

CONGRESSMAN

# Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Neighbor,

As we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, it is important to reflect on the progress that we have made as well as the commitment that we must have to protecting our environment and ensuring a safer, cleaner, and healthier world for our future. As your United States Representative, I will continue to work diligently in order to prevent further damage to and promote the preservation of our planet.



*Speaking to constituents at Elkhorn Slough, a designated Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.*

As we know, climate change is a serious threat to our international community, country, and the central coast of California. The 2018 United Nations report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of scientists convened by the U.N. to guide world leaders, describes a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires, and mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040. These experts concluded that mitigating these risks would require changes on a scale with “no documented historic precedent.” The National Climate Assessment, a congressionally mandated report released last November, outlined the dramatic and adverse impacts of climate change on our nation’s health, security, and prosperity. California has felt the effects of a changing climate with rising

temperatures and sea levels, extreme droughts, and life-threatening floods, landslides, and wildfires.

To fight back against the effects climate change and the reversal of numerous environmental policies, I am working with my Congressional colleagues to defend clean air initiatives that limit greenhouse gas emissions and protect public health. I recently cosponsored [H.R. 9](#), the Climate Action Now Act to keep the U.S. in the Paris Agreement and to provide a foundation for further innovative and effective action from Congress. I am a cosponsor of [H.Res. 1145](#), recognizing and accepting the U.N.'s special report on the impacts of global warming and expressing that action by Congress and the Administration is needed now to reduce greenhouse gases. This year, Congress permanently reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and, last month, the [John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation and Recreation Act](#) was signed into law. I support [H.R. 978](#), the Clean and Efficient Cars Act, which would reinstate strict vehicle emission standards and spur innovation in the automobile sector towards cleaner technology. Additionally, I cosponsored [H.R. 3275](#), the Water and Energy Sustainability Through Technology Act, to provide support for energy saving infrastructure necessary to reclaim and conserve energy consumed in industrial uses of water, waste water treatment, and water recycling.

Furthermore, I requested robust funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), which promotes American leadership in the transition to a clean, sustainable, and efficient energy economy. EERE's scientific research and development programs fight the effects of climate change, accelerate deployment of advanced energy technologies, and foster a strong and prosperous workforce. Recently, I cosponsored [legislation](#) to deploy more electric vehicles and [I authored legislation](#) that would make fuel cells using electromechanical processes eligible for the energy tax credit in order to spur new green energy technology.



*Observing ongoing conservation projects at Elkhorn Slough, which has received over \$685,000 in federal grants since 2017.*

To protect our local pristine marine ecosystems and coastal communities, I will continue to fight against any resource exploitation off the Central Coast. I cosponsored [H.R. 279](#), the California Clean Coast Act, to ensure unnecessary oil and gas drilling does not occur anywhere along our coastline. I support [H.R. 310](#), the West Coast Ocean Protection Act, to prevent oil and natural gas drilling along the west coast of the continental United States. Additionally, I cosponsored [H.R. 309](#), the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act of 2019, to prohibit oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

Moreover, I authored and introduced [H.R. 6300](#), the National Ocean Policy Act, to codify federal ocean policy developed under the previous Administration. I have reintroduced legislation that would protect 21,000 acres of wilderness and reopen the 63,000-acre [Clear Creek](#) Management Area to outdoor recreation.

I also prioritized and advocated for substantial resourcing of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, which advances innovative, science-based methods to support increased food sustainability. Moreover, I requested funding for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program's ongoing activities to bolster profitable, environmentally friendly farm production practices that cut greenhouse gas emissions. Congress must prioritize effective federal science programs that enhance economic development, promote technological breakthroughs, and improve sustainability.



*Learning more from a local farmer about how producers on the Central Coast are leading the way in environmentally-friendly and sustainable agriculture practices during a tour with Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.*

For the long-term goals in our fight against the effects of climate change, I cosponsored [H.Res. 109](#), the nonbinding resolution called the Green New Deal. Considering the reversal of policies to address the effects of climate change by the current Administration, the aspirational proposal is a step in the right direction to generate conversation about why and what our nation must do to deal with this pressing issue. Unfortunately, the nonbinding resolution does not provide any details or cost estimates by which our government can pursue such a substantial environmental policy, which may require many pieces of legislation or even a new executive climate change agency. Fortunately, the Congressional Select Committee on Climate Crisis, led by Chairwoman Kathy Castor (D-FL), has been tasked during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress with holding numerous hearings in which all stakeholders can properly address the dangerous cost of reversing environmental policies and ignoring climate change as well as what it will cost to implement long-term solutions to fight against climate change.

It is incumbent that all nations utilize a variety of tools, strategies, and initiatives to address climate change, protect our natural resources, and support the health of our earth. As your Member of Congress, I am committed to ensuring that our government does its part to secure and bolster environmental protections, confront and attempt to reverse climate change, and promote the technologically and financially feasible transition to a clean energy economy to preserve the future of our communities across the Central Coast, country, and planet.

How are you celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day? Share by [sending me an email](#).

If you would like to receive future updates, please sign up for newsletters by clicking [here](#). You can also find more information about legislation, votes cast in the U.S. House of Representatives, or the legislative process [here](#).

If you have any questions or issues that I or my staff can help you with, please call or contact my Congressional offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Washington, D.C. or through [panetta.house.gov](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to best serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Panetta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress