

Climate activist to run in Democratic primary in Massachusetts 4th Congressional District

Asserts Congress needs members willing to stake careers on climate action

NEWTON, MA – Gary Rucinski, a nearly 30-year resident of Newton, has announced that he will be running in the 2018 Democratic Primary to challenge Joe Kennedy III for the Massachusetts 4th Congressional House seat.

We see the signs of climate change: sea levels and temperatures rising, glaciers melting, and damages and deaths from extreme weather. Now is the time to do something about it.

Too few Members of Congress understand climate change well enough or they shy away from the challenges of pursuing real solutions. “I’m running for Congress because America needs more legislators who will stake their careers on helping humanity avoid the worst effects of climate change,” Rucinski said.

Gary’s skills, experience, and knowledge have prepared him to succeed as an agent for change and Congressional Representative for Massachusetts. Graduating with a Ph.D. in physics in 1983, Rucinski honed his leadership skills in management positions in established companies, a startup he co-founded in 2000, and while working for over two decades in the national defense industry. As a volunteer member of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, he founded the first chapter in the northeast in 2011 and has held positions as Northeast Regional Coordinator and Massachusetts State Coordinator. During his involvement with CCL he attended, and frequently led, close to 50 meetings with senators, representatives, and Congressional aides during nine trips to Washington in the last seven years. In 2013 he co-founded and chaired the Committee for a Green Economy, a ballot initiative committee that was the first to show through rigorous economic analysis that states dependent on imports of fossil fuels could grow jobs and their economies by imposing revenue-neutral fees on greenhouse gas emissions.

Investors, entrepreneurs, regulators, economists, and others have spoken with Gary about the problem of climate change. “I know that we can create jobs, grow the economy, and avoid the worst effects of climate change if we act in the best interest of our country and future generations NOW,” said Rucinski. “We need legislators willing and able to work nonstop until the gridlock on climate change in Washington is broken and we begin to build the clean-energy future we so desperately need.”

With the help of voters in the Massachusetts 4th District, Gary will be one of those legislators in the 116th Congress in January 2019.