

June 30, 2022

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitchell McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell:

As veterans of the US Armed Forces, we are deeply concerned by the national security ramifications of climate change. We are writing to urge you to invest in climate change solutions and resilience commensurate with the scale of the crisis and to do so without delay.

Our diverse experiences across every branch of the service have provided us with a keen understanding of the risks to our military, citizens, and country if we do not move rapidly to tackle this crisis and its mounting impacts on national security.

While there are a broad range of threats, three climate change and energy-related national security challenges illustrate the gravity of the situation and the need for federal action:

1. Climate change is a **conflict multiplier** with extreme drought and other weather events leading to increased resource conflict, forced migration, and global insecurity.
2. Climate extremes are taking a **toll on military readiness** and costing taxpayers dearly. Naval Station Norfolk, supporting the operational readiness of our Atlantic fleet, Offutt Air Force base, home to United States Strategic Command, Tyndall Air Force Base and Camp Lejeune are just some examples of military installations that have borne the expensive costs of climate change in recent years. Thousands of other installations worldwide are also at risk as sea levels rise, hurricanes, flooding, extreme heat and wildfires become more severe. Damage from climate-related issues **impedes training and responsiveness** and **diverts hundreds of billions of dollars of valuable resources** for response, repair, and reconstruction.
3. As European allies have noted in the context of the Ukraine crisis, our current fossil fuel-oriented energy policy **enriches foreign leaders who seek to harm the US and our allies**. As

one of the largest consumers of energy in the world, the **Department of Defense is paying both financially and militarily** for our fossil fuel-dependence. Investments in clean energy and domestic manufacturing of key climate and clean energy technologies can improve national security and speed up the transition to energy independence for the nation and for the military.

We urge the government to respond in proportion to this grave and growing threat by mobilizing clean energy solutions both here in the US and in allied countries at the scale and speed necessary to de-escalate the climate threat to national security and US military readiness.

We strongly urge action now, and we stand ready to support your efforts in any way that we can.

Very respectfully,

John Douglass
Former Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Brigadier General, US Air Force (RET)

Dennis McGinn
Former Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Vice Admiral, US Navy (RET)

John Castellaw
Lt. General, US Marine Corps (RET)

Norman Seip
Lt. General, US Air Force (RET)

Dirk Debbink
Vice Admiral, US Navy (RET)

Kevin Green
Vice Admiral, US Navy (RET)

Sanford Holman
Major General, US Army (RET)

Stephen Cheney
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps (RET)

Robert Felderman
Brigadier General, U.S. Army (RET)

David Irvine,
Brigadier General, US Army (RET)

Joseph Medina,
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps (RET)

Jamie Barnett,
Rear Admiral, US Navy (RET)

Matthew Martin
Lt. Colonel, US Air Force (RET)

James Marvin
Commander, US Navy, (RET)

Nickolaus Kesler
Commander, US Navy Reserves (RET)

Mark West
Lt. Commander, US Navy

Christopher Valle
Colonel, US Air Force (RET)

Dave Belote,
Colonel, US Air Force (RET)

Todd Gossett
Colonel, US Air Force (RET)

Hai Tu
Major, US Army

Alex Cornell du Houx
Sergeant, US Marine Corps; Lt. Commander,
US Navy

Allan Abela,
Petty Officer Second Class (E5), US Navy

Jessica Bradley Rushing,
E4, US Army

Charles Brown II,
Seaman (E3), US Navy

Will Duval
Captain, US Army

Tyna Ferretti
Sergeant (E5), US Army

Jonathan Gensler
Captain (O3), US Army

Jonathan Gillis
Sergeant, US Marine Corps

Davon Goodwin
Specialist (E4), US Army

James Goudreau,
Captain (O6), US Navy

Mike Hennen,
Captain, US Army

Kevin Johnson
Captain (O3), US Army

Andrea Marr
Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer, US Navy

Donald Martinez
Captain, US Army

Ryan McGill
Captain, US Marine Corps

Jesse Medlong
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Lieutenant (O3), US Navy

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Captain, US Army

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Captain (O3), US Army

Matt Pelak
Sergeant First Class (E7), US Army

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Captain, US Army

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Kathryn Smith
First Lieutenant, US Air Force

Heather Takle
Captain, US Marine Corps

Fazio Teresa
Captain, US Marine Corps

Hanna Tripp
Senior Airman, US Air Force

Roger Ullman
Captain, US Navy

Troy Van Beek
First Class Petty Officer (E6), US Navy
(SEAL)

Tony Williams
US Army, Officer

cc:

Lloyd Austin, US Secretary of Defense
Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor
All Members of Congress