Jared Polis for Congress

Position Statement – Climate Change

Overview: Looking forward over the next century there is no public policy issue facing us that is more important than global climate change. Addressing, and ultimately reducing the impacts of, global warming will be an illustration of our determination to make the world a better place for our children -- which has always been America's promise -- and a triumph of science over reactionary self-interest. In many ways, it is the defining issue of our times, and I intend to make it a defining issue of my campaign.

Science: The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released three reports this Spring and Summer that left little doubt about the reality of global warming or its potential impacts. With eye-catching modeling that predicted such impacts as 23 foot rises in sea level (wiping out many large cities), and the practical end of the ski industry, the IPCC reports should have ended any reality-based opposition to strong action as a nation.

The story of global climate change until now, which goes back at least forty years, shows how an extremely well funded, determined special interest can stall progress simply by paying to confuse people. Similar to how the health care industry has successfully stalled a national health care policy for so long, the oil and gas industry has managed to blunt the impact of forty years of research on the climatic impacts of $CO2$ and other emissions, and made off with a fortune in the process. Colorado's Second Congressional District is home to the National Renewable Energy Lab and National Center for Atmospheric Research, and therefore whoever represents the district will be uniquely positioned as a primary driver in America's response to the crisis. Throughout my career, I have championed the supremacy of science over corporate self-interest when it comes to public policy. And I will continue to do so as Congressman.

Response: More than 45 years ago, President Kennedy challenged the nation to be the first to send a person to the moon. And we did. In the early 1970's, the government challenged automakers to make more fuel efficient cars, in response to an oil supply crunch. And after many predictions of doom, they did. Similarly, there will be no action on global climate change unless the government provides clear, ambitious leadership.

- First and most importantly, I support setting a high goal: 80% reduction in emissions of climate changing gases by 2050, with 1990 emissions as a baseline.
- Second, I support taking immediate action on increasing the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency standard to 50 mpg by 2020, and requiring that 10% of vehicles sold in the country are zero emission within five years.
- Third, I support a national commitment to research into renewable fuels, both to make production more cost effective, and to facilitate distribution. Federal dollars for renewable energy research should be doubled immediately and new outcome-based funding models should be used to more effectively allocate some of the

increased marginal funding. This commitment should be seen as both a direct investment in solving the climate crisis, and an investment in America's future economy.

- Fourth, I oppose technologies that might solve a portion of the energy crisis – reliance on foreign oil – but would exacerbate global warming, such as coal gasification and increased natural gas drilling on Western lands.
- Fifth, I support as part of the solution a nationwide cap-and-trade system that would harness the power of the market to find the most efficient ways to reduce climate-changing emissions.
- Sixth, to encourage conservation I support a comprehensive, revenue-neutral "feebate" approach to energy-consuming products such as vehicles, refrigerators, housing, appliances, and HVAC systems that would charge fees on inefficient products and use the funds to provide rebates for efficient ones.
- Seventh and lastly, I support requiring power companies to generate 25% of their power from renewable sources by 2025.