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## **FIRST TO FLIP: REPUBLICAN CLIMATE SKEPTIC CHANGES VIEW, ACCEPTS MAN-MADE CLIMATE CHANGE**

Congressman Announces Change on this Sunday's "Years of Living Dangerously" on  
Showtime

The first Republican Congressman to switch from climate skepticism to accepting the science of man-made climate change does so on this Sunday evening's broadcast of episode 3 of Showtime's docu-series, "[Years of Living Dangerously](#)".

Congressman Michael Grimm (R-Staten Island/Brooklyn) says on the broadcast he agrees "the mass majority of respected scientists say that it's conclusive, the evidence is clear. So I don't think the jury is out." Later, asked by YEARS correspondent Chris Hayes if he agrees that carbon in the atmosphere is warming the planet and raising sea levels, Grimm replies "Sure, I mean there's no question... that the oceans have risen, right? And the climate change part... is a real part of it."

Grimm represents one of the areas hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy. Many of his constituents lost their homes and were injured. Some died, literally swept away by the huge ocean surge.

The episode charts Grimm's evolution on the issue. When first interviewed after Superstorm Sandy, Grimm agrees the climate has changed, but "I don't think the science is there to tell us what's causing it... I don't want to get into the political debate of what's causing it."

After spending time researching the data with his staff, and spending time with former Republican Congressman Bob Inglis of South Carolina, Grimm changes his mind. He is the first to speak out.

Showtime's "Years of Living Dangerously" docu-series on climate change will run for 6 more weeks. *The New York Times* calls it "a compellingly fresh approach" and *The Hollywood Reporter* says it's "compelling and, frankly, terrifying."

Excerpts of the transcript are below.

CHRIS HAYES: Last time you and I spoke, you said the jury was still out on climate science. Do you still feel that way?

MICHAEL GRIMM: After speaking with Bob Inglis, it made me do some of my own research, you know, I looked at some of the stuff that he sent over, my staff looked at. But the mass majority of respected scientists say that it's conclusive, the evidence is

clear. So I don't think the jury is out.

CHRIS HAYES: The basic story of - we're putting carbon in the atmosphere, the planet's getting warmer, that's gonna make the sea levels rise -like, the basic story of that you pretty much agree with, right?

MICHAEL GRIMM: Sure, I mean there's no question that, um, you know, the oceans have risen, right? And the climate change part is, is a real part of it. The problem that we're gonna have right now- there's no oxygen left in the room in Washington for another big debate, that's the reality. Between immigration, tax reform –

CHRIS HAYES: I don't disagree--

MICHAEL GRIMM: It's just not gonna take front stage.

CHRIS HAYES: In twenty years from now, you and I are going to have a conversation where we look back, and I really believe this, and it's like, what do you think about when you think about that conversation twenty years from now, but where you were, where your personal voice was of leadership.

MICHAEL GRIMM: What I'm telling you, it's much bigger than me. I don't think that humans in America, Americans, have the will to do it.

CHRIS HAYES: That's a terribly depressing statement.

MICHAEL GRIMM: It may be, but it's true.