**Statement of**
**Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**
**Before the**
**House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis**
**Hearing on "Building Climate Resilient Communities"**
**June 11, 2021**

## Introduction

Chair Castor, Ranking Member Graves, and Members of the Committee: my name is Eric Garcetti, and I serve as Mayor of Los Angeles, the second-largest city in the country and home to four million residents.

I am honored to appear before you and this Committee on behalf of my city to discuss our approach to building resilience to the ever-growing and compounding effects of climate change in our region. This task could not be more urgent, necessary, or monumental: we now live with the ever-present threat of longer wildfire seasons; with more days of extreme heat; with prolonged drought conditions — with the devastating effects of warming temperatures and rising emissions on our people's health, well-being, and quality of life.

Unfortunately, these stressors are all-too-common across our country. But our approach in L.A. is defined by big goals and bold strategies to meet them, and we hope to share best practices for the Select Committee's consideration — and to work with this Congress to tackle this crisis in a way that protects public safety, strengthens our economy, creates jobs, and lays the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable future.

Mayors and local leaders live where we work. We see the impact of our policies and our actions in our own neighborhoods every day. We experience the heatwaves and wildfires and droughts not at a distance, but up close. Because we breathe the same air and drink the same water and live with the consequences of the choices made from City Halls to state houses to the U.S. Capitol.

Los Angeles understands the magnitude of this challenge — and the potential solutions — better than nearly any other city, county, or region.

Just this year, FEMA ranked L.A. County #1 in terms of risk for disasters — the highest ranking of 3,000 counties in its National Risk Index, an assessment of vulnerability to natural disasters. That puts my city on the front lines of this crisis; it also means we are ground zero for steps to solve it. And that puts us in a position to lead the charge on resilience and infrastructure development.

We must support critical infrastructure and practice good land and vegetation management to protect us from raging wildfires. We need to cool down neighborhoods, provide shade, and ensure healthy air for Angelenos, young and old. We need to ensure local reliability for our water supply, so we don't have to pump water in from afar. And we need to focus our efforts on

minimizing the risk to our most vulnerable populations, the families and households and workers who are always disproportionately impacted by shocks and stresses.

In 2019, we released L.A.'s Green New Deal to confront these demands head-on, building a global model for what local action looks like in fighting climate change and upholding the standards of the Paris Agreement. Our vision is designed to answer two fundamental questions: will our planet survive, and will there be a place for my family and me in the economy of tomorrow? Truly, we can't answer one without addressing the other, because when we act to protect the planet and preserve public health, we invest in communities, projects, and people. We expand opportunity. We plant the seeds of a steadier, more prosperous, more just future.

Climate change, public health, and economic opportunity have never been more linked than they are today, and the need to tie them together is, literally, a matter of existence or ecological devastation. This is the moment to accept that call. To build back better. To build more resilient systems with multiple benefits. Our work in Los Angeles shows how we can get this done. How we can grow jobs, protect public health, and defend the planet. And Congress has an opportunity to supercharge this work.

That's why last year, in a letter to Congressional leaders, I called for a green and equitable recovery to the COVID-19 health and economic crisis alongside hundreds of fellow Climate Mayors. Climate Mayors is a network I co-founded in 2014, composed of nearly 500 American Mayors from 48 states, Democrats and Republicans, committed to upholding the goals of the Paris Agreement. Mayor Sylvester Turner is now the chair, and his city of Houston represents another city under siege by some of the worst impacts of climate change. And today, I am proud to be sitting alongside one of the newest co-chairs of Climate Mayors, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway. This body, Climate Mayors, responded to your RFI in November 2019 with recommendations to help communities become more resilient. Recommendations included proactive cross-agency and community collaboration in advance of disasters; building upon and expanding investments in pre-disaster resilient infrastructure; and targeting investments in low and moderate-income neighborhoods through leveraging the Community Development Block Grant.

I also chair an organization called the C40 Cities Climate Leaders Group, made up of 97 of the world's megacities, representing a quarter of the world's GDP and I can say that incorporating climate resilience into a green and equitable recovery is not something in which only we three mayors before you believe. It is held up as a global priority, endorsed by the C40 Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, which I established early on in the pandemic.

Now, allow me to share the L.A. story with you and then offer some lessons learned, recommendations, and appeals for partnership.

**Snapshot of Los Angeles**

L.A. is known for its beaches, mountains, and entertainment industry. It is also the land of earthquakes, wildfires, extreme heat, and drought. I will share three catastrophic climate events with you that lay bare our vulnerabilities and strengthen our resolve to plan and build for a very different future.

*Extreme Heat*

First, over the fourth of July weekend of 2018, Los Angeles experienced record-breaking heat. While heat waves may not be unique to our region, they are becoming more frequent, intense, and unpredictable. In fact, the seven hottest years in 140 years of record-keeping were the last seven. From 1976-2005, the average annual temperature was 75 degrees F. That temperature is expected to rise 2.5 degrees F by 2039, an additional 3 degrees by 2069, and another 3 degrees by 2100, as conservative estimates. The number of high heat days in Los Angeles, measured as days above 95 degrees, is expected to triple by mid-century and will be even more intense in inland areas.

On July 6, 2018, temperatures skyrocketed and brought some of our infrastructure past the brink. We are used to seeing days over 100 degrees in the Valley, but we hit 117 degrees. And what was most surprising and atypical, and a sign of the unpredictability of climate change, is that the downtown area hit 108. Cables melted, neighborhood distributing stations overloaded, and some neighborhoods lacked power for upwards of three days. The takeaway here is that the significant amount of work LADWP had been doing to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in the high heat zones of the San Fernando Valley paid off. It was those areas that hadn't yet been upgraded to withstand extreme heat -- areas that we just didn't expect to get that hot -- that were most affected. This was not a problem of lack of power availability. This was a problem of infrastructure coping with climate change. We have to do so much more, and not use history as our guide. Climate change has thrown out the old playbook.

*Wildfire*

My second example is the Saddleridge fire, sparked on October 10, 2019, which burned 8,800 acres and required LADWP crews to replace 40 poles, 4,000 feet of overhead and 150 feet of underground conductors. That fire intersected three major transmission corridors bringing power into the L.A. Basin from the Pacific Northwest, Kern County and through Victorville which reduced our imported supply by 75%, including nearly a thousand megawatts of renewables. Thankfully that day was not a high load day, and we were able to keep the lights on, but we came within 135 megawatts of rolling blackouts. For perspective, the total load for that day was 3,331, so it shows you how slim a margin under which we were able to operate. Here we learn the value of local generation inside the city, including the contribution of every solar panel on Angelenos' roofs.

2020 was the largest fire season on record in CA in terms of acres burnt, burning over 4% of the land in CA that covered 4.3 million acres. 9,000 fires burned across CA last year and we are bracing for what's in store for this year. Fire conditions are now more dangerous than they were in the past, with longer bushfire seasons, drought, drier fuels and soils, and record-breaking heat. A study published in July 2019 by the American Geophysical Union concluded that "human-caused warming has already significantly enhanced wildfire activity in California ... and will likely continue to do so in the coming decades."

Where there's fire, there's smoke. Southern California is ranked #1 by the American Lung Association in terms of ozone pollution in the air, and climate change only threatens to undo our great progress over the years. The mix of smoke and ground-level ozone produces severe issues

for human respiratory systems, and the 2020 fires left Californians up and down the state unable to leave their homes nor safe from pollution inside poorly ventilated homes.

*Drought*

Thirdly, while L.A. has long been vulnerable to drought, we are experiencing periods of deeper, prolonged crisis, with the most recent historic drought period lasting from 2013-2017. In the first year of that drought, we experienced our seventh driest rainy season on record since 1877. During this timeframe, L.A.'s local water resources were so depleted that we had to increase our imported water by 80%, competing with water demand from the Sacramento River and the Metropolitan Water District, which were themselves at 50% below average capacity, and the Eastern Sierra Mountain snowpack that was 33% below average.

In response to the start of the drought, I asked L.A. to cut its water consumption by 20%. Thanks to the Save the Drop campaign from 2013-2017, millions of Angelenos achieved this goal by switching to California-friendly landscapes, installing cisterns, rain barrels, and high-efficiency toilets, taking shorter showers, and limiting landscape watering. And those that went above and beyond were 15 winners across each Council District were recognized as "Drop Defenders" for leading by example and saving thousands of gallons of water in the process.

This drought exposed how incredibly dependent L.A.'s water supply was on imports, and that needed to change. Since then, we have completely changed our approach to managing and educating the public about L.A.'s local stormwater, groundwater, and recycled water resources as water resilience measures in response to a changing climate.

These shifts in weather are becoming far too frequent to consider them outliers, and we are risking people's lives if we don't treat climate change as the national emergency it is. Battling climate change once felt intangible and even esoteric -- it is now more clear than ever that it is here, and it demands urgent action.

**Planning for a Resilient, Sustainable L.A.**

*Cooling Strategies*

Because of the great need, we are currently investing in a number of strategies to reduce extreme heat and provide localized cooling. The scientific evidence on the effectiveness of cool roofs has been clear so in 2015 L.A. went "all in" - making cool roofs a requirement for all new residential buildings. We have also been offering consumer rebates for cool roofs for over ten years because not only does it help cool the outside temperatures, but it is also an effective energy efficiency strategy to reduce cooling needs inside a building as well.

In 2015, we set out in my first Sustainable City pLAn a commitment to innovating on cool pavement, a surface we know has great responsibility over the urban heat island effect. We partnered with industry to let them test their products at large parking lots and other areas and in 2017 we became the first major city in America to install cool pavement on a public roadway. We currently have 15 lane miles of cool pavement and we're going to add four times that amount - another 60 lane miles - of cool pavement over the next year, while continuing to innovate on

materials and use cases. Last summer, the temperature differential of our cool pavement was visible using NASA and JPL thermal satellite imagery. We invite you to come visit us to see for yourself.

In addition to this innovative technology, we're also significantly investing in one of the most tried and true methods for cooling -- trees. While Los Angeles has a 25% average tree canopy cover, like many urban cities, our urban forest is not equitably distributed and tree canopy cover by neighborhood can range from double that amount to just single digits. Last year we partnered with Google to help us identify our neighborhoods with the lowest tree canopy. As you can guess, low tree canopy often correlates with areas that have increased pollution, extreme heat, and greater socioeconomic vulnerability. So, we set a goal in L.A.'s Green New Deal to increase the tree canopy in those neighborhoods by 50%. It's a tall order but recognizing how crucial tree health and tree shade is to climate resilience and equity, in 2018 I hired the city's first-ever City Forest Officer to ensure we stay on track and that we pursue state and federal partnerships to meet our goals. Over the last five years we were able to leverage our local funding to receive over $11 million from the State of California, much of which has come from the state's cap and trade program. Since January 2019, we've planted over 46,000 trees… that's an average of 56 new trees per day. All the while we are doing neighborhood-level assessments to determine how to reach our goals. Growing an equitable tree canopy is one of the most important investments that we can make as a city for a more cool and resilient future.

We're combining all of these strategies to transform the hottest, most vulnerable parts of our cities into Cool Neighborhoods. In these areas we are applying cool pavement along with planting new trees and ensuring that all of our transit stops with high ridership are shaded - whether naturally by trees or by custom-designed shade structures. We're also rethinking the design of some of our most basic infrastructure in order to create more shade for pedestrians and transit riders. We recently unveiled a new streetlight design that can incorporate shade panels. For Los Angeles, creating better access to shade is necessary for a more just and equitable city.

*Fire Resilience*

Historically, in Southern California, our primary wildfire season occurred in a relatively narrow window between September and December, when damaging Santa Ana winds would reliably fuel destructive fires throughout our brush hillsides. These fires would often collide with urban spaces, causing millions of dollars in property loss and tragic injuries and fatalities to both civilians and firefighters. But one of the biggest shifts in the past decade or so is that we no longer have a limited wildfire season. Wildfires are now a year-round threat to Los Angeles.

In one of the nation's most brush fire-prone cities, I know it's impossible to completely eradicate the threat of wildfire. We continue to face more severe climate conditions and the everyday role of LAFD continues to expand while we respond to an increasing number of emergencies annually.

For years, at the scene of a brush fire, LAFD relied on a hand tool —similar to a protractor—that we would overlay on paper maps, and by factoring in weather, wind conditions, and topography we could attempt to estimate the fire's projected path.  Technology like WIFIRE, developed in

San Diego, has changed the game and can, within seconds, provide an amazingly accurate predictive model of the fire's projected spread over any number of hours and weather conditions. That model is immediately emailed and texted to the incident commanders in the field who can make informed evacuation decisions. WIFIRE also allows us to continually update the fire's projected path in real-time as wind and weather conditions change.

Other new technologies that LAFD relies on include the Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System (FIRIS) that takes infrared images and information from an aircraft orbiting over a wildfire to produce a real-time picture of the fire's size, potential spread and behavior as well as LAFD's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) program, the most extensive of any fire department in the nation, which we use for mapping, assessments, and identify hotspots in very efficient and cost-efficient fashion.

Our latest innovation is a partnership with three universities, which provides links to dozens of surveillance cameras that constantly monitor brush zones throughout the State. These cameras also provide fire officials with an accurate view of the fire (and its behavior) as it develops, which enables us to make better informed long-term strategic decisions.

*Energy & Buildings Resilience*

Today, our local generation includes four natural-gas power plants. In 2019, I announced that we would not be repowering as originally planned the in-basin natural gas power units that use ocean cooling on our coast and just this past April I announced a ten-year acceleration to our carbon-free grid goal to 2035, the first in the country to meet the President's target. We were able to make this bold commitment to a renewable, resilient, and affordable grid thanks to an unprecedented partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory which delivered the LA100 study.

This historic study laid out multiple pathways to a 100% renewable energy grid, each of which reinforced the critical importance of local, distributed clean energy like rooftop solar, storage, demand response, and energy efficiency. Thankfully, we are not starting from scratch.

We are already the #1 solar city in the country and have been for six of the last seven years, and my sustainability plan set a goal of deploying 1,000 MW of local solar, 500 MW of demand response, doubling energy efficiency, and installing more than 28,000 vehicle chargers by 2030.

We have invested over $336 million in the Solar Incentive Program since 1999, having conducted 34,573 installations.

And we continue to innovate on new local, distributed solar programs, such as the city's Feed-in Tariff program, which pays solar developers a fixed favorable rate for the solar they deliver to the grid and which is now expanding to include a battery storage component, or the Shared Solar program which, by subscribing at a fixed rate, brings solar to tenant and multifamily buildings who may not have access to on-site solar. This protects a portion of a customer's electric bill against fluctuating utility costs for up to 10 years of subscription. Shared solar electricity is supplied by new solar power plants constructed in or near the L.A. basin. LADWP will even rent

a homeowner's roof through a new Solar Rooftops program and pay that customer a fee for being able to build more local solar that provides system benefitting, clean electricity to the grid. Maintaining, and indeed expanding, local, distributed energy is foundational to our energy transformation. It supports local reliability, saves the utility money in supporting strategic locations on the grid, and delivers clean air, local jobs, and cost savings to communities.

The cleanest and cheapest kilowatt of power is the one that is never generated. As we transition to a 100% clean power grid, we have invested heavily in energy efficiency programs and projects.

Energy efficiency is an investment that compounds dividends. A one-time rebate to replace a lightbulb, change out a fridge, or put in an electric heat pump generates savings the first year the project is done, and it keeps saving throughout the life of the equipment. Since the beginning of my term, we've saved customers over $1.5 billion dollars on their bills by investing in energy efficiency.

LADWP offers an extensive list of energy efficiency and water conservation programs for a variety of residential and commercial customers ranging from low-income, renters, landlords, owners, to small and large businesses.

In fiscal year 19-20, LADWP expended $194 million for energy efficiency programs. These investments yield over 350 Gigawatt hours of savings annually, and achieve roughly $56 million in bill savings for customers, and will continue year after year for the life of the measures.

For reference, saving 350 Gigawatt hours is the equivalent of taking 53,000 cars off the road for a year in terms of greenhouse gas emissions saved. The programs receiving the highest investment are Commercial Direct Install ($47 million), LAUSD Direct Install ($30 million), Consumer Rebate Program ($28 million), Commercial Lighting Incentive Program ($18 million), and AC Optimization ($12 million).

In fiscal year 19-20, LADWP expended $12 million for water conservation programs that included rebates for high-efficiency toilets, urinals, cooling towers, and turf replacement programs. Since the program began in 2009, LADWP's turf rebate replacement program has replaced over 51.1 million square feet of turf. This results in annual savings of over 2.33 billion gallons of water per year, which is enough water to supply almost 18,000 homes annually.

As we begin to come back to our buildings, it is critical that our municipal buildings that serve the community are thoughtfully redesigned and retrofitted to produce healthy indoor air quality while reducing transmission of virus among Angelenos. Our public spaces must be designed for a healthier future where every building is considered critical infrastructure supporting the well-being of its occupants from libraries to recreation and senior centers to schools.

Physical infrastructure must be redesigned and retrofitted to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and future pandemics. HVAC systems must be optimized and combined with other strategies such as natural light to provide optimal indoor environmental quality for occupants.

This work will enable safe reopening of public buildings, plus additional improvements. Energy efficient buildings with good air filtration offer resiliency benefits in the face of fire smoke, heat, and power outages.

*Water Resilience*

To address Los Angeles' historic drought, my fifth executive directive mandated that the city cut its per capita water use 20 percent by 2017; reduce its purchase of imported potable water by 50% by 2024; and create of an integrated water strategy that increases local water supplies and that improves water security in the context of climate change and seismic vulnerability. The City not only met but exceeded our 2017 reduction goal and we continue to make significant progress toward increasing the City's use of local water resources to 70% by 2035 through increased water recycling, groundwater storage, and stormwater capture.

For instance, we set a goal to recycle 100% of the City's wastewater by 2035. The program will overhaul our Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant - the city's oldest and largest wastewater treatment facility - to maximize purified recycled water and replenish the City's groundwater basins through direct potable reuse. A key component to this effort is Operation NEXT, a partnership between the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to invest $8 billion over the next 14 years to remake the water system of Los Angeles to convey this purified water for reuse.

The further development of LADWP's local conveyance infrastructure will allow the purified recycled water from the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to be transferred to groundwater basins in West Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley. By investing in infrastructure that transports, stores, and purifies our natural groundwater, L.A. over time will need to rely less on infrastructure in other parts of the state such as the Grant and Crowley Lake Dams in Mono County in northern California.

Altogether, the City anticipates that Operation NEXT will provide over 43,000 construction, operations, design, engineering, and maintenance jobs from now until 2035. LADWP and LASAN are currently preparing a programmatic Environmental Impact report for the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant and constructing a membrane bioreactor pilot facility that will recycle 1 million gallons of wastewater per day.

L.A. has also invested in stormwater capture infrastructure as a way to increase local water resources. In 2004, Angelenos passed a landmark bond called Proposition O that invested $500 million in multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. LADWP and LASAN continue to construct more stormwater capture projects throughout the city largely due to annual funding from L.A. County's Safe, Clean Water Program, which provides roughly $285 million to the County, with an average of $80 million dollars annually coming to the City. These new stormwater capture projects such as parks, street medians, and spreading grounds have provided multiple environmental and community benefits such as improved water quality, mitigated flood risks, green and open space, green jobs, and environmental justice to historically disadvantaged communities.

When we talk about water resilience, it is usually focused on drought and water scarcity. However, the sheer amount of energy used to treat and transport water, and the climate impacts of those actions should not be overlooked. The water-energy relationship is especially important in California, where roughly 20% of statewide electricity and 30% of non-power plant natural gas is consumed to move, treat, and heat water. This is another reason why focusing on enhancing local water resources makes sense.

**Recommendations to Congress**

This brings me to my recommendations to this committee. Some of these can also be found in the Accelerator for America Infrastructure Playbook.

The first will come as no surprise: we need more funding.

This is at the heart of the President's American Jobs Plan — to launch national programs that support good-paying jobs to rebuild America.

In particular, funding for both capital costs and the operation and maintenance of water recycling and stormwater capture projects will transform wastewater treatment facilities and distribution systems to ensure cities can capture the rainfall they receive, recycle water, and decrease dependency on imported water. These stormwater projects are expected to support 18,000 jobs in L.A. by 2050.

Additionally, increased funding to upgrade the grid to support distributed solar, storage and electric vehicle installations, as well as funding for the technologies themselves, is needed to sustain communities' access to affordable, reliable, clean energy in the face of extreme events. These projects are expected to support 45,000 jobs in L.A. by 2022.

For example, we plan to increase rooftop solar and storage on city facilities and carports in our parking lots. These are small but mighty projects that deliver resilience at scale while providing meaningful work for our local labor force. These projects are expected to support 6,500 jobs in L.A. by 2025. Critical City facilities, like those at LAX are moving forward on building a microgrid to improve power quality, reliability, and resilience, to safeguard their operations.

We need to think of all of our buildings as critical infrastructure that need to be supported in the face of climate change. People need somewhere to go when it's too hot, when it's too smokey, or when they lose power. Our nation's schools, libraries, rec centers, and hospitals must be supported to provide these services in the face of climate change. We therefore must enhance existing building retrofit and weatherization programs to encourage deep energy efficiency interventions that support HVAC retrofits, strong air filtration, and electrification to improve indoor air quality. These actions will in turn create jobs, protect health and safety, reduce building operating costs, while also mitigating climate change by installing zero-emission energy sources and improving building energy efficiency.

I would strongly suggest Congress support the spirit of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant in the AJP. In 2009, this effort provided $3.2 billion in block grants to cities,

communities, states, territories, and tribes to develop and implement energy efficiency projects which in turn created local jobs.

This was the largest direct investment in renewable energy and building retrofit projects in history. But with the challenge before us to reopen public buildings safely, the time is right for an even larger investment that includes consideration of indoor air quality through the use of efficient HVAC systems, which will not only protect against COVID-19 transmission, but also protect people from extreme heat-induced poor air quality or wildfire-induced smoke hazards.

Funding to enhance cool neighborhood programs will help cities to plant shade trees and install cool pavement to keep temperatures from rising. When combined at the neighborhood level, these investments build upon each other to greatly increase their cooling impacts. Together with funding for shade structures, we can see measurable impacts on temperature and comfort at the neighborhood level in weeks rather than decades.

It is important to note that funding for tree maintenance is a critical component. Planting the tree is only half the battle. We must ensure those trees survive and grow to their full potential by providing adequate watering and maintenance for trees once they are in the ground. This maintenance is the perfect opportunity to build out green jobs and training for entry-level workers. Every million dollars invested in planting and maintaining trees creates up to two dozen jobs. Planting and maintaining 90,000 trees in L.A. will support 2,000 jobs and will also provide 61.3 million square feet of shade at maturity.

A national green bank or federal support for state and local bond issuance and refinancing could be effective ways to scale these investments and overcome the challenge cities have of not being able to monetize tax credits.

Much of these investments can be offset by eliminating all fossil fuel subsidies.

My second recommendation centers on workforce development.

We should focus our efforts on creating a national training center for infrastructure, like that of the National Transit Institute, to set clear national objectives and establish a comprehensive strategy by providing resources, thought leadership, and training standards.

Further, a national training center for infrastructure should support programs that will provide minority and low-income communities with quality education and training to excel in emerging practices around resilience in the built environment where access to training and education is limited.

We need to expand these training opportunities now to ensure we have a workforce ready and able to lead this transformation of our built environment.

That brings me to my third recommendation, which is advancing equity.

In 2016, LADWP established the first of its kind *equity metrics* to track, measure, and report how its programs are benefiting customers, particularly our most vulnerable. This type of approach to measure success through the lens of equity could help inform federal programs and ensure success of the President's Justice40 directive.

We must reduce low-income families' energy and water burden and ensure they have access to clean air and clean water.

At the same time, we should expect subsidized housing to meet the highest efficiency standards and include an efficiency metric for the low-income housing tax credit. Our poorest households should not be disproportionately burdened by energy needs such as air conditioning.

**Conclusion**

As I stated at the outset, L.A. faces a variety of cascading climate threats that impact public health and our economic well-being. The good news is, we have the tools and strategies to mitigate the worst effects of extreme weather through cooling down neighborhoods, hardening infrastructure and being good stewards of our resources. Along the way, ample good jobs will be created to transform our city and region to improve livability for future generations.

Thank you for shining a light on this pivotal moment for our nation and the world. We must grab hold of this chance to deliver resilience, economic opportunity, racial and environmental justice, and a climate safe planet.

Thank you once again, Chair Castor and Ranking Member Graves, for allowing me to be here today. I look forward to partnering with you to build up resilient and sustainable communities across the U.S.A.