

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

Mark Aronson
Scott Community College
500 Belmont Rd
Riverdale, IA 52722-5649

Dear Mark:

I thank you and your colleagues from other Iowa colleges and universities for your recent letter, "Iowa Climate Statement: The Drought of 2012". I applaud your clear, focused analysis of the impacts of climate change on Iowa and I am grateful to you for giving this issue much needed attention.

I agree that climate change is real and that Iowans and Americans are feeling the sometimes painful effects - increasingly severe storms, flooding, and drought as well as changing habitats - that cause both physical and economic damage. The drought that Iowa and many other states have been experiencing this year has been particularly destructive.

To address our warming planet and our changing climate, we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels through improved energy efficiency in all sectors and by increasing our use of renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, and biofuels. Iowa is already leading the way in wind power and biofuel production and has much to gain from expanded investments in these areas. We must also focus on mitigating damaging impacts from future severe weather events as well as adapting to climate changes. In Iowa, this means increased attention to flood and drought mitigation through improved land management practices. Iowa leadership in these areas not only helps us to adapt to and combat climate change, but can also facilitate substantial economic and job growth for our state.

Thank you again for bringing attention to the effects of a warming planet and changing climates. As the Senate moves into the 113th Congress, I will continue to fight for legislative measures to address this important issue.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator