



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Californians understand that our communities are increasingly vulnerable to climate change, which threatens our national security, health, economic well-being, and environment. Every day, we see the disastrous effects of climate change – wildfire seasons turning into wildfire years, perennial drought, extreme weather and atmospheric rivers, increased vulnerability of our marine species and coastlines, and much more.

On August 12, 2022, I voted for a historic legislative agreement called the Inflation Reduction Act to substantially invest in clean energy to slash carbon output. This bill, which was signed into law by President Biden, will incentive clean energy with tax credits of up to \$4,000 on used electric cars and revised tax credits of up to \$7,500 on certain new electric vehicles. It includes rebate programs and tax credits to reward home improvements that increase energy efficiency and utilize more clean energy technologies. It also includes a 30% tax credit for households that install solar panels through 2032 and new tax credits for microgrid controllers and linear generators to increase local resiliency, which are based on my MICROGRID Act and Clean Energy Production Parity Act. Moreover, the bill provides new clean commercial vehicle credits, including green buses based on my Green Bus Tax Credit Act as well as federal investments in wildfire resiliency, energy grid resiliency, clean energy supply chains and electric vehicle charging stations.

The law also includes my Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act. To address the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) reforestation backlog, the REPLANT Act removes the current \$30 million annual funding cap for the Reforestation Trust Fund, the primary source of funding for USFS's planting needs, making an average of \$123 million annually available for reforestation in National Forests.

My Monarch and Pollinator Highway Act was also included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This bill established a federal grant program available to state departments of transportation and Native American tribes to carry out pollinator-friendly practices on roadsides and highway rights-of-way. This program will help address the steep decline of pollinator populations, which poses a serious threat to California farmers and the American food supply. This law is a small example of how we must continue to fight the effects of the climate crisis by working to preserve the future of a species that means so much to our ecosystem and to us on the Central Coast.

This year, on May 31, 2023, I voted with a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, also known as the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, to raise the debt ceiling until January 1, 2025 and protect the historic investments made last year to deploy clean energy and combat the climate crisis. This bill was then passed by

the U.S. Senate and signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 3, 2023, avoiding a national default and protecting our country's progress. The agreement includes the following provisions:

- Protects funding for most domestic programs, like scientific research, wildfire mitigation, and the National Park Service.
- Requires a two-year study on building out transmission lines.
- Designates a lead agency to oversee environmental reviews and requires that they are completed in one to two years in order to streamline our investments in clean energy.

I am also a proud cosponsor of the Climate Emergency Resolution, which demands that the President wield both existing authorities and emergency powers to unleash every resource available to mitigate and prepare for the climate crisis. The bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, of which I am a member, is also working to combat climate change while also protecting the economic prosperity of the United States.

Additionally, as we craft the 2023 Farm Bill, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition Climate and Agriculture Task Force to protect the nearly \$20 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act for climate-smart agriculture programs. You can read a letter that SEEC sent to the House Agriculture Committee [here](#).

Along with transforming our infrastructure through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, protecting our oceans and our coastal environment is one of my top priorities. In fact, the first bill I introduced in the 117th and 118th Congress was the California Central Coast Conservation Act, to stop new oil exploration and drilling on the Central Coast. I was an original cosponsor of the COAST Research Act, which will help coastal communities adapt to the climate crisis by expanding scientific research, monitoring, and adaptation of ocean and coastal acidification. I was also an original cosponsor of the bicameral Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act to reduce plastic production, increase recycling, and protect frontline and fenceline communities from the burden of toxic emissions from plastic waste by changing the incentives of the industry.

Finally, as accelerating climate change produces hotter, drier conditions, and our forests continue to suffer from chronic staffing shortages, our communities are left even more susceptible to devastating and deadly wildfires. In response, the U.S. House of Representatives last year passed the Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act, a comprehensive, bipartisan package that sought to decrease fire risks, protect vulnerable communities, and enhance drought and wildfire research. This bipartisan bill included provisions from my Save Our Forests Act, which reforms the hiring, payment, and training processes for firefighters. It also included provisions from my Wildfire Emergency Act, which addresses land restoration, reduction of dead and dying fuels, and prescribed burns.