



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.

SOUTH DAKOTA

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, South Dakota has a resident denier who took [\\$766,322](#) in dirty energy contributions. The state has suffered [four climate-related disaster declarations](#) since 2011, which included severe storms, flooding, snowstorms, and wildfires. Below is a quote from South Dakota's member of Congress who refuses to believe there is a problem to address:

Sen. John Thune (R-SD): “‘I guess the answer to the question is I’m not sure,’ Sen. John Thune ... told POLITICO when asked his views on climate science. ‘I think there’s a real mix of data on that. Obviously, I think the question you have to ask yourself, one, is it occurring?’ Thune added. ‘And even if you say ‘yes’ to that, two, is human activity contributing to it? And even if you say ‘yes’ to that, then three is what are we going to do about it and at what cost?’” [[Politico, October 25, 2010](#)]