



Rep. Meek of Florida

**Rep. Kendrick B. Meek
Statement for the Record
"Preventing Climate Change"
Ways and Means Full Committee Hearing
September 18, 2008**

MR.MEEK OF FLORIDA: Madame Speaker, I rise today in full support of increasing efforts to prevent climate change. There is clear scientific evidence that human greenhouse gas emissions are having an adverse effect on the climate, and it is important that we, as Members of Congress, take a strong lead in formulating policy to help prevent it. The need to prevent climate change is clear and urgent. Delaying action to address this issue will only work to increase the environmental and societal consequences as well as the costs. The longer we wait the more difficult and more expensive the task will be. Therefore I support creating legislation that will work towards efficient and cost-effective solutions that contribute to a substantial and long-term reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is important that this legislation work not only quickly but be effective in the long-run.

This Congress has an obligation to help develop climate change legislation and must also work to mitigate any additional costs borne by consumers resulting from such policies. Legislation to prevent climate change must include incentives for the development and utilization of low-cost non-carbon based energy and energy conservation.

The recently passed Ways and Means energy tax package is an example of this type of policy approach. We need to generate revenue for the government that could be recycled back into the economy for the public good or go to research and development of alternative energies. A simple tax on carbon emissions would also work to generate funding while working to deter some of the most aggressive polluters. These policies must also work to help our U.S. manufacturers compete on a global level while leading the way towards a green economy.

We have spent too long with antiquated carbon-based fuels polluting the environment. We must begin moving away from these energy sources and towards cleaner technologies that can help us slow down and perhaps even reverse global climate change. I fully support these efforts.