

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate - Capitol Watch 2 – January 20, 2019

(Reminder – register now for HPHC's HAPPY HOUR – January 23, 2018 - 5:30 - 7:30 pm (program at 6:30)
details at <https://hphchappyhour.brownpapertickets.com> - seating is limited)

Some interesting and positive developments at the Capitol – **Rep. Jean Wagenius**, (DFL – 63B), Chair of the newly reconfigured House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division, opened the Session with a series of panels presenting detailed reviews of the impacts of Climate Change here in MN. This is basically a short graduate course for legislators with experts like Meteorologist Mark Seeley and Dr. Jessica Hellman – Director of the UMN Institute on the Environment. HPHC's own Dr. Laalitha Surapaneni presented an overview of the health consequences of our warming climate and increasing air and water pollution. Dr. Surapaneni will be travelling to Washington in two weeks to testify before the EPA regarding the dangers of weakening controls on coal plant emissions. She will also be meeting with members of MN's Congressional delegation about these matters. You can follow her at @LaaliMD and HPHC at @HP4HC .

We are grateful to Rep. Wagenius for taking the conversation about climate at the Capitol to a whole new level. You can find videos of presentations to the Committee at <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/Committees/archives/91021>. **If your Representative is on this Committee you can help by expressing your support for this work and your own concerns about climate change and health.** A list of Committee members can be found at <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/Committees/members/91021> .

In subsequent conversations with Rep. Wagenius, HPHC recommended closer attention be paid to the effects of weather extremes and pollution on mental health and developmental disorders. We have offered to link her with experts in these areas. **If you or a colleague are interested in participating please let us know.**

In the last Capitol Watch we discussed Gov. Walz's equivocal position on Enbridge Pipeline 3. So far we haven't gotten any more information on the MN Dept. of Commerce's challenge to approvals for this pipeline project. **There is still time to express your opposition to this tar sands pipeline by contacting the Governor and your state Representative/Senator.** Twitter tags: @GovTimWalz, @LtGovFlanagan Hashtag: #StopLine3

Lastly some new developments at HPHC. Our Executive Committee has established three Sub-Committees: Policy and Governmental Affairs, Organizing and Communications, and Education. More details coming soon – if you wish to get active with on of these teams please email us and let us know.

Thanks – have a great week!

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