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Climate change real, Inglis says
Congressman says conservatives must confront situation

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With a glistening lake and fall-tinged leaves behind him at Paris Mountain State Park on Monday, U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis joined with wildlife leaders in calling for increased awareness of the current -- and potential -- impacts of climate change.

The conservative Republican said he had made a 180-degree shift on the issue, from one who once scoffed to one who was convinced by visits to Antarctica and Greenland.

"The science is pretty difficult to refute," he said, and his visits to the top and bottom of the globe were sufficient "to convince a skeptic something is up. When you see it, you're confronted with the facts."

Inglis said conservatives, whose ranks contain many global warming doubters, need to regain their heritage as conservationists and "do that in an American way through innovation that creates economic opportunity while reducing emissions."

Advertisement He made the comments at a press conference held by the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited.

Ben Gregg, the federation's director, said the state's hunters and anglers deal with climate change daily and face greater changes in the near future as sensitive habitats for fish and wildlife are negatively impacted.
