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# Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Calls on Sen. Portman, Congress to Pass Critical Climate Legislation to Make Communities More Resilient to Extreme Weather Events

*Urges passage of bipartisan National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (NCARS) Act of 2022 to streamline federal coordination, improve climate resilience of local communities across the nation*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein joined with a bipartisan group of local, state and national leaders in support of the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (NCARS) Act of 2022, federal legislation that would streamline processes connecting state and local entities with federal resources to help make communities more resilient to climate change.

City Attorney Klein today also urged Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) to back the bipartisan legislation. Portman serves as Ranking Member on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, where the NCARS Act is eligible for its first official hearing after being introduced earlier this year.

**“With the number of extreme weather events on the rise, it’s imperative that we streamline processes to ensure people, businesses and critical infrastructure are protected. This legislation supports a unified vision to help communities like Columbus build resilience to climate change and ensure we have the tools in place to respond to crises when the need arises,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“I’m calling on Sen. Portman and all of Congress to see that the NCARS Act passes through committee and gets a floor vote as soon as possible. The time for climate action is now.”**

The NCARS Act would require the federal government to produce a National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, a unified federal plan that would increase the resilience of communities. The legislation would also require an Implementation Plan to ensure streamlined federal operations and coordination with local entities.

The legislation would improve federal resilience efforts by:

- Requiring the production of a whole-of-government National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and Implementation Plan;

- Creating a Chief Resilience Officer position in the White House to lead the national climate adaptation effort and Strategy development process;
- Supporting the establishment of up to five interagency resilience working groups and a non-federal Partners Council to improve communication between federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, academics, and the private sector;
- Driving efficient and equitable resilience solutions that minimize redundancies and ensure resources are provided for adaptation efforts.

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