



October 16, 2013

Dear Friends,

Please allow me to extend my warmest greetings as you gather today to discuss the critically important issue of climate change. I commend each of you for coming together to have this vital and timely discussion, and I deeply regret that I cannot be with you in person, as I am in Washington working to overcome the current budget impasse, but I certainly hope that you will accept my very best wishes for a productive and informative discussion.

As you well know, the dangers inherent in climate change, particularly the impact it has had and will continue to have on our state and our planet more broadly, are far too great to ignore. The scientific evidence underlying the dramatic increase in temperatures and its effects across the globe is overwhelming, but regrettably, there is a school of thought among some members of Congress that climate change is nothing more than a hoax. As many of you know, I keep an image of the carbon emissions "hockey stick" readily available on my iPhone, and I refer to it whenever I confront those who doubt the reality of climate change, the role of humans in causing the problem, or the imperative to act.

So I pledge to you that I will continue to give voice to your concerns at the federal level and that I will do all I can within my power to change the hearts and minds of those individuals who do not recognize the impending climate crisis. Unfortunately, the same gridlock that is keeping me from joining you today is also preventing our country from addressing the very real and dangerous problem of climate change, and I am absolutely committed, like you, to being a part of the solution and not the problem.

Again, thank you for the vital work that each of you is doing to improve our world for future generations, and I'm delighted to join you in this important work.

Best Regards,

Angus S. King, Jr.
UNITED STATES SENATOR