

RG Statement – Oceans/Climate hearing

February 7, 2019

Thank you to my friend from California, and thanks to all of the witnesses for being here today. Thank you for sharing your stories of how climate change is affecting your work and your neighborhoods. In holding hearings on climate change at both the full committee and subcommittee levels, we were hoping to turn over a new leaf in the important work of addressing climate change and its impacts in this committee. However, the minority is sticking to its old, big oil-funded playbook, continuing to be out of step with the scientific consensus on climate change. That may have worked for the past 8 years, but unfortunately we are running out time to address climate pollution before the impacts devastate our economy. One need not look any further than our oceans and coasts, and the communities that depend upon them, to see just how quickly the costs of climate pollution are adding up.

For example, over the past eight years, as Republicans were in control of the House of Representatives but did nothing about climate change, our country experienced:

- 96 storm events with over a billion dollars in damages, totaling 674 billion dollars
- 26 fishery disasters declared or pending
- Loss of a football field of coastal wetlands every 100 minutes in Louisiana
- Spent 1.9 billion dollars to nourish 130 beaches across the country

Needless to say, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work on climate change.