I could go on discussing the issues we are facing including
2855 the unprecedented wildfires we had in 2018, all of which is
2856 detailed in my written statement, I would like to share with you
2857 what we are doing to act on climate change.

2858 In 2016, Salt Lake City became the sixteenth city in the
2859 nation to establish a 100 percent clean energy goal. To fulfil
2860 this pledge, we have taken action including passing a cost-free
2861 energy bench marking ordinance estimated to remove 29 tons of
2862 pollutants from the air annually.

2863 We are building green infrastructure, the first net-zero
2864 public safety building in the nation, and just last year completed
2865 the first two net-zero fire stations in the country.

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2866 To reduce vehicle pollution, in 2018 Salt Lake City made
2867 the largest local investment to date in public transit, allowing
2868 us to implement the first phase of a multi-year strategy to create
2869 high-frequency bus networks across our city.

2870 Through savings and partnerships with Delta Airlines and
2871 the federal government, Salt Lake City is building at \$3.6 billion
2872 international airport which, when completed, will be LEED Gold
2873 certified.

2874 Perhaps most significantly, Salt Lake City, Park City, Moab,
2875 and Summit County have been working with our utility, Rocky
2876 Mountain Power, to establish a framework to allow our communities
2877 to have net 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

2878 This is an unprecedented collaborative effort between an
2879 investor-owned utility and the communities it serves. Just last
2880 Friday, Governor Gary Herbert signed into law the Community
2881 Renewable Energy Act, which is the legislation we needed to
2882 continue building this framework.

2883 I shared the successes with you today to highlight our
2884 investment by the federal government and how that could help us
2885 increase the action of our local communities.

2886 Thank you.

2887 [The prepared statement of Ms. Biskupski follows:]

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*****INSERT 6*****

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2890 Mr. Tonko. Thank you very much, and right within five
2891 minutes. So thank you.

2892 Next, we will hear from the Honorable Daniel Camp, III, who
2893 is the chair of Beaver County Board of Commissioners, Beaver
2894 County, Pennsylvania.

2895 Welcome.

2896

2897 STATEMENT OF DANIEL CAMP, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
2898 BEAVER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

2899

2900 Mr. Camp. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Tonko, Ranking
2901 Member Shimkus, and members of the subcommittee for inviting me
2902 to speak today on behalf of Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

2903 It is an honor to be here in front of you, somewhere where
2904 my former Congressman and dear friend, Ron Klink, served when
2905 he was a Congressman here.

2906 My name is Daniel Camp and I am the chairman of the Beaver
2907 County Board of Commissioners. Of the 67 counties in the great
2908 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am currently the youngest county
2909 chairman.

2910 I sit on the Natural Gas Task Force for the County
2911 Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. About 25 miles

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2912 northwest of Pittsburgh, Beaver County, Pennsylvania sits
2913 alongside the most northern part of the Ohio River and has
2914 approximately 168,000 residents.

2915 Throughout most of the 20th century, Beaver County and its
2916 steel mills laid the foundation for the United States and the
2917 world. We designed, manufactured, and produced steel used in
2918 bridges, skylines, and icons throughout our great nation.

2919 Beaver County rode this wave of economic growth throughout
2920 most of the 20th century. But eventually, in the 1980s, our good
2921 fortune came tumbling down. American steel turned its back on
2922 Beaver County. Mills shut down, unemployment peaked. But we
2923 persevered. We came back. We knew we had a foundation for a
2924 great restoration.

2925 Today, energy drives our economy. With an investment
2926 measured in the billions, we partnered with an engine that would
2927 fuel the nation. In Beaver County, we are proud of our past but
2928 we are also confident in our energy future.

2929 The current energy boom in Beaver County started with the
2930 Marcellus Shale. Approximately 10 years ago, Beaver County
2931 started to see the effects of the technological advancements that
2932 made developing the Marcellus Shale possible.

2933 In addition to the billions of dollars in bonuses and royalty

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2934 payments made to Pennsylvanians who leased their lands and
2935 property for natural gas extraction in 2012, the Pennsylvanian
2936 General Assembly imposed a special tax on the industry called
2937 an impact fee, which is paid annually by the unconventional
2938 natural gas producers for each well drilled.

2939 In its report in 2018, Beaver County received approximately
2940 \$500,000 from the impact fee, which has increased of about
2941 \$160,000 from the prior year.

2942 In addition, the county's 54 municipalities received a
2943 combined \$618,000, nearly double the amount from the year before.

2944 All told, between allocations to the county, municipalities,
2945 and impact fee-funded projects, Beaver County has received \$5
2946 million for the public infrastructure improvements, emergency
2947 preparedness and response, environmental protection, social
2948 services, parks and green spaces, and tax reduction.

2949 In 2016, Shell Chemical Appalachia announced it would build
2950 a petrochemical complex in Beaver County that would use a low-cost
2951 ethane being produced from the Marcellus and Utica formations
2952 to produce 3.5 billion pounds of polyethane per year, creating
2953 a foundation for the regional manufacturing of pharmaceutical,
2954 industrial chemical, and plastic.

2955 Indeed, from lifesaving medication and medical equipment

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2956 to the cell phones we use every day, plastic source like the
2957 Marcellus enhance our quality of life to make our modern world
2958 possible.

2959 Shell's decision to build this complex in Beaver County was
2960 a major coup for not only Beaver County but our entire region,
2961 including West Virginia and Ohio. And at its peak, 6,000
2962 construction jobs will be necessary to build the complex and,
2963 once operational, it will support approximately 600 permanent
2964 well-paying family-sustaining jobs.

2965 The site currently supports hundreds of electricians,
2966 pipefitters, iron workers, carpenters, laborers, equipment
2967 operators, and other craftsmen. Many of these workers travel
2968 from out of the area to work -- to the work site and have therefore
2969 spurred our hotel industry in Beaver County.

2970 We now have 33 hotels in the county when 10 years ago we
2971 had four, many of which were built as a direct result of the influx
2972 of these workers who now spend their entertainment dollars
2973 locally, eat at local establishments, and otherwise have helped
2974 to revitalize local businesses.

2975 Infrastructure has also improved in and around the
2976 construction site, new roads and repaving of existing roads
2977 directly from the cracker plant.

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2978 An improved interchange in the Interstate 376 was built to
2979 handle the additional traffic in the area, and additionally, a
2980 new water intake system was built for the local municipalities
2981 because the plant was built where their water intake system was
2982 previously located.

2983 Once the plant is operationally, we anticipate additional
2984 growth in the manufacturing sector as our region becomes
2985 attractive for companies seeking to locate in close proximity
2986 to the abundant amount of supply of polyethane produced in Beaver
2987 County.

2988 In turn, we hope to see the expansion of the professional
2989 services and that is supported as well, such as engineering and
2990 architecture.

2991 Beaver County has tremendous potential and that potential
2992 stems in large part from the economic opportunity Marcellus Shale
2993 presents. Without a doubt, our modern world is built on energy
2994 and our future hinges on the ability to leverage our domestic
2995 energy resources.

2996 To fuel our economy, grow manufacturing, employ America's
2997 labor workforce, and continue to propel our country forward as
2998 a global leader, I am proud to represent a county that is integral
2999 to making this future possible.

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3000 As you deliberate your policy changes, I am here to ask you
3001 to consider the monumental impact American shale gas development
3002 has had on our country and support this economic driver as vital
3003 to our shared future.

3004 In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity
3005 you have given me to come before you and speak today.

3006 [The prepared statement of Mr. Camp follows:]

3007

3008 *****INSERT 7*****

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3009 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Honorable Daniel Camp.

3010 And finally, we will hear from the Honorable James Brainard,
3011 who is mayor of the city of Carmel, Indiana.

3012 Welcome.

3013

3014 STATEMENT OF JAMES BRAINARD, MAYOR OF CARMEL, INDIANA

3015

3016 Mr. Brainard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the
3017 subcommittee.

3018 Carmel is a city of about 100,000 people on the northern
3019 edge of Indianapolis that has gone through tremendous
3020 transformation during the last few decades.

3021 Carmel consistently is ranked among the best places to live
3022 in the country, having been named best place to live in America
3023 by Money Magazine in 2012. That is a good day for a mayor.

3024 Carmel recently was ranked number one best suburb to live
3025 in in America by Niche.com, listed as one of the safest cities
3026 in America by SafeWise and was named the number-one best place
3027 to launch a career by Money Magazine last year.

3028 We are successfully making our community safer and healthier
3029 for our residents, businesses, and visitors through initiatives
3030 aimed at reducing pollution and harmful emissions.

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3031 I have also shared our initiatives and the importance of
3032 building a resilient city, more broadly, speaking in India in
3033 2015 as part of a U.S. State Department initiative on climate
3034 change and in Germany in 2015 as part of the Chairman of the
3035 American Institute discussing climate change mitigation in city
3036 management.

3037 I have also shown my support here nationally as one of the
3038 original signers on the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection
3039 Agreement and, ultimately, over 1,200 mayors from both parties
3040 throughout the United States signed into the agreement and pledged
3041 local efforts to help achieve greater reduction of harmful
3042 emissions.

3043 I have co-chaired the Congress of Mayors' Energy
3044 Independence and Climate Protection Task Force. I have also
3045 learned a great deal, as one of the few Republican members on
3046 President Obama's task force on climate preparedness and
3047 resilience.

3048 All of these have been experiences that have broadened my
3049 perspective and understanding of the issues that we are facing.

3050 It is our job to find the best solutions that will yield the
3051 best results.

3052 More locally for me, farms just outside of Carmel and

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3053 throughout the state of Indiana have felt the impact of climate
3054 change. Purdue University's climate change research center
3055 released a report last year detailing the negative impact today's
3056 climate is having on our agriculture, including declining yields,
3057 the change in which crops will grow in the state, increased risk
3058 of heat stress to livestock, and the decreased quality of soils
3059 in general, which could impact food security for all of us.

3060 I am often asked by younger Republicans and students why,
3061 as a Republican, am I strongly advocating for conservation and
3062 environmental initiatives. I remind them that the root of the
3063 word conservative is to conserve and that many environmental
3064 initiatives have been initiated and implemented by Republicans.

3065
3066 It was Teddy Roosevelt who preserved 230 million acres of
3067 wilderness and established five national parks, created the
3068 Forest Service. It was Richard Nixon, a Republican, who signed
3069 into the National Environment Policy Act, the Marine Mammal
3070 Protection Act, the Environmental Pesticide Control Act, and the
3071 Endangered Species Act which, along with banning DDT, helped
3072 rescue the American bald eagle.

3073 It was Indiana's own William Ruckelshaus, a Republican, who
3074 was first head of the Environmental Protection Agency. It was

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3075 Ronald Reagan, of course, a Republican who enacted the Coastal
3076 Barrier Resource Act and the Water Resources Development Act.

3077 It was President George H. Bush, a Republican, who signed
3078 onto the Global Change Research Act in 1990 which requires every
3079 four years an assessment of the findings to be made and reported.

3080 I often tell our young Republicans that improving the
3081 environment doesn't have to take the form of regulations that
3082 hurt businesses or economy.

3083 We need to search for answers that help our environment while
3084 presenting opportunities to encourage thousands of new green jobs
3085 that save energy or make renewable energy. We should be
3086 researching and developing products and technology that the
3087 citizens of this country and the rest of the world are demanding.

3088 And that is why I am here today, though, to report on how
3089 communities such as Carmel are working to become as resilient
3090 as possible while dealing with the impact of poor air quality.

3091 For our cities, this is about the need to address global
3092 warming's impact on our storm water, our utility systems, and
3093 other city services including our emergency responses in the event
3094 of tornadoes, hurricanes, and other disasters. It is about
3095 developing better codes.

3096 So some of the things we have done in Carmel we have replaced

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3097 122 of our signalized intersections with roundabouts. Not only
3098 do we get an 80 percent increase or decrease, rather, in injury
3099 accidents, last year our city engineer estimated we saved about
3100 28,000 tons of carbon.

3101 We are using city design principles, building a more walkable
3102 city. We do mixed use zoning so that when people do have to make
3103 car trips they are shorter trips. And we have installed more
3104 than 200 miles of trails and paths.

3105 Since 2005, we required alternative fuel vehicles be
3106 purchased by city departments when available. This month, our
3107 police department announced that we are switching to a 130-car
3108 fleet of renewables.

3109 I have got a little bit more so I am going to switch to the
3110 ask here as I see I have only a few seconds left. We all know
3111 about revenue sharing and how it was a Nixon program -- a
3112 Republican program. CDBG grants was a great example, a program
3113 from the 1970s that is still around.

3114 We worked hard at the Conference of Mayors with you and with
3115 this committee to get the energy efficiency and environmental
3116 block grant program authorized. It was funded during the
3117 stimulus for the first time. We are asking that you do that again.

3118

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3119 It is a big country. All the cities have different needs.

3120 It is a great way to partner with the federal government but
3121 yet with local decision making using that money where it can best
3122 utilized for our citizens.

3123 We ask that you consider that. Thank you.

3124 [The prepared statement of Mr. Brainard follows:]

3125

3126 *****INSERT 8*****

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3127 Mr. Tonko. Thank you. Thank you very much.

3128 We have now concluded witness opening statements for our
3129 second panel. We will now move to member questions. I recognize
3130 myself for five minutes for questions and I thank all of our mayors
3131 and the chair of County Board of Commissioners for joining us
3132 and sharing their perspectives today.

3133 You mostly likely heard me ask our previous guest, Governor
3134 Inslee, about what Congress can learn from your experiences as
3135 leaders. And I am guessing your community was not as active doing
3136 this sort of clean energy or resilience work a decade ago.

3137 Why do you think that things have changed so much?

3138 Mayor --

3139 Mr. Morales. The Permian Basin in Midland, Texas -- Odessa,
3140 Texas, our sister city -- what we have learned from the these
3141 oil and gas companies which makes up 90 -- probably about 90
3142 percent of our industry out there is technology. Technology
3143 following these companies, seeing how they are advancing, how
3144 they are getting more efficient, has allowed them --

3145 Mr. Tonko. Okay.

3146 Mr. Morales. Yes?

3147 Mr. Tonko. No, I just want you to just give me a quick answer
3148 here because we only have --

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3149 Mr. Morales. Sure. Technology.

3150 Mr. Tonko. Okay.

3151 Mayor Biskupski?

3152 Ms. Biskupski. Yes. For us, it is truly about clean air.

3153 It is very difficult to breathe many days out of the year due
3154 to the inversion that we have.

3155 And so it is the number-one issue regardless of party
3156 affiliation.

3157 Mr. Tonko. Okay. And let us hear from our other mayor.

3158 Mayor Brainard, why do you think things have changed so much?

3159 Mr. Brainard. I think for us it is about quality of life
3160 and being able to attract the best workforce possible from all
3161 over the world. Air quality, clean drinking water, clean air
3162 quality is important. It is important to us. It is important
3163 to our citizens.

3164 Mr. Tonko. In my opening statement, I stressed the need
3165 to empower local governments. Federal resources and technical
3166 assistance are important but I believe this is -- we also need
3167 to include an appropriate level of flexibility.

3168 The conditions in Salt Lake City or Carmel or Seattle or
3169 even Amsterdam, New York, my hometown, vary dramatically. Does
3170 anyone have thoughts on the types of programs that offer the

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3171 flexibility that local officials or mayors need to address their
3172 local conditions?

3173 Mr. Brainard. Mr. Chairman, if I may go back to what I said
3174 at the end of my comments. The Energy and Environmental Block
3175 Grant Program is a wonderful idea. Patterned after CDBG, it
3176 works.

3177 We recognize we are a big country. Different cities, as
3178 you say, have different needs. But the federal partnership,
3179 federal money, local decision making within the broad category
3180 of environmental improvement works very well.

3181 We get to decide locally where it can best be utilized, how
3182 we can match it best for local dollars to have the greatest impact
3183 and do the greatest good.

3184 Mr. Tonko. And could you cite an example within your
3185 community in Carmel that --

3186 Mr. Brainard. Sure. During the -- thank you.

3187 Mr. Tonko. -- most benefit from that?

3188 Mr. Brainard. Sure. During the stimulus, Carmel received
3189 about \$700,000 in an Environmental Energy Block Grant. We used
3190 it to switch out most of our street light to LED lights.

3191 We reduced, as a result of doing that, our energy consumption
3192 for those lights by close to 50 percent and getting a return in

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3193 excess of 10 percent in electricity savings on that investment.

3194 It is a lot better than we can do in the bank these days.

3195 Mr. Tonko. And Mayor Biskupski?

3196 Ms. Biskupski. Yeah. Similar experience for us in
3197 utilizing federal dollars.

3198 I will add, though, that in the long term it would be very
3199 helpful if there was a bipartisan legislative act that was passed.

3200

3201 So if you -- in long-term view, energy innovation and carbon
3202 dividend act and you passed that, that is a long-term solution
3203 that would be very helpful and would create about 2.1 million
3204 new jobs and reduce our emissions by 40 percent in this country.

3205

3206 Short term, though, I think the Energy Efficiency and
3207 Conservation Grant has been very helpful and should be renewed
3208 -- the EPA-targeted air shed grant, Department of Energy Solar
3209 Cities Grant, or the -- and/or the congestion mitigation and air
3210 quality improvement program, all of which have helped our cities
3211 across this country.

3212 Mr. Tonko. In terms of the energy and efficiency
3213 improvements, what would you cite in terms of gains that you made
3214 with some of those programs that you just mentioned?

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3215 Ms. Biskupski. Yes. So on energy efficiency, we are
3216 shoring up opportunities with our buildings and our property
3217 owners.

3218 So what we are doing now is bench marking and that provides
3219 real transparency for property owners to see how they are
3220 measuring up in contributing to our air quality problem and that
3221 tool, in and of itself, has been very helpful in showing to our
3222 property owners what is happening with their buildings and what
3223 they can do and how they can partner with our public utilities
3224 opportunities and the grants that they provide and then also pull
3225 down some matching dollars.

3226 Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

3227 The chair now recognizes Mr. Shimkus, our Republican leader
3228 for the subcommittee, for five minutes.

3229 Mr. Shimkus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3230 Again, we appreciate you all being here, and everybody wants
3231 their children or grandchildren to live in a community in which
3232 they have opportunities to grow. So I was touched by Archie and
3233 Jack, and that focus.

3234 I want to ask Mayor Morales and Commissioner Camp would
3235 Archie and Jack, are they better off now in your community because
3236 of oil and gas development from the aspect of health, interaction

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3237 to education, and future job opportunities and can you give me
3238 some examples of that?

3239 Mr. Morales. Yeah, most -- yes, most definitely, and thank
3240 you. It is -- as I just alluded to, technology has really brought
3241 the oil company and been able to allow these companies to drill
3242 more effectively in less time and more advanced manner in the
3243 sense of between the city ordinances and the state ordinances,
3244 the Railroad Commission, you are seeing less and less and less
3245 rigs go up.

3246 So a good example, sitting with the Apache Corporation, a
3247 large producer in Texas --

3248 Mr. Shimkus. What about going to the infrastructure,
3249 education? What has helped for the tax revenue, based upon the
3250 local community and how that has improved just the everyday
3251 livelihood?

3252 Mr. Morales. So then I will just, because of the shale and
3253 because of the technology and the drilling, it has then brought
3254 these families that we are seeing a mass increase into our
3255 community which means then those companies have to participate
3256 in helping us with road infrastructure.

3257 They are putting in their dollars in the health care system
3258 in the health care system, into the environmental impacts.

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3259 Building codes now are up into 2018 codes. So I would say
3260 that today, because of the oil companies and the impact that they
3261 are having in our community, it is public-private partnership
3262 and one that they know that their children are on the roads, one
3263 that they know the community cannot handle alone.

3264 And so their dollars are being participated on the
3265 infrastructure and utility work, in our school, our health care
3266 system and knowing that that kind of partnership is what is going
3267 to make --

3268 Mr. Shimkus. And let me follow up.

3269 In rural America, there is a lot of -- always a lot of concern
3270 about the first generation or second generation. They are
3271 leaving because there is no jobs available.

3272 Is that true for Midland?

3273 Mr. Morales. Yes, most definitely. For the longest time,
3274 we lost all of our younger generation. We were really a
3275 retirement community. Today the average age is 31 in Midland.

3276

3277 The Millenials are moving in. We just saw our youngest
3278 voting bloc of 33-year-old females and that is due to because
3279 of the quality of life.

3280 The quality of place is improving. Amenities are better.

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3281 Education is starting to improve, secondary schools. So schools
3282 -- or these -- again, these oil companies are realizing that they
3283 are the ones that are making the impact so they need to make that
3284 investment.

3285 Mr. Shimkus. And let me go to Commissioner Camp. Same type
3286 of questions.

3287 Mr. Camp. As I stated in my testimony earlier, in the 1980s
3288 when the steel industry left Beaver County and left western
3289 Pennsylvania because of the emissions and the changes were one
3290 of the key driving factors to that, a lot of the -- a lot of the
3291 college-educated individuals left western Pennsylvania to go work
3292 elsewhere, we are starting to see them come back now. We are
3293 working with different programs throughout the county, western
3294 PA.

3295 As the mayor said before, the public-private partnership
3296 that we have with the companies that are coming here, investing
3297 in Beaver County, not only in our infrastructure, not only in
3298 our municipalities and governments, they are also investing into
3299 our schools, our local colleges, our community college of Beaver
3300 County.

3301 They invested more than a million dollars to build a process
3302 technology center to educate the individuals who the governor

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3303 said earlier don't necessarily have to go to a four-year school
3304 to have a good family-sustaining job and these companies are
3305 investing in Beaver County in western PA.

3306 Mr. Shimkus. Yeah, and I was -- I was just -- I am glad
3307 you added photos to your testimony because here is a closed zinc
3308 plant or -- zinc plant on the river turned to a cleared off land
3309 now to this new, I guess, multiple thousands of people -- labor
3310 working to build this factory.

3311 And then also on the back you had the water plant, from the
3312 old water plant that -- the only thing you could afford versus
3313 now what you can afford to provide for your constituents.

3314 Mr. Camp. To talk about those two real briefly, the zinc
3315 plant, it was an Act II environmental program and it has vastly
3316 improved to the existing site. It was spent -- they spent \$80
3317 million on bringing that up to code to where it needed to be.

3318 The water treatment facility was a \$69 million project by
3319 this private-public partnership we have to be able to provide
3320 water for a 100 years now for that one community.

3321 So, as I said before, these companies are investing their
3322 money and their fortune into these municipalities and communities
3323 because they plan on being here for a long time and provide those
3324 jobs.

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3325 Mr. Shimkus. So it is safe to say that energy development
3326 and the livelihood of people who you represent are greatly
3327 benefited by that?

3328 Mr. Camp. Absolutely. They are, and as the governor said
3329 earlier, those who suffer the most from air quality and any other
3330 emissions are the ones who are living in poverty under the bridges
3331 and by the roads.

3332 If we don't have these jobs in Beaver County or western PA
3333 or eastern Ohio or northern West Virginia, that poverty level
3334 is going to peak up as it did in the 1980s.

3335 Mr. Shimkus. Mr. Morales, you would agree?

3336 Mr. Morales. I would wholeheartedly agree, and I would also
3337 say in the state of Texas, because the Permian shale, 35 percent
3338 of the severance tax that we submit is staying in the roads,
3339 infrastructures of all of Texas, not just the Permian Basin.

3340 So our shale, the production out there, is impacting schools
3341 and infrastructure.

3342 Mr. Shimkus. Thank you. I yield back my time. Thank you,
3343 Mr. Chairman.

3344 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back and we now recognize
3345 the gentelady from the state of California. Representative,
3346 you have five minutes.

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3347 Ms. Barragan. Thank you.

3348 First, I want to start by thanking the panellists for being
3349 here today. I have been running back and forth, so I apologize
3350 if I ask some questions that have been asked already.

3351 I want to start with you, Mayor Brainard. I understand that
3352 you are a Republican mayor. Is that correct?

3353 Mr. Brainard. That is correct.

3354 Ms. Barragan. I understand that you have been working hard
3355 in your city to work on climate change. Is that correct?

3356 Mr. Brainard. Yes.

3357 Ms. Barragan. A couple of years ago, you gave a quote to
3358 an article in Think Progress and I am going to ask you about it
3359 because my frustration is that sometimes when you talk to -- I
3360 talk to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about climate
3361 change and working on this issue, there appears to just be the
3362 conversation of what we are having by some of our other guests
3363 and why is it important that we drill and why it is important
3364 that we do fracking and so on and so forth.

3365 I get the -- I get the arguments that are made over there
3366 and I am really glad that this committee hearing is focused on
3367 why we need to address climate change and what you are doing on
3368 a local level.

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3369 You had told Think Progress back then -- I just want to make
3370 sure it is accurate -- you said, and I quote, "Republicans have
3371 been intimidated to some degree by the Tea Party and the
3372 conservative talk show host on addressing climate change," and
3373 you went on to talk about how you do what is right for your
3374 constituents, and when you do that that is the best thing to do.

3375 Do you stand by that comment? Only because I am curious.
3376 I would love to just hear it. Do you stand by that comment?

3377 Mr. Brainard. I do. I think that a lot of these radio
3378 shows, you know, they have a particular political persuasion.

3379 Some are liberal, some are conservative. But those commentators
3380 are sometimes out to make money and get listener ship and not
3381 always focused on finding solutions, and I am frustrated with
3382 that as I think a lot of us are.

3383 I think that, you know, mayors don't have the leisure of
3384 having sort of partisan politics that maybe those in state
3385 capitals or maybe those here in Washington, too.

3386 We see our constituents in the grocery stores and the barber
3387 shops and on the street every day. They don't care about partisan
3388 politics very much. They care about making sure that services
3389 that they are paying local taxes for are done.

3390 They care about the quality of life in their communities.

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3391 They care about the future of their children. They care about
3392 the schools and the library systems and they care about safe
3393 drinking water and clean air and what the world is going to be
3394 like for their descendants.

3395 I think being a mayor is probably one of the least partisan
3396 offices you can hold in the United States. We are kind of a joke
3397 at the Congress of Mayors. There is no Republican or Democrat
3398 way to -- Democratic way to -- excuse me, Democratic way to plough
3399 snow or fill potholes. There really isn't.

3400 Ms. Barragan. Thank you for that. I have served on the
3401 local city council and served as a mayor and understand where
3402 you are coming from.

3403 I just want to applaud you in your efforts to think beyond
3404 the partisanship and think about what is right not just for your
3405 -- for your constituents but for America and for the future of
3406 this planet.

3407 You know, I have a mayor that is not in my district but
3408 somebody who I work very closely with. He is the mayor of
3409 Lancaster in California. His name is Rex Parris, Republican.

3410 And people tell me, you know, like, what are you doing -- he
3411 is a conservative. He is a Republican.

3412 I said, you know what, he cares about climate change. He

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3413 is acting on climate change. And I think that -- I applaud because
3414 we need to make sure to come together. This should not be a
3415 partisan issue at all. This really is about the future of our
3416 children, their health, and the impacts.

3417 You know, some of the things they are doing down in Lancaster
3418 I just want to highlight because when I was on the city council
3419 we actually went down to Lancaster to see what they were doing
3420 there to figure out how can we do this in our own community.

3421 And they have achieved their net-zero energy status in 2016,
3422 which they define as producing more energy from sun or wind than
3423 they use.

3424 They have all electric buses in Lancaster. They make sure
3425 that every new home built is solar powered and affordable at that.

3426 It is the first city to require actually solar panels on every
3427 home.

3428 Now, I realize that different parts of the country are a
3429 little different and maybe you can't get the same type of result
3430 that you would get in sunny California.

3431 But what I wanted just to highlight was that one is it is
3432 great to see you here and great to see your testimony here. And
3433 maybe in my final seconds, can you maybe highlight or give us
3434 an idea of what are things -- a couple of things maybe you have

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3435 done that you think Congress should consider in making -- doing
3436 the same on our level so we can help address the climate change
3437 issue.

3438 Mr. Brainard. Would you like examples of what we have done
3439 in Carmel? I want to make sure I understand the question.

3440 Ms. Barragan. Something you have done in your city that
3441 maybe we should look at as something we should implement on a
3442 national level to help fight climate change.

3443 Mr. Brainard. Well, I think there are great opportunities
3444 through the highway trust fund, which funds local highway
3445 projects, to toughen up on how we design our cities.

3446 We have designed our cities in the United States so that
3447 the average person, including all the people that don't drive
3448 in big cities along the East Coast and Chicago -- we have designed
3449 our cities so the average driver is spending two hours a day in
3450 their car.

3451 We can do better than that, and since so much of the money
3452 for building that highway system comes from the highway trust
3453 fund, having a little stronger requirements that encourage better
3454 city design could make a big difference to those auto emissions
3455 that cause such problems, for instance, to Salt Lake City.

3456 We have done that in Carmel. We have designed our center

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3457 core with our roundabouts, other traffic innovations, so the
3458 average commute in our city is four to five minutes, not two hours
3459 today.

3460 Mr. Tonko. Representative Barragan yields back.

3461 And we now go to the gentleman from the state of West
3462 Virginia, Representative McKinley, for five minutes.

3463 Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looks like I am
3464 batting clean up here on this. So let us go -- just a quick note
3465 to Mayor Brainard.

3466 Fifty years ago, I graduated from Purdue. So I want to give
3467 a shout out to your Ryan Cline that got us an opportunity. That
3468 kid just shot the lights out that night and --

3469 Mr. Brainard. He did, didn't he? I am a Butler graduate
3470 but we still like Purdue.

3471 Mr. McKinley. You still have a chance for education.

3472 Mr. Brainard. That is right.

3473 Mr. McKinley. So the other -- I want to go to Camp, because
3474 there is a concern I have had and many of us are watching many
3475 of our political figures hiding behind climate change as an excuse
3476 to push an ideology.

3477 And so, Commissioner Camp, let me just point out some
3478 examples on it. Under the Commerce Clause -- under the Commerce

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3479 Clause, there is numerous challenges now around the country about
3480 this because you just heard -- maybe heard Governor Inslee trying
3481 to prevent coal from being exported across the state to be
3482 exported.

3483 We have a governor in Maryland using -- preventing gas
3484 pipelines being constructed across Maryland, three and a half
3485 miles long, 12 feet wide, and is trying to prevent that from
3486 happening.

3487 We see in New York fighting the Commerce Clause by preventing
3488 the pipeline construction up there to distribute gas. My concern
3489 comes back to you, because I am from Wheeling, just down the road,
3490 just I am at the other end of that river. Just follow -- come
3491 on around.

3492 If we can't ship our ethane -- if governors and political
3493 figures are using various rules and regs to prevent the
3494 transportation, how are we going to get ethane to you at the
3495 cracker plant? How are we going to get coal transported up?
3496 How are we going to get gas up into New England when they have
3497 shortages?

3498 Do you -- do you sense -- are you getting any sense that
3499 sometimes we are allowing our ideology to get ahead of us instead
3500 of science and the law, to be able to allow our products to be

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3501 shipped to market?

3502 Do you think they are hiding behind that?

3503 Mr. Camp. I do. I think a lot of times, you know, you have
3504 to let science play out and you have to figure out how we are
3505 going to move the products from point A to point B.

3506 So we are seeing that. Fortunately, you know, for the Shell
3507 petrol chemical plant they are running 97-mile natural gas line
3508 directly to the plant. We haven't run into that.

3509 But, you know, Mr. Johnson -- in Congressman Johnson's
3510 district he has a proposed petrochemical plant in Belmont County,
3511 Ohio. They might be running into that situation in the years
3512 to come.

3513 So I do believe so. Yes, sir.

3514 Mr. McKinley. I am just concerned about people who are
3515 hiding behind something. I ran out of time. I went two minutes
3516 over with Inslee.

3517 So but I wanted to challenge him on one statement because
3518 he made -- just to show how science is being twisted here a little
3519 bit wherein he made a public comment that -- what was his quote?

3520 We are tired of breathing smoke from Mississippi.

3521 Now, I am just an engineer from Perdue. I have never heard
3522 of the wind currents going from Mississippi up to the state of

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3523 Washington.

3524 Is there something I am missing here or is this just one
3525 more thing that people are trying to use an ideology?

3526 Mr. Camp. I believe so. Yes, sir. I think, as Ranking
3527 Member Shimkus said earlier, you know, we had studies in the past
3528 administration and go through -- if we would have spent our time
3529 and energy focusing on how to help these other nations with their
3530 emissions, you know, if you truly believe in global warming and
3531 climate change, it is a national -- it is a world thing, not just
3532 a national thing.

3533 And if we focused our time, energy, finances, resources on
3534 helping the entire world and not just the United States we would
3535 be moving, you know, to the future a little faster.

3536 Mr. McKinley. Can't agree with you more. I hope there is
3537 going to be more emphasis on the global involvement and how we
3538 get that done.

3539 So I thank all of you for the panel and I yield back my time.

3540 Mr. Tonko. The gentleman yields back.

3541 I request unanimous consent to enter the following items
3542 into the record. They include a report by the University of
3543 Montana entitled "The Economic Impact of the Early Retirement
3544 of Colstrip Units 3 and 4," a letter from the mayor of Rock Falls,

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3545 a Washington Post article from March 28th of 2019 entitled, "In
3546 Small Towns Across the Nation the Death of a Coal Plant Leaves
3547 an Unmistakable Void," a report by Energy Innovation titled, "The
3548 Coal Cost Crossover: Economic Viability of Existing Coal
3549 Compared to New Local Wind and Solar Resources," the United States
3550 Climate Alliance's 2018 annual report, a New York Times article
3551 from March 29th of 2019 entitled, "They Grew up Around Fossil
3552 Fuels; Now Their Jobs are in Renewables," an article from KPAX
3553 titled, "Montana Senate Advances Bill to Aid Northwestern
3554 Purchase of Colstrip 4 Share," two articles from the Institute
3555 for Energy Research entitled, "China's New Environmental Problem:
3556 Battery Disposal and the Other, the Mounting Solar Panel Waste
3557 Problem," an article from Amnesty International entitled,
3558 "Amnesty Challenges Industry Leaders to Clean Up Their
3559 Batteries," and finally, an article from Engineering.com
3560 entitled, "Will Your Electric Cars Save the World or Wreck It?"

3561 Request for unanimous consent? Without objection, so
3562 ordered.

3563 [The information follows:]

3564 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 9*****

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3565 Mr. Tonko. I would like to thank all of our witnesses for
3566 their participation in today's hearing.

3567 I remind members that, pursuant to committee rules, they
3568 have 10 business days by which to submit additional questions
3569 for the record to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared.

3570 I ask each witness to respond, please, and do so promptly
3571 to any such questions that you may receive.

3572 And at this time, the subcommittee is adjourned.

3573 [Whereupon, at 1:11 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

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