

Congressional response to Wisconsin climate change impacts

As Wisconsin business and community leaders, we call upon you to respond prudently to the threat that the climate crisis poses to our economy and our way of life in Wisconsin.

We urge you, as our representative, to work with others in Congress toward a constructive, **market-based** solution to the climate crisis.

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, a statewide collaborative of scientists, resource managers, and other public and private stakeholders, projects an increase of 4 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit in our state's annual average temperature by mid-century under a business-as-usual scenario.

Potential impacts here in Wisconsin include—

- More hot weather, severe droughts, and floods...reducing agricultural yields and posing real long-term threats to the stability of agro-ecosystems. [**Note:** Wisconsin agriculture generates more than \$59 billion annually in economic activity and contributes more than 350,000 jobs to the Wisconsin economy or 10 percent of our total employment.]
- Higher temperatures and more invasive species, insects, tree diseases, and wildfires... dramatically reducing such forest species as aspen, white birch, and red pine. [**Note:** Wisconsin's forest industry currently has an output of \$24.7 billion annually and contributes over 64,000 jobs to our state's economy.]
- Warmer, shorter winters, with more winter rain and shorter lake freeze-in periods...leading to a decline in winter recreation tourism in Wisconsin. [**Note:** Tourism brought \$19.3 billion to Wisconsin's economy in 2015.]
- Warmer waters in inland lakes and streams...leading to the decline or elimination of prized game fish such as northern pike, walleye, brook trout, and brown trout as well as an increase in the number and severity of harmful algal blooms. [**Note:** This will substantially reduce the number of anglers vacationing in Wisconsin.]
- Increasing air pollution, extreme heat events, more frequent floods and droughts, and more vector borne diseases...increasing asthma, cardiovascular diseases, environmental allergies, and tick borne diseases such as West Nile and Lyme. [**Note:** Children, the elderly, and those living in poverty will be especially vulnerable.]
- More extreme storms with more severe, frequent, and longer rainfall events...increasing damage and investment losses to Wisconsin homes, business, infrastructure, and other public and private property. [**Note:** According to insurance giant Munich RE, weather related losses have already more than quadrupled in the past three decades.]

You have economically sensible, politically viable, market-based options to reduce the worst effects of climate change on all Wisconsinites . . . but especially those living in poverty. Please work with others in Congress to put those options into practice.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Title: _____

Entity (for identification only): _____
(e. g., your business, governmental unit, church, or organization)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

Check one:

_____ Share this information only with Citizens' Climate Lobby, members of Congress and prospective signers.

_____ You may make this information available to the general public and the media.

Sources of information

Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation. Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), 2011. <http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/>

Forest ecosystem vulnerability assessment and synthesis for northern Wisconsin and western Upper Michigan: a report from the Northwoods Climate Change Response Framework project. (USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station), August 2014. <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/46393>

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