

**Statement for the Record**  
**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson**  
Subcommittee on Environment  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
*“Policy Relevant Climate Issues in Context”*

April 25, 2013

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this hearing today. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our Nation, and indeed, the entire world. Unfortunately, since the Republican Party took over the House in 2011, the issue of climate change has been largely ignored. This is a problem that cannot be dismissed. Putting our heads in the sand and hoping for the best is a recipe for disaster. So I am glad we are having this hearing today, and I hope it is the first of many.

The science surrounding this issue reached a consensus a long time ago, and that consensus is that the world is warming and most of that warming is being caused by humans. In our own country, organizations like the National Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Physical Society, and the Geological Society of America have all acknowledged this. Moreover, these prestigious organizations have been joined by national academies of science from numerous countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Mexico, Canada, Russia, China, Brazil, India, and Japan among many others. It has been reported that since 2007, not a single scientific society of national or international standing maintains a formal opinion dissenting from this fundamental point. The consensus is literally overwhelming.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues in the Majority don't seem to have gotten the memo. Many openly dispute the science or allude to some unspecified but supposedly vast scientific conspiracy. Others, while less conspiratorial, insist that nothing can be done about the problem. This is a failure of leadership of the highest order.

Many prestigious organizations and individuals have laid out the terrible economic consequences of inaction, including in recent reports by the World Bank and the World Economic Forum. These organizations also note that the brunt of these effects will be borne by people around the world who can least afford to deal with them. A slow motion human tragedy could be unfolding before our eyes, and it is unconscionable for us to sit and watch it progress when we know how to avoid it.

So I am happy we are having a hearing on this important issue. I am also pleased that the Majority has called a witness, Dr. Lomborg, who in both his current testimony and previous testimony in Congress, has supported placing a price on carbon and dramatically increasing green energy research investments. These types of solutions may not be easy, but they are absolutely critical to ensure that we don't pass a terrible problem onto our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this hearing will mark the start of a serious conversation on the Committee about climate change, and I hope it will be followed by hearings with testimony by the organizations I've cited.