

# Environment and Climate Change

Throughout his career, Congressman Lieu has been a staunch advocate for protecting the environment and fighting climate change. As a California state legislator, he was a co-author of the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act to set limits on greenhouse gas emissions in California. He realized, however, that to better combat climate change, the rest of the United States would need to follow California's example, contributing to his decision to run for Congress. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Lieu is a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, the Climate Change and National Security Task Force, and the Safe Climate Caucus. He is also a founder and co-chair of the [California Coastal Caucus](#).



*Rep Lieu at the Marine Mammal Center to announce the launch of the California Coastal Caucus*

**On Fighting Climate Change**

Congressman Lieu is the sponsor of the [Climate Solutions Act](#), one of the most aggressive bills to tackle climate change at the national level. This legislation establishes a National Renewable Energy Standard to drive us towards 100 percent renewable energy by 2035. Next, it creates a stringent National Energy Efficiency Standard to reduce energy usage and save consumers money. Finally, it sets ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Congressman Lieu has also cosponsored various bills to fight climate change including the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. He also supports initiatives to support the electric vehicle (EV) industry, including the \$5 billion provided to states through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to deploy EV charging stations nationwide. As a consistent voice for fighting climate change, Congressman Lieu strongly supported the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest action Congress has ever taken on climate. This historic new law creates \$396 billion in clean energy incentives.

### **On Protecting Vulnerable Communities**

In 2017, Hurricanes Maria and Irma struck Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands cutting off access to power for most communities on the island. In the wake of these hurricanes, Congressman Lieu led a [letter](#) signed by more than 80 Members of Congress urging FEMA to rebuild the electric grids on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in a resilient manner.

Subsequently, Congressman Lieu introduced the bipartisan [Renewable Energy for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Act](#). This legislation creates a grant program to empower local communities to build up renewable energy systems to ensure reliable access to clean energy. The [House of Representatives passed](#) a modified version of this bill as part of a comprehensive clean energy bill in September 2020.

### **On Public Lands**

Congressman Lieu has supported various measures to protect and expand public lands throughout the country. In December 2022, President Biden signed Congressman Lieu's Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act into law as part of the fiscal year 2023 omnibus. This new law directs the National Park Service to study the feasibility of expanding the recreation area along the coast of the Santa Monica Bay.

### **On Banning Offshore Drilling and Protecting the Ocean**

As the representative of coastal Los Angeles County, Congressman Lieu recognizes the immense value of protecting our coast and the need to prohibit offshore drilling. Following the oil spill off the coast of Huntington Beach, Congressman Lieu and Congresswoman Brownley, co-chairs of the [California Coastal Caucus](#), [called for a ban on offshore drilling](#). To this end, Congressman Lieu is pleased to support the West Coast Ocean Protection Act, which would prohibit offshore

drilling along the West Coast. Further, in November 2021, Congressman Lieu introduced the [Increasing Penalties for Offshore Polluters Act](#), which would disincentivize offshore drilling by increasing civil and criminal penalties for spills.



*Rep. Lieu speaks at Protect the Pacific Event*

Additionally, in December 2022, President Biden signed Congressman Lieu’s [Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act](#) into law. This new law will phase out the use of large, harmful mesh drift gillnets in federal waters, which will protect marine life off our coasts.

## **On Climate Security**

Having served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, Congressman Lieu is intimately aware of the challenges facing our military and of the threat that climate change poses to national security. In April 2019, Congressman Lieu participated in a House Foreign Affairs Committee on “How Climate Change Threatens U.S. National Security.” During his [testimony](#) he discussed the importance of various U.S. military bases around the world— including at Diego Garcia and in Guam—and how they are threatened by climate change.