

# United States, other nations are investing in energy innovation

Thank you for publishing Chris Werle's wonderful oped (Sept. 3) on hurricane Harvey, climate change risks and the very hopeful news that so far 52 members of Congress have joined the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. God bless them and their work: I hope the caucus keeps growing, meets often, and studies hard to find worthwhile legislative solutions.

There's many inspiring opportunities that Congress can foster with thoughtful legislation. For example, the Department of Energy recently announced projects to boost investment in energy innovation from private, philanthropic and institutional investors. DOE is also studying ways to foster partnerships between small start-up energy companies and developed mid-size corporations.

And even more inspiring — it's not just the U.S. that is investing in energy innovation. As part of the Paris climate accord, 20 nations committed to doubling their clean energy R&D (research and development) over the next five years. These countries include the five most populous: China, India, the United States, Indonesia and Brazil. Every time we double the amount of installed solar, the price of solar drops by more than 22 percent. One recent estimate suggests solar could be providing 50 percent of global electricity by 2050.

So, the sooner the House bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus proposes stable, long-term legislation, the sooner every company, every philanthropy and every person with a piggy bank will rush to help. We'd rather invest in innovation than watch another major American city suffer what New Orleans, New York and Houston have endured.

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