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Hello,

Thank you all for stopping by my office this morning. I'm sorry I'm not able to greet you in person today as I am in Washington, D.C. conducting official legislative business.

I truly appreciate the work that you are doing to advocate for one of the most important issues facing our country and the world, climate change. Your activism plays an essential role in our democracy and it is inspiring to see young folks like yourselves participating.

I have no doubt that climate change is real, human-made, and that we are feeling its devastating effects. We continue to see disruption in our communities and damage to our homes, businesses and communities caused by historic flooding and severe weather that will take years to recover from. Climate change is already impacting Iowa's economy and it will only get worse if we don't act.

One of the most important first steps our country can take is to meet our commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement. As I'm sure you all know, President Trump has announced his intention to unilaterally withdraw the United States from the agreement in 2020. I strongly oppose this action. That's why I was proud to have cosponsored and voted for the Climate Action Now Act, which would prevent the President from withdrawing from the agreement. This legislation passed the U.S. House.

Additionally, I was proud to support the reestablishment of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. This committee is tasked with developing ambitious climate policy recommendations in order to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution. I look forward to seeing what the Select Committee recommends and working to implement these suggestions to address the climate crisis.

Just this week, I was proud to stand with my fellow colleagues on the New Dem Coalition to roll out our bold and aggressive agenda to combat climate change and create jobs. The principles laid out in this plan embrace the notion that the U.S., through its powerful economy and culture of innovation, can be best positioned to be the global leader developing and producing the next generation technologies to help the global community combat climate change.

Iowa can be an international leader in energy efficiency. In my time working with the State of Iowa, I was proud to implement the Governor's Agenda on Clean Energy and the Environment. The initiative helped bring the wind industry to scale in Iowa while also creating thousands of jobs. Today, the wind industry in Iowa supports almost 8,000 jobs for Iowans and generates nearly 40% of the state's electricity. We must work closely with our communities, businesses, to aggressively put forward science-based policies to bring America's renewable energy to scale.

We must address the climate challenge with the urgency the crisis demands with real, bipartisan solutions. In Congress, I'm working to increase renewable energy production, including solar, wind, smart grid technology and battery storage. I'll address the need for stronger, more resilient communities by promoting investment in more efficient cars, appliances, buildings and industrial plants that use less energy.

Climate change is a global threat, and I support policies that make sure that Iowa and the United States stays on track to be a world leader on climate change.

Thank you again for your activism. I look forward to meeting you all in person when I am back in Des Moines.

Sincerely,



Cindy Axne