

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) Appropriations bills, we urge you to provide robust funding for our nation's climate change research programs. Across the country, climate change impacts are already being felt. Recent flooding has devastated the Midwest, costing farmers millions of dollars in damages. Coastal infrastructure is at serious risk due to sea level rise and storm surge. In the Western U.S., intense drought and reduced snowpack, combined with increasing populations, has created unprecedented water shortages. Communities throughout the nation are experiencing the direct impacts of climate change and its effects on their health, economy and safety.

The leading climate scientists from around the world have urged us to respond. In October 2018, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that it will take unparalleled action over the next decade to ensure that the global temperature to remain below 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit of total warming above preindustrial levels¹. In November 2018, the Fourth National Climate Assessment concluded that our government "must act aggressively to adapt to current impacts and mitigate future catastrophes" and confirmed that "without significant global greenhouse gas mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause substantial losses to infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century."² These reports were conducted by climate experts from all backgrounds, including federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as national laboratories, universities, and the private sector. The scientific consensus is clear: climate change is occurring, and greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver.³

Despite these recommendations, the Trump Administration has repetitively sought to severely cut or eliminate climate research programs. The President's FY 2020 budget request recommends across the board cuts to climate science. Concerningly, the Administration seeks to

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

² <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

³ <http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/06282016.pdf>

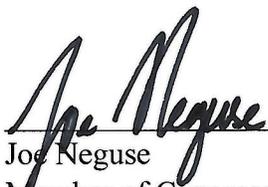
eliminate EPA's Global Climate Change Research Office, cut funding for the National Science Foundation by 12%, and proposes a 41% cut to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Without strong funding for climate science programs such as these, we will not be equipped to address the greatest challenge facing our nation today.

Therefore, we ask that you provide robust funding for climate research done at agencies and departments such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Transportation (DOT), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the Department of Defense (DOD).

We have an opportunity and a moral obligation to act on climate, and this responsibility must be built on the foundation of robust and sustained climate research funding. As members of the freshman class of the 116th Congress, we urge appropriators to recognize the timely nature of this crisis by robustly funding climate science in FY 2020 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

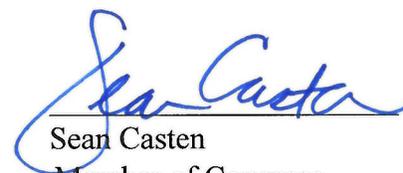
Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



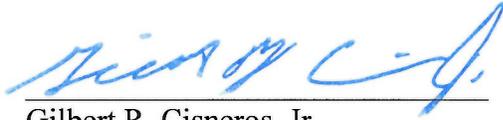
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



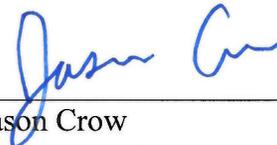
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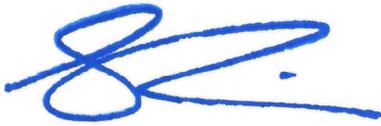
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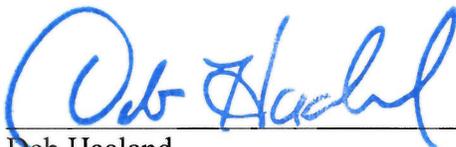
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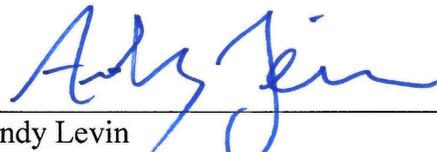
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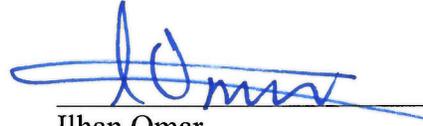
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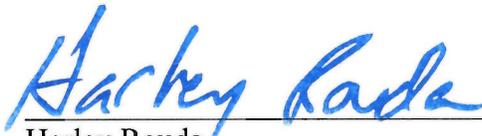
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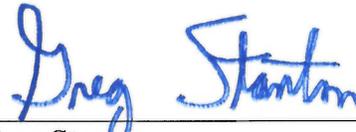
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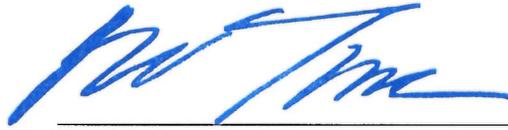
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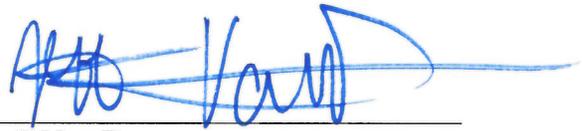
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