

Testimony of Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-08)
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change
Member Day Hearing July 25, 2019

Chairman Paul Tonko, Ranking Member John Shimkus, and distinguished Members of the House Energy and Commerce Environment & Climate Change Subcommittee:

Thank you for holding this important hearing today and for providing me the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on the importance of restoring our climate.

Climate change is a civilizational emergency and is the context through which we must decide every other public policy issue facing us. The devastating dynamics of global warming are imperiling all our ecosystems. We are witnessing the compounding catastrophes of rising sea levels, vanishing glaciers, spreading drought, accelerating forest fires, proliferating floods, escalating extinction of species, dramatically expanding civil conflict and population displacement.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), sustained CO₂ levels above 450 parts per million (ppm) pose an existential threat to our ecosystems. Today, CO₂ levels have already exceeded 410 parts per million and are expected to rise to at least 450 parts per million by 2050 if we do not take immediate and aggressive action to confront the climate crisis.

Although I admire this Subcommittee's exemplary work to mitigate climate change and to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2° C, much more needs to be done to restore CO₂ levels to concentrations sustained for much of humanity's history. Only by removing excess CO₂ from our environment can we halt sea level rise and ensure a safe and healthy climate for future generations.

Please know that I recently introduced a [Resolution](#) that encourages scientists to research the most effective ways to restore safe CO₂ levels and declares the goal of reinstating a safe and healthy climate. I urge the Subcommittee to examine this Resolution and find ways to incorporate climate restoration principles into policy.

I look forward to working with all of you to restore our climate, and I stand ready to help in any way possible.

Thank you again, Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member Shimkus, for holding this hearing, and thank you to all the Members of this Subcommittee for your time today.