

## Rep. Joe Kennedy on climate change

*The following is a statement from Rep. Joe Kennedy's office about the congressman's record on climate change.*

Congressman Kennedy has been a vocal advocate for addressing climate change both domestically and globally. He believes our efforts must start at home and has made reform of New England's antiquated energy markets a cornerstone of his legislative agenda for the past several years. He has led the New England delegation in engaging with FERC and ISO-New England to reform these markets, which includes a greater emphasis on renewable technologies and consumer protection.

Congressman Kennedy has also joined colleagues in asking the Trump Administration to hold public meetings on the impact repealing the Clean Power Plan would have on our region and cosponsored the New England Coastal Protection Act to prohibit drilling for oil or gas off our coast. Within the 4th District he has worked with local municipalities on issues ranging from flood insurance rates to stormwater runoff -- both side effects of our country's failure to adequately combat a changing climate.

The Congressman was an early opponent of Scott Pruitt's nomination to head the EPA and has called for his resignation given his ethical lapses and failure to prioritize environmental protection. He joined his colleagues in aggressively condemning President Trump's decision to abandon the Paris Climate Accords, saying: *"Confronting climate change is not just about the cities and towns under water tomorrow, it is about the children, families, businesses and communities suffering the consequences today – in rising energy costs, lost jobs, crumbling infrastructure, and strapped municipal budgets. Under the Paris Climate Agreement, a global community of different beliefs, nationalities, languages, economies and ecosystems united against one common enemy that threatens the health and safety of us all. Today the President left Americans to fend for themselves."*

He also helped lead a petition to keep the Clean Power Plan in tact. He said:

*"Globally, our environment, economy, and energy sources are all interconnected. The effects of pollution aren't just confined to one state – and that's why it's so important that we tackle climate change as a nation with President Obama's Clean Power Plan.*

*Even though some down in Washington refuse to acknowledge the problem, it's scientifically clear that climate change is an imminent threat to our country and our*

*world. Temperatures are rising. Extreme weather events are wreaking havoc. And polluted air is hurting our kids' health. We're nearing the point of crisis and we have to take action now."*

Congressman Kennedy also strongly opposed the Department of Energy's proposed rule for "resiliency" that would have increased coal-fired electric generation facilities in New England. During the appropriations process, he supported funding for programs such as NOAA oceanic and atmospheric research, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs to further fund clean energy efforts. Additionally, he opposed efforts to weaken fuel efficiency standards by the Department of Transportation, and cosponsored legislation to codify the current rules which seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Congressman is a proud cosponsor of the Climate Change National Security Strategy Act, the BREATHE Act, the CLEANER Act and the CLIMATE ACT. In his nationally-televised Democratic response to this year's State of the Union he decried the Trump Administration's *"all-out war on environmental protection."*

As a member of the influential Energy & Commerce Committee -- which has jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA, and DOE among others -- he will continue to be a vocal advocate for climate action in Congress.