



News Release

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Congresswoman Ansari and Local Climate Groups Host No Denying Climate Change Town Hall

Phoenix, Ariz. – Last night, Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari, State Representative Brian Garcia, and a coalition of groups that are focused on climate, public health, and addressing extreme heat and other impacts from climate change, hosted a “No Denying Climate Change” town hall attended by more than 100 people. Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, Arizona Youth Climate Coalition, Arizona Alliance of Retired Americans, Moms Clean Air Force, Mi Familia en Acción, Agave Community Threads, Chispa Arizona, Poder Latinx, EDF Action, Activate48, Vets Forward, Elders Climate Action, Climate Power, Opportunity Arizona, and Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, along with the Climate Action Campaign hosted the town hall.

The town hall focused on calling on Congress and our leaders in Washington to prioritize climate action and to not be silent on the climate crisis. Participants highlighted the very real local impacts of climate change in our communities, including extreme heat, poor air quality, and energy affordability, all while sounding the alarm about the Trump administration’s attacks on clean energy projects, climate science, and the Endangerment Finding.

“Arizona is on the front lines of climate change, and the consequences are impossible to ignore. I’ve spent my career working to address this defining challenge, and in Congress, I’m working to deliver the federal resources Arizona communities need and protect the progress

we've made," said **Congresswoman Ansari**. "I'm grateful to have joined leading organizations across Arizona doing this work on the ground for a more resilient future."

Local leaders, advocates and members of the public asked questions, emphasizing the need to continue to hold polluters accountable, tackle corruption, and to keep pushing for bold climate policies in Congress, as well as measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change such as Representative Ansari's legislation to expand the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to better address extreme heat and energy affordability issues.

"Arizona is no stranger to climate change. This year alone, we have experienced record-breaking temperatures while utility costs are skyrocketing, and Colorado River water is running historically low," said **Arizona State Representative Brian Garcia**. "Our communities are feeling the consequences of inaction, and we cannot afford to wait any longer."

Garcia added. "The Trump Administration is working around the clock to roll back any progress we've made with destructive decisions – including National Monument designations protecting Tribal lands that will open them up to exploitation. We remain committed to working with our partners and climate champions to deliver a pro-climate agenda in the Arizona Legislature."

"Climate change is not a distant threat—it's the extreme heat we plan our days around, the air we breathe, and the uncertainty shaping our futures," said **Shriya Dwivedi with the Arizona Youth Climate Coalition**. "Extreme heat is not simply Arizona's reality; it is a policy failure when leaders have the power to protect people and choose inaction instead. We need leaders in Congress to defend climate science, hold polluters accountable, and act with the urgency our communities deserve."

Participants also raised concerns about how some in Congress have been avoiding talking about climate change, even when faced with extreme weather that is hurting their communities. Rep. Ansari emphasized her commitment to continuing to speak up and act on climate, and to push her colleagues in Congress to speak up and do more as well, including to support her legislation and to make climate a top priority in the new Congress in 2027.



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