

Constituents of Rep. Hultgren or Rep. Roskam,

Your assistance in reaching out to your Representative on behalf of climate action would be particularly timely right now. The recent flooding has been difficult for our neighbors and area businesses, and it presents an opportunity to point out the connection to climate change's effects for our area. Citizens' Climate Lobby--McHenry County is asking that you write a short, hand-written note, or typed if you prefer, to your Representative.

Here's how to help. Please confirm online who your Representative is: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> We are asking that Rep. Hultgren and Rep. Roskam join the Climate Solutions Caucus. The Caucus is a bipartisan group in the U.S. House of Representatives that explores policy options to address the impacts, causes, and challenges of our changing climate. Membership in the Caucus is a good way for your Representative to be part of the conversation and an even better way to move efforts forward to enact efficient and effective legislation.

Write your note, using facts and ideas from the samples below. The key sentence to include is in bold print in the samples: **I urge you to join the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.** Then seal your envelope, being sure to put your name and address on the envelope. Please return your completed note by Sept. 12. They will be hand-delivered to the D.C. offices when Congress is back in session in September.
--drop it off in the Defenders office by Sept. 8
--scan your signed note and email it to loisjohnson74@comcast.net by Sept. 12
--or mail it to arrive by Sept. 12 for Lois Johnson, 3915 Thompson Rd, Wonder Lake, 60097

We believe this approach will have an impact on our Representatives!
Thank you,
Pat Dieckhoff and Lois Johnson, liaisons

If you'd like to include a fact relevant to northeastern Illinois, here are a few suggestions. CMAP is the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.
-- The Midwest temperature has warmed by 2°F since 2000, increasing risks and severity of extreme weather like we've just experienced. (CMAP 2016)
-- The 37% increase in very heavy precipitation from 1958-2012 in our area is higher than natural variations can account for. (Nat'l. Climate Assessment 2014)
-- Between 1979 and 2009 our region experienced 40% more precipitation than the prior 30-year period. (CMAP 2016)
-- Storms are getting bigger. Up to 40% of the total annual precipitation in recent years came from the top 10 rainiest days. (IL DNR Urban Flooding Awareness Act 2015)
-- Farming interests, significant in McHenry County, will be at greater risk as flooding due to heavy rain increases. (Tom Skilling, Chicago meteorologist, July 2017)

(date)

Dear Rep. _____,

I'm concerned about the extreme weather events we experienced in McHenry County in July. The rains brought a record high to my home rainfall totals from the last 10 years. Many residents and businesses in the hardest hit areas of the County are still cleaning up from the flooding that occurred.

July's heavy rains are exactly what scientists have predicted climate change will bring to our region. We have seen those effects over the last 50 years with the Midwest's very heavy precipitation increasing by 37% (CMAP 2016).

I urge you to join the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. At 52 members as of today, their focus is on exploring solutions to the climate challenges that face us. Just the step we need to have our legislators take.

Thank you,
name
street
town, state, zip

(date)
Dear Representative _____,

WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling said recently that heavy rain episodes are on the increase, and that heavier precipitation is a signature of climate change. As the world warms from the increase in greenhouse gases, the environment is created that increases the likelihood of heavy precipitation events, which is exactly what citizens experienced in IL14 in the recent flooding, causing millions of dollars in damage and incredible heartbreak for those who lost so much property.

This is why I am writing to urge you to speak up for your constituents in IL14 by joining the House Climate Solutions Caucus. The Caucus now contains 52 members--26 Democrats and 26 Republicans. The objective of the Caucus is to change the conversation about climate change to finding common sense solutions to the climate crises we are already experiencing.

We can expect the rains and flooding to become even more frequent and severe if we don't find a sensible way to reduce carbon emissions and the atmosphere continues to heat up. In several areas of your district, record rainfalls and record flood stages were experienced. But in the words of a climatologist, "You haven't seen anything yet."

Please join the House Climate Solutions Caucus.

Cordially,
name
street
town, state, zip