

OPENING REMARKS
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Science and Policy Perspectives: Climate Change
Roundtable
June 20, 2017

Good morning. I want to thank everyone for being here today. It is wonderful to see such a good turnout. And thank you to those who are watching through our livestream, as well as those individuals who submitted questions for our panelists through social media over the weekend—we will try to get through as many questions as possible. I also want to thank each of our panelists who made the commitment to be here today and share their invaluable perspectives on what many understand to be one of the greatest challenges facing our country and nations around the world.

It is my hope that today will be just the first of a number of roundtables that we hold over the coming months. At a time when Americans are searching for solutions, we, as their elected representatives, need to do our part to foster an open discussion about the critical issues that are facing our country and its citizens. That is why I was happy to invite both Democrats and Republicans to this conversation, as well as the public and press, so that we can all benefit from the insights of our panelists as we seek to identify a clear path towards addressing the issue of climate change.

Every day, millions of people in America, and around the world, are living through the increasingly devastating impacts of human-caused climate change. Our oceans are becoming more acidic, our coastlines are eroding, we are enduring more frequent and severe storms, more severe drought, higher temperatures, and are at increased risk from changing patterns of vector-borne diseases.

We know these changes are occurring because we can see them happening around us. We have some of the brightest scientific minds studying our planet, improving our understanding of Earth's changing climate and identifying with increasing confidence the causes of these changes.

We have exceptional guests here today, speaking on both panels, whom I know will spark great discussion amongst those of us here and those watching from home:

On the first panel, which will focus on helping us understand the state of climate science and what we can anticipate going forward, we are fortunate to have three distinguished individuals:

- Dr. Ben Santer, a world renowned atmospheric scientist, currently working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory;
- Dr. Phil Duffy, President of Woods Hole Research Center and former Senior Advisor to the U.S. Global Change Research Program; and

- Dr. Bernard Goldstein, an environmental toxicologist from the University of Pittsburgh, and former assistant administrator for research and development at EPA.

On the second panel, we will be joined by four exceptional individuals who will discuss how best to mitigate climate change and deal with its impacts. They include:

- Ms. Christiana Figueres, an internationally recognized leader on global climate change who served as the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for six years, including during the Conference of Parties in Paris. She will be joining us remotely from Costa Rica;
- The Honorable David O'Sullivan, the European Union Ambassador to the United States;
- Mr. Jonathan Elkind, with Columbia University's Center for Global Energy Policy and former Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at DOE; and
- Mr. Manish Bapna, the executive vice president of the World Resources Institute;

We are very fortunate to have each of them here today to share their expertise with us, and I am very much looking forward to the discussion.