

become so great, it is fair to say, according to one scientist associated with that report, that “some episodes of extreme heat would have been virtually impossible without climate change.” The attribution to specific events is closing in.

Dr. Heidi Cullen, chief scientist at Climate Central and a contributor to the National Academies report, has said:

The days of saying no single weather event can be linked to climate change are over. For many extreme weather events, the link is now strong.

Australian researchers have determined that the ocean warming that led to widespread and devastating coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef in March was made not 23 times more likely but 175 times more likely by human-caused climate change. Average water temperatures in the Coral Sea are up about 1.5 degrees Celsius since 1900. We measure that. And about one-half of that 1.5 degrees is due to natural variability, and 1 whole degree of it is from greenhouse gas emissions.

David Kline, a coral reef scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has said: “We’ve had evidence before” that “human-induced climate change is behind the increase in severity and frequency of bleaching events. But this is the smoking gun.”

By the way, a bleaching event on a coral reef is like a heart attack in a human. The reef may survive it, but it will take a long time to recover, and very often the reef simply dies. With all of that happening, here we are in this Chamber, sitting on our hands, helpless. We have a responsibility, not only to the voters of today but to the generations who will follow us and inherit the world as we leave it to them.

Here is how Professor of Oceanography, Dr. Laura Faye Tenenbaum, at

NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, describes her predicament:

As a college professor who lectures on climate change, I will have to find a way to look into those 70 sets of eyes that have learned all semester long to trust me and somehow explain to those students, my students—who still believe in their young minds that success mostly depends on good grades and hard work, who believe in fairness, evenhandedness and opportunity—how much we as people have altered our environment, and that they will end up facing the consequences of our inability to act.

Where do we look for leadership? Not to one of the leading Presidential contenders. This character says he is just “not a great believer in man-made climate change.” So there. Like the science cares what his opinion is. All the science? The decades of research by thousands of scientists across the globe, the pride of the scientific profession? It is a “hoax,” he said, a “con job,” “pseudoscience,” and “BS.” I guess in that latter characterization, he can claim some real expertise. To my Republican colleagues, I have to ask: Is that really the line that we want to have about this problem? Is this your guy? Are you going to stand by him on this stuff?

But wait, it actually gets better. Yesterday POLITICO reported the New York billionaire is also applying for permission to build a seawall. He is a wall-building kind of guy, and he wants to build a seawall to protect his seaside golf resort. What does he want to protect his golf resort from with a wall—rapist Mexicans coming across the border? No. What he wants to defend his seaside golf resort from with a wall is “global warming and its effects.”

Remember the sea level rise I talked about? That is correct. That is what he said. Climate change is a hoax when his political interests dictate, but then it

is real and a threat when his economic interests are involved. Throughout the discussion of climate change, how often we see this—say one thing, do another.

I have to close by reminding my colleagues that my home State of Rhode Island is the Ocean State. We cannot fail to take climate change seriously. If this is uncomfortable for my colleagues, I apologize, but I don’t care. I have obligations to my State that I must discharge. We in Rhode Island are going to stand with America’s leading research institutions and scientists, we are going to stand with our national security experts, we are going to stand with the great American corporations such as Apple, Google, Mars, and National Grid, we are going to stand with President Obama, and we are going to stand with Pope Francis to do everything we can to face this climate challenge head-on. I hope that soon one day it will be time when we can all wake up and stand together.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:52 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 25, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PATRICK A. BURKE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.