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**Salud O. Carbajal**  
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Re: Open Letter to Congress on the Environment, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice

Thank you for the opportunity to give some thoughts on the important work of protecting our environment, address climate change, and enact policies that promote environmental justice.

Climate change presents a clear threat to our nation and our way of life. Living on the Central Coast, we have already endured its devastating effects through year-round wildfires and prolonged droughts. Protecting our natural resources and transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy has never been more urgent.

That's why, in the last Congress I was pleased to vote with a majority of my House colleagues to pass the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This landmark legislation, which was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022, invests \$369 billion in clean domestic energy production—the largest climate investment in U.S. history—that will result in a roughly 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. .

Not only will this act incentivize development of wind and solar energy and green technologies, it will also cut costs for American consumers, making electric vehicles and appliances vastly more affordable. It includes \$4 billion in drought aid for the Southwestern states, and more than \$6 billion in mitigating the effects of climate change on low-income communities.

As your representative, I will continue to fight to protect our environment. On February 24, 2023, I was proud to introduce the California Clean Coast Act, H.R. 1172. This legislation will permanently ban future offshore oil and gas leasing in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California. I am also a proud cosponsor of legislation like H.R. 470, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023, prohibiting oil and gas leasing in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California as well as the states of Oregon and Washington.

Please rest assured I will continue to fight for the environment and our beautiful Central Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.O. Carbajal".

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress