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Kelsie Rudolph

Valparaiso University, kelsie.rudolph@valpo.edu

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Climate Change and Politics: A Connection between Congressional Voting and Our Warming Planet Using GIS

Kelsie Rudolph

Departmental Affiliation: Geography and Meteorology
College of Arts and Sciences

While climate change is widely accepted by the scientific community, it is not as accepted in the political world. Recently, there was an amendment to a bill put to a vote in the House of Representatives to accept that climate change is occurring and has anthropogenic causes. This amendment did not pass. This project aims to find a connection between the voting record of the representatives and the average temperature change over the last 50 years in their districts. Data from the Library of Congress, as well as NOAA will be analyzed using GIS methods. It is hypothesized that there will be a positive connection between voting for the amendment and an increase in average temperature.

Information about the Author:

Kelsie Rudolph is a senior environmental science major graduating this May. She became interested in this project through her advanced GIS course, as well as her interest in climate change and policy in the United States. After graduation, she hopes to find a job in the environmental field.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Bharath Ganesh Babu

Student Contact: kelsie.rudolph@valpo.edu