



April 30, 2019

H.R. 9, Climate Action Now Act

Key Points:

- **This week, the House will consider H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, a bill that ensures the United States honors our commitments detailed in the Paris Agreement and lays the groundwork for further climate action. This bill, introduced on March 27 by Rep. Kathy Castor, currently has 224 cosponsors.**
- **Since the beginning of the 116th Congress, House Democrats have held more than 30 hearings that touch on the climate crisis across eight full committees and 14 subcommittees. H.R. 9 was marked up and reported out of both the Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs Committees along party line votes ([29-19](#) and [24-16](#), respectively) in early April. H.R. 9 is supported by business, labor, faith, health and environmental organizations.**
- **For Democrats, combatting the climate crisis is a moral imperative that compels us to act to ensure we live in and leave behind a healthier, safer and more sustainable world for our children and grandchildren. The first step is keeping our word to work with the rest of the world to cut carbon pollution and rise to the challenge climate change has presented to us.**
- **On December 12, 2015, the nations of the world came together to declare with a single voice our commitment to tackling the growing climate crisis with boldness, vision and unity. [Nearly 200 countries, including the United States, China, India and the European Union, have signed the landmark Paris Agreement](#) to combat climate change and to accelerate and amplify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future for the world.**
- **The central aim of the Paris Agreement was for the nations of the world to work together – through nationally determined contributions (NDC) – to keep the global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F) and to do everything in our power to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F).**
- **In 2015, the U.S. submitted its first NDC announcing [intent to reduce carbon pollution by 26 percent to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025](#), and to make an effort to reduce carbon pollution by 28 percent, underscoring our role as the global leader on the issue of climate change.**
- **On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement – [making the U.S. the only country to reject the global pact](#).**
- **Despite President Trump’s objections and his blanket declaration, the earliest date the U.S. could withdraw from the Paris Agreement is early November 2020. Furthermore, until that time, the U.S. is obligated to uphold our commitments under the agreement.**

- **H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, would prohibit any federal funds from being used to take any action to advance the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement.**
- **The Climate Action Now Act would also call on the President to develop and make public a plan for how the United States will meet the pollution reduction goals submitted to the world in 2015. The President has an obligation to lead on this issue and to help our nation achieve our commitment to the planet.**
- **By [5 to 1](#), Americans say we should stay in the Paris Climate Agreement, including majorities in every state and an [overwhelming majority of Americans – in every Congressional District across the country – support cutting carbon pollution](#).**
- **And there is [far-reaching support for the Paris Agreement from state, local, and tribal elected officials, business leaders, consumer, health and labor organizations, and more](#). More than 2,000 businesses and investors, 280 cities and counties and [23 states](#) have independently pledged to meet our commitment under the Paris climate agreement.**

Selected Quotes in Support of The Climate Action Now Act & the Paris Agreement

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 Defend Our Future
 Earthworks
 Environment America
 Environmental Law & Policy Center
 GreenLatinos
 Interfaith Power & Light
 League of Women Voters of the United States
 National Parks Conservation Association
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 Public Citizen
 The Wilderness Society
 Voices for Progress

Citizens' Climate Lobby
 Earthjustice
 Elders Climate Action
 Environmental Defense Fund
 Gasp
 Hispanic Federation
 League of Conservation Voters
 National Hispanic Medical Association
 National Wildlife Federation
 Oxfam America
 Sierra Club
 Union of Concerned Scientists
 World Wildlife Fund

The Paris Agreement is a global response to the greatest environmental challenge of our time. It includes, for the first time, specific commitments from all major countries and a pathway for each country to strengthen its own domestic climate actions in the years ahead. United States leadership and participation was crucial in bringing the world together to act. But now, by threatening to exit the agreement, the Trump administration risks isolating itself, undermining global climate action, and weakening America's international influence on a broad array of critical foreign policy issues... Congressional leadership is more important than ever, and the Climate Action Now Act will go a long way to ensure that the United States fulfills our commitments under the Paris Agreement and stays on the path to serious action on climate change. This legislation demonstrates leadership and vision needed to tackle the climate crisis. We urge you to support the Climate Action Now Act to help make the future climate safe for our children and grandchildren and honor America's commitments to help confront this global challenge. [April 8, 2019]

NAACP

The earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities, and as the effects of climate change intensify, so too will the stark differences in consequences experienced by the privileged and the disadvantaged. Low-income populations and in America people of color will suffer more dire repercussions because of climate change... There is not time to waste: we need to take decisive action to address this increasing problem while we still can. It is not an understatement to say that our future depends upon it. Please support and vote for H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, and urge your colleagues in the other body, as well as the President, to take the threat of climate change seriously. [April 26, 2019]

[League of Conservation Voters](#)

We write in strong support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. This important legislation honors America's commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement, recognizes the urgency of tackling climate change, and lays the groundwork for further action... H.R. 9 is a strong rebuke of the Trump Administration's denial of the climate crisis, efforts to undermine progress, and ill-conceived decision to become the only country in the world to reject the landmark Paris Climate Agreement... After eight years of the Republican leadership in the U.S. House taking us backwards in the fight against climate change, we are thrilled to see this important first step in the right direction and LCV urges you to SUPPORT H.R. 9.

[Allergy & Asthma Network](#)

[American Lung Association](#)

[Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#)

[Climate for Health](#)

[National Association of County and City Health Officials](#)

[Physicians for Social Responsibility](#)

[Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments](#)

[American Public Health Association](#)

[Children's Environmental Health Network](#)

[Health Care Without Harm](#)

[National Medical Association](#)

Climate change is a public health emergency. The science clearly shows that communities across the nation are experiencing the health impacts of climate change, including enhanced conditions for ozone and particulate air pollution, which cause asthma attacks, cardiovascular disease and premature death; increased instances of extreme heat, severe storms and other destabilizing weather patterns that disrupt people's access to essential healthcare; increased spread of vectorborne diseases; and longer and more intense allergy seasons. These threats are no longer hypothetical, and Americans across the country have experienced them firsthand...H.R. 9 is an important step toward what must become a comprehensive set of policies protect public health from the worst impacts of climate change. The nation urgently needs to implement strong, science-based measures to reduce the emissions that cause climate change. The U.S. must also invest in health mitigation strategies to help communities address the varied health impacts they are already facing.

The Wilderness Society

This legislation would take a necessary and welcome step to reestablish the United States as a global leader and to tackle climate change at the scale required to avert the worst impacts of this crisis... The Wilderness Society believes that our 640 million acres of public lands can and must play a prominent role in addressing climate change in a comprehensive, sustainable and equitable way. We have a significant opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel energy development on public lands, which currently accounts for more than 20% of all U.S. emissions, and support responsibly-sited renewable energy projects. We must also protect large, connected landscapes, including our forests, deserts and other wild places that can help species adapt, store carbon, and provide natural infrastructure to safeguard communities from intensifying storms and extreme weather events. H.R. 9 takes an important first step in establishing a framework that allows for our public lands to be part of the climate solution, and no longer a significant contributor to the United States' carbon footprint. [April 2, 2019]

[The Public Health Institute](#)

Climate change is a global health emergency. Climate-related heat, wildfires, storms, and floods are already impacting the health, livelihoods and security of communities across the U.S. and around the world. Air pollution—whose primary driver, fossil fuel combustion, is also the primary driver of climate change —causes hundreds of thousands of deaths in the U.S. annually. Without effective response, these harms will greatly increase. But with the right policies and investments today, we have the opportunity to fight climate change with actions that will also bring immediate health benefits to communities... The Paris agreement is a critical step in bringing the world's nations together to respond. Withdrawing from that agreement is reckless and dangerous, threatening the health and wellbeing of communities today and of future generations. The Public Health Institute supports the Climate Action Now Act as well as policies that will put us on track for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and protecting the health of our people.

[Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#)

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is calling for bipartisan support of the Climate Action Now Act (HR 9)...It must meet the commitments it made as part of the Paris Climate Agreement, and remain in the

agreement to show the world we are serious about our commitments and our common future... We're already seeing the impacts of climate change, with raging fires in the West, floods in the Midwest, and rising seas in the East and the Gulf. Scientists are warning us that things will only get worse. And more and more Americans—a large majority of them, in fact, Republicans, Independents and Democrats—are alarmed about climate change and want our country to take action.

Environment America

The “Climate Action Now” Act is vital because it makes sure the United States keeps its pledge on the Paris Climate agreement, recommitting to carbon emission targets we already voluntarily set. This is necessary if we want to ratchet down carbon pollution in order to stave off the worst impacts of climate change. We must act now, and we must do so decisively. We are seeing climate-driven tragedies across the country in communities such as Paradise, California and Mexico Beach, Florida. This should galvanize all elected leaders to get to work on strong climate solutions and protecting the people they represent. The United States possesses all the skills required to successfully combat climate change. As long as we make it a priority, we can achieve a climate-friendly future with 100 percent clean energy. Environment America fully supports H.R. 9, and we look forward to working with Congressional leaders and anybody, no matter their political party or geographical location, who wants to join in climate action now.

Center for American Progress

From extreme hurricanes to devastating wildfires and the record-breaking Midwestern floods happening right now, Americans are experiencing the impacts of a changing climate every day. Since President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw from the Paris Agreement nearly two years ago, states, cities, universities, and businesses have been standing up to say they are “still in” and moving forward with bold action toward a 100 percent clean energy economy. Yet our climate crisis demands federal leadership. Today’s introduction of H.R. 9 is the first step to returning the United States to a position of world leadership and just the beginning of climate leadership from Speaker Pelosi and the 116th Congress. We applaud House leaders working to take action on climate change, and it is critical that the Senate follow suit.