



## ANTI-SCIENCE CLIMATE DENIER CAUCUS

Climate change is happening, and humans are the cause. But a shocking number of congressional Republicans—more than [55 percent](#)—refuse to accept it.

One hundred and fifty-seven elected representatives from the 113th Congress have taken more than [\\$51 million](#) from the fossil-fuel industry, which is the driving force behind the carbon emissions that cause climate change. These representatives deny what more than [97 percent](#) of climate scientists say is happening: Current human activity creates the greenhouse gas emissions that trap heat within the atmosphere and cause climate change.

And their constituents are paying the price, with Americans across the nation suffering 368 climate-related national [disaster declarations](#) since 2011. There were [25 extreme weather events](#) that each caused at least \$1 billion in damage since 2011, including Superstorm Sandy and overwhelming drought that has covered almost the entire western half of the United States. Combined, these extreme weather events were responsible for 1,107 fatalities and up to [\\$188 billion](#) in economic damages.

## MINNESOTA

We have a moral obligation to act on climate change to protect our future generations. Despite the overwhelming scientific consensus and high costs to taxpayers, Minnesota has two resident deniers who have taken [\\$268,928](#) in dirty energy contributions. The state has suffered [five climate-related disaster declarations](#) since 2011, including severe winter storms and flooding. Below are quotes from Minnesota's two members of Congress who refuse to believe there is a problem to address:

**Rep. Michelle Bachmann (R-MN-06):** "Carbon dioxide, Mr. Speaker, is a natural byproduct of nature. Carbon dioxide is natural. It occurs in Earth. It is a part of the regular lifecycle of Earth. In fact, life on planet Earth can't even exist without carbon dioxide. So necessary is it to human life, to animal life, to plant life, to the oceans, to the vegetation that's on the Earth, to the ... fowl that ... flies in the air, we need to have carbon dioxide as part of the fundamental lifecycle of Earth." [\[Floor speech, April 22, 2009\]](#)

**Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN-03):** When asked if human beings are contributing to global warming, Rep. Paulsen said he wasn't smart enough to know whether that's true or not. [\[Minnesota Public Radio, August 16, 2008\]](#)