

STEVEN M. ANDERSON
Brigadier General, US Army (Retired)

Steven M. Anderson is service-disabled military veteran and a highly experienced logistician, environmental advocate, project manager and business developer. He retired in April 2010 after a 31-year career in the US Army, with command and staff assignments in Korea, Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Germany, and Hawaii and four tours in the Pentagon. Since his retirement, he has over ten years of service in challenging leadership positions in overseas operational environments or combat zones, to include Afghanistan, Iraq, Africa and Libya. A member of The Spectrum Group, a dynamic alliance of more than 100 highly respected and accomplished experts from government and industry, Anderson also serves as a director for Ultralife Corporation (ULBI), a publicly traded battery and communications equipment manufacturer based in Rochester NY with manufacturing in the US, China and the UK. He is also a minority owner of Relyant Global LLC, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) based in Knoxville, Tennessee, that specializes in munitions response, environmental remediation, construction and expeditionary support and has major operations ongoing in Afghanistan, Africa, Guam and the US. Anderson is a 1978 graduate of the United States Military Academy and has a Master of Science degree in ORSA Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. In November 2013, he was elected into the US Army Ordnance Hall of Fame.

States of operation: NY, VA, TN

Why we need federal climate policy now:

My clients at the Spectrum Group are some of the largest American defense, aerospace, strategic communications, security, healthcare, bioscience, energy, environment and government related companies, nationally and internationally, representing millions of job. They face enormous liabilities and risks to their operations and supply chains from the impacts of climate change. The U.S. industrial base is by far the most effective and advanced in the world, and can be leveraged to operationalize any national initiative to mitigate these impacts. But the strategic vision must be articulated from the top, by the U.S. government. Congress must provide that leadership now.

I have over 40 years of first-hand experience witnessing the cost of our country's dependence on fossil fuels. During the height of the Iraq war, in consideration of the overhead needed to deliver fuel to the combat zone at that time, taxpayers were spending \$20M a day on liquid fuel. More tragically, over 2,000 Americans died supporting fuel missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am convinced that hundreds of those lives could have been spared had the military leveraged existing renewable energy technologies to cut demand for fuel to air condition and heat our structures and move our equipment. Our military has led important change before (aviation, communications, the internet, space travel, etc.) and certainly can do so for a green economy; an operational theater of war such as Afghanistan can be an operational test bed to leverage new technologies that ween us an addiction to oil and carbon fuels that is destroying our planet and destabilizing the world. We need a strong mandate from the federal government to do this, and America's defense industry, businesses and research facilities will get us there.

Appropriations

Thanks to our historic tradition of government funding for basic scientific research, the U.S. has the best research facilities in the world. Two of our greatest strengths are the defense and aerospace industries and the research capabilities of our universities, national labs, and innovation hubs like Silicon Valley, all of which are the recipients of significant government grants and contracts.

We now face growing challenges to our technological leadership from countries that recognize the strategic advantage of investing in their research capabilities, like China. If we don't aggressively commit to our own RD&D to retain our competitive edge, we will surely lose it to those countries that are fully committed.

Infrastructure

Our grid is very fragile and could be easily disrupted by bad actors. We must look to achieve security and sustainability in our energy and transportation systems. Increasing renewable energy helps to decentralize energy generation, adding the capacity of thousands of clean energy generation sites as opposed to a limited number of large fossil plants. The next infrastructure bill must seek to speed this evolution in our energy systems and invest heavily in the deployment of advanced energy technology, including transmission, and flexible grid capacity. From my own experience in a lithium battery company I know that incorporating advanced battery technology in to our grid is essential for accommodating ever increasing renewable energy generation. We must also enable our buildings to function as batteries to make energy available during peak demand. This will require advanced grid IT to enable the bi-directional flow of energy between generation and energy storage units.

Again, commitment to a 21st century infrastructure system is essential to America's competitiveness and national security. We must build for the energy and transportation systems that will foster energy and economic security for us, and for partner nations.

Café Standards and Oil Drilling

For our national and economic security we must break our addiction to oil. Reducing our fuel efficiency standards will only prolong that addiction while making our car companies less competitive in a global market that is quickly electrifying. Increasing offshore oil drilling simply serves to retard our transition to less costly and less dangerous energy sources. Rather than spending the money on drilling (and on cleaning up after extremely costly and damaging accidents) we should dedicate that money to developing new technologies that will deliver the next generation of transportation modalities and fuels.