

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

September 21, 2020

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Environment

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hybrid Hearing on “Climate Change, Part IV: Moving Towards a Sustainable Future”

On **Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. (ET)**, the Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hybrid hearing focused on exploring solutions to the climate crisis.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration anticipates a record-breaking hurricane season.¹ In addition, unprecedented wildfires have consumed nearly 7 million acres across the western United States, causing significant impact on health and the economy.² These events emphasize urgent need for action on climate change. Even Volume II of the Trump Administration’s own Fourth National Climate Assessment cautioned that the “[f]uture impacts and risks from climate change are directly tied to decisions made in the present.”³

This hearing, the last in the series, will explore solutions to the climate crisis, including actions that can be taken by the federal government to support the transition to a green economy and remain competitive in the global marketplace. The hearing will examine innovative strategies adopted by state and local governments and foreign countries, the importance of federal leadership, as well as the need for an inclusive transition to a green economy. In addition, this hearing will probe the economic and health benefits of a transition to a green economy.

II. WITNESSES

¹ *One Name is Left on the Hurricane List, and It’s Only September. Why So Many Storms*, Miami Herald (Sept. 16, 2020) (online at www.miamiherald.com/news/weather/hurricane/article245757115.html).

² National Interagency Fire Center, *Daily Update* (Sept. 15, 2020) (online at www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm).

³ U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Fourth National Climate Assessment* (Nov. 2018) (online at https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_2018_FullReport.pdf).

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