

Testimony for to the US House of Natural Resource Committee in support of a bill for the National Climate Adaptation Science Center Act—Chris Caldwell

- Posoh (hello), Chairman Lowenthal, Ranking Member Stauber, and members of the Subcommittee.
- My name is Chris Caldwell. I am an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. I currently serve as President of the College of Menominee Nation and I am a former Director of our Sustainable Development Institute at the College. I am here to share testimony in support of the Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) Act based on my work as SDI Director engaged with the [Northeast CASC](#), and the College's current partnership led by our new SDI Director with the newly formed Midwest CASC.
- Tribal nations in the United States come from diverse cultural and political backgrounds, with place-based relationships developed over hundreds and thousands of years. This connection to land is expressed through numerous and distinct languages, cultures, economies, and spiritual practices. My people, the Menominee Nation are one example of Indigenous peoples who still live upon their ancestral lands. We care for our forest and our forest care for us. But, the current disproportionate impacts of climate change felt by Tribal nations require planning for adaptation to protect and advance our relationships with our environments, with the plants, the animals, and the natural phenomena we have known long before the United States existed.
- College of Menominee Nation through the Sustainable Development Institute has long collaborated with the Northeast CASC to identify threats to tribal relationships, self-determination, and other ways of life, and to help develop adaptation and mitigation strategies relevant to each tribal context. The leveraging of Northeast CASC resources allowed us to focus in several areas.
- *Shifting Seasons Summit*. Through Northeast CASC collaboration we convened two Shifting Seasons conferences, which were designed to bring tribal leaders, managers, and practitioners together with climate scientists for increased communication and to develop tribally relevant adaptation planning solutions. The more recent summit was held virtually in April 2021 with the theme: [Sharing Adaptation and Resilience Knowledge Across Indigenous Communities](#).
- *NECASC research projects*. [Tribal scenario planning](#). We also partnered with tribal nations and communities on a regional assessment of tribal adaptation planning needs. From this assessment, we collaborated with the Northeast CASC to develop resources and provide support, which included future oriented scenario planning for tribes to address natural resource management and protection needs.
- *NECASC supported projects*. [Tribal Adaptation Menu](#). In addition, we collaborated on a project led by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), and

other tribal and federal agency partners to develop the [Dibagin jigaa deg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Adaptation Menu](#). This award-winning document provides a framework for bringing traditional and Indigenous knowledge and perspectives to the forefront of climate adaptation planning.

- [Regional Tribal Resilience Liaisons](#). Through our work with Northeast CASC we were also selected to host one of eight Regional Tribal Resilience Liaisons, which are funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These positions extend our capacity to disseminate CASC resources to tribes in the region.
- The design of the newly formed Midwest CASC is the latest iteration of strong and continued investment by the CASC network in support of tribal adaptation planning needs. The addition of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLFIWC) and the College of Menominee Nation (CMN) as consortium members allows for Indigenous voices to aid in conception and design of CASC resources at the regional rather than project level.
- The CASC network is highly valuable to tribal nations, as each regional CASC has developed in their response and support of tribal adaptation planning and implementation needs. More importantly, CASC development in valuing Indigenous approaches to adaptation planning needs is essential, not only for tribes, but broader society as well, because climate change is a global issue felt at local levels.
- Maec-waewaenen (a big thank you) for your work and consideration of this important bill.

Eneq (that is all)