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Talking with Tonko about global warming

North Albany Academy students may not be able to vote, but that doesn't mean they cannot engage in the political process!

Seventh- and eighth-grade students from North Albany participated in a teleconference on the topic of global warming with Congressman Paul Tonko on Feb. 3 along with students from the University at Albany and Duanesburg High School as part of the National Teach-In Program.

Rep. Tonko represents New York's 21st congressional district, which includes Albany, Schenectady and Troy.

Before the teleconference, teachers at North Albany talked with their students about global warming topics and what interested them.

During the teleconference, North Albany students questioned Rep. Tonko about scientific and policy-related issues concerning the environment. Rep. Tonko communicated to the students that it is important to acknowledge that global warming exists. In his opinion, ignoring the problem is the worst thing citizens can do to the environment.

The teleconference was an invaluable experience for all who participated, and its lessons still resonate with students.

"If we don't try to save our world, the greenhouse effect will do a lot of damage, as it has already shown in weather patterns," says North Albany Academy sixth-grader McKenna Lee Gordon.



Seventh-grader McKayla Keogh asks Rep. Tonko a question during the Feb. 3 teleconference.