

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

HEARING

We'll Always Have Paris: Filling the Leadership Void Caused by  
Federal Inaction on Climate Change

February 28, 2019

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OPENING STATEMENT

Thank you Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member Shimkus for holding this important hearing today to discuss the urgent threat from climate change we all face and the federal inaction from this administration that puts us all at risk.

We know sea levels are rising.

We know average temperatures are warming.

We know ice is disappearing at alarming rates.

And we know extreme weather is intensifying and becoming more frequent—from stronger hurricanes to colder winters. We have seen this first hand across the mid-west and Michigan with the bitter cold polar vortex this year.

The international community recognizes climate change as the generation threat that it is and multiple scientific reports have called on the need to act over the next decade to mitigate serious harms to our economy, environment, and way of life.

The Fourth National Climate Assessment—prepared for the president and by scientists across 13 government agencies—makes it clear:

*Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization.*

And yet, this administration chooses to do nothing.

Since the administration withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement, cities and states, like Ann Arbor and Michigan, have been forced to rise up in the absence of needed federal leadership on the world's stage.

I am encouraged and inspired to see cities, states, and businesses acting, but the will of one city, one county, one state, or even one country will not be enough to meet the challenge ahead.