

CAROL SHEA-PORTER  
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1530 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5456  
(202) 225-5822 (FAX)

660 CENTRAL AVENUE  
DOVER, NH 03820  
(603) 285-4300



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

June 20, 2018

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
READINESS  
MILITARY PERSONNEL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR  
WORKFORCE PROTECTION  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

[www.shea-porter.house.gov](http://www.shea-porter.house.gov)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting me to the 2018 New Hampshire Coastal Climate Summit, *Municipalities Rising to the Climate Challenge*. I regret I cannot be there today in person as all of you gather to discuss one of the biggest challenges we face—climate change.

Over the past few years, we have seen the truly devastating effects that man-made climate change has on New Hampshire and the rest of the United States. Massive storms and unseasonable weather have come to be the norm.

Climate change is also a threat to our national security. According to the 2015 National Security Strategy, climate change is an “urgent and growing threat to our national security,” involving, for example, increased frequency of extreme weather events, sea level rise, flooding, drought, wildfires, and more extreme temperatures. The resulting destruction of infrastructure, property, roads, power systems, etc. harms and weakens our economy.

There is not one single person in this room who is not affected by climate change. Gone are the days when you would watch far-away places be inundated by flash floods or ravaged by long droughts. Instability around the world can be easily traced back in many circumstances to varying environmental disasters. Now, in 2018, those distant places are familiar neighborhoods here in the Granite State. Summer rainstorms can now be microbursts, “100-year floods” occur one year after the next, and winter snowstorms can flood parts of downtown Portsmouth. We are now here in the future we once warned about.

This issue has been at the forefront of my work in Congress since I was first elected in 2006. I have been honored to help pass effective laws that protect our environment and the people of New Hampshire. I have been saddened to see important legislative efforts fail repeatedly because of special interests and misguided policies. That has not stopped me from doing what is right though, and I know it will not stop those here today as well.

I know that today’s summit will cover some very important topics like sea level rise and flooding. I am sure many of those here today read the 2016 report by the Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission. That report details some of the very tragic events that could unfold right here in the Seacoast from rising sea levels. Let’s not get discouraged though. Let us collect all the data we need, analyze it, and move forward on implementing an effective strategy that can lead us towards a better future.

I would like to again thank today’s organizers for inviting me, and I would also like to thank everyone here in attendance at today’s important summit. You have my pledge that I will continue to do my best in this Congress to protect the environment and push forward an agenda that advances safer and cleaner energy producing practices and technologies.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Shea-Porter".

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress