

Thank you, Chair and the Committee on Energy and Environment, for this opportunity to voice my support of SJM5, that urges congress to enact bipartisan climate change legislation. The time for debate whether climate change is real or not is over. We are wasting precious time with divisive rhetoric. We need to work together to begin addressing climate change in a very aggressive and determined fashion. Climate change should never have become a political issue! Do we not all want clean water, clear air, healthy soil and food? Do we not all want this for now and for our children and grandchildren? I think a bipartisan approach is the only approach to prioritizing and immediately addressing what steps need to be taken now to alter the course trajectory we are current on if we don't change. Education is a key factor, I think the public needs to hear from their party and leaders that we need to make some changes and even, yes, some sacrifices, to live sustainably and in balance with our environment. Without this focused teamwork, big businesses and manufacturers will continue to focus on profits over the well-being of people and the earth. We need a concerted effort to hold companies responsible for their contributions to the problems and engage them in a unified effort to solve our energy crisis. If we can go to Mars, we can surely use our creative and intelligent brains to deal with the critical issue of climate change. First, we need to create the groundwork for working together and even, as we go along, agree to disagree without endangering progress. It is often times human nature seems to need a catastrophe to change. We are in a catastrophe of massive species die-off and intensifying weather patterns. Please, take the vital step now and be remembered as those who did something to make a difference. I implore you as a grandmother and retired teacher, we can't afford to lose more time. Please pass SJM5, thank you!!