

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
2330 RHOB House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Duffy:

My name is Jonathan Hester, and I am a scientist living in your district in Hudson, WI. I am writing to you about a challenge I am extremely concerned about, Global Climate Change. By reading original technical papers, I have been taking time to study the scientific evidence for global warming, the likely impacts it will have, and approaches to avoiding its worst consequences. I am also trying to help make the original research available and readable to others on my website, [rescuethatfrog.com](http://rescuethatfrog.com). In short, there is a robust scientific consensus that global warming is happening, is caused by humans, and has the real potential to greatly harm Earth's capacity to support human life. Between 97% and 99.99% of scientists believe this.<sup>1-3</sup> Because of this near-unanimous scientific consensus, I am frustrated and concerned that 34% of U.S. Congress members have made public statements expressing skepticism that global warming is a real problem. I do not believe this skepticism will be a tenable position much longer; any casual visitor to NASA's Climate website, for example, can see the evidence for him- or herself.

I am concerned that you have not made this issue a priority to date. On Jan. 20, 2015, you tweeted, "POTUS says 2014 warmest year on record...please tell that to the Wisconsinites with empty propane tanks." Anyone educated on the subject knows the mean global temperature is unrelated to a few cold days in one location. In fact, 2014 *was* (at the time) the warmest year on record globally. It was later beaten by 2015 (despite those cold January days in Wisconsin), and 2015 was then beaten by 2016! These are not matters of opinion but data from measurements. I think you can appreciate how it will become ever more difficult to pretend we don't have a problem. The root cause of the problem is carbon emissions from our burning of fossil fuels, and the only reliable solution is for us to transition our energy infrastructure to more sustainable methods of energy production. Your voting record to date has not helped to accomplish this. In 2015, for example, you voted "Yes" on S.J.Res. 23 and 24, "Resolution of Disapproval," that sought to permanently block the EPA from setting any carbon pollution standards for existing and new power plants, respectively.

Since global warming is caused primarily by carbon pollution, we must implement some policy that creates a disincentive to emit carbon. One way would be to allow the EPA to seek to regulate carbon pollution just as it regulates other pollutants that harm the environment and human health, but you voted against that. Another way would be a carbon tax. While the specific methods can be debated, carbon emissions must somehow be made to have a *cost* that reflects their profound developing impact on the Earth and the well-being of future generations. As my Representative, I urge you to please become educated about Global Climate Change and support future policy proposals that are consistent with transitioning our energy infrastructure to a sustainable one. I, and especially my children and grandchildren, are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hester, Ph.D.

## References

1. J. Cook, *et al.*, Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature; *Environmental Research Letters* **8** (2013), 024024.
2. J. L. Powell, Climate scientists virtually unanimous: anthropogenic global warming is true; *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* **35** (2015), 121-124.
3. J. Cook, *et al.*, Consensus on consensus: a synthesis of consensus estimates on human-caused global warming; *Environmental Research Letters* **11** (2016), 048002.