

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

the word that I am clearly getting from those parts of the media that I trust is that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at the United Nations is conservative about its dire predictions on the climate change catastrophe. It is very likely that the risk and consequences are far worse than they will allow themselves to confidently proclaim.

Our industrial and business complex will need definite targets - and tough targets - for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the long run - and even the intermediate run - that will make much better economic sense. Bight hard now and the rest will be a lot easier.

The present financial crisis provides us with even more excuse "to go for it". It should not be a mere excuse to forget the biggest problem humanity has ever faced collectively.

Finally consider this. Humanity's economic project over the past 200 years has become a truly geological phenomenon. We are ripping and burning more carbon out of the earth than volcanic action is producing by a factor of at least ten, and probably a lot more.

John McKeon