

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

HEARING

Time for Action: Addressing the Environmental & Economic Effects of
Climate Change

February 6, 2019

OPENING STATEMENT

Thank you Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member Shimkus for holding this hearing today to discuss the urgent threat from climate change we all face and the way forward.

Sea levels are rising. Average temperatures are warming. Ice is disappearing at alarming rates. Extreme weather is intensifying and becoming more frequent—from stronger hurricanes to colder winters.

The world's top scientific minds have made it clear: the time for debate is over—urgent and decisive action is needed now on a significant scale to address climate change. The will of one city, one county, one state, or one country will not be enough to meet the challenge ahead.

In the Great Lakes, we are already seeing increased variability in lake water levels, more harmful algae blooms, and wildlife habitats adversely impacted, which will continue to negatively affect the region's economy and way of life long-term.

It is critical the United States rejoin the rest of the industrialize world as a member of the Paris Climate Accord and take immediate steps to ensure this nation is transitioning across all sectors to a carbon-zero economy. Repealing, rolling back, or weakening the Clean Power Plan,

Clean Air Act, clean car standards, or any other effort to reduce greenhouse gases only exacerbates the climate crisis we need to solve.

With 2018 listed as one of the hottest years on record, the American people have demanded immediate action. Allowing greater climate pollution threatens our public health, our economy, and our national security.

We need bold, new ideas to create a pathway to a clean energy future and create new, good-paying jobs at the same time. We need to make the necessary investments in infrastructure, workforce, and education to mitigate, adapt, and reverse the growing climate threat.

Thank you to all the witnesses for being here today at this important hearing. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—on the Energy & Commerce Committee to take serious action and pass meaningful climate legislation this Congress.

We must have the courage to act—the consequences of inaction are real, and all future generation are put at risk each day we do nothing.