



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE
ACTION FUND

Ignoring climate change undermines national security. *Vote “Yes” on H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act.*

Policymakers are right to ask about the cost and consequences of climate change policy. But which path is more disruptive: fighting climate change or ignoring it? In terms of *national security alone*, there is mounting understanding that ignoring climate change is the most costly and dangerous course.^{1,2,3,4} But don't take our word for it. See what others are saying:

“There are national security ramifications to global warming.”

National Intelligence Director Mike McConnell, “The Spymaster,” *The New Yorker*, 1/21/08

“We already know enough to appreciate that the cascading consequences of unchecked climate change are to include a range of security problems that will have dire global consequences.”

Center for Strategic & International Studies and Center for a New American Security joint report, 11/5/07

“Climate change poses severe security threats to the U.S.”

Center for Naval Analysis report, May 2009

“Climate change will provide the conditions that will extend the war on terror... More poverty, more forced migrations, higher unemployment. Those conditions are ripe for extremists and terrorists.”²

Admiral T. Joseph Lopez (Ret.), Former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and of Allied Forces, 4/16/07

“We will pay for this one way or another. We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today... Or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives. There will be a human toll.”²

General Anthony C. Zinni (Ret.), Former Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), 4/16/07

In confronting climate change, there is no option without costs. But we do have choices. We can invest a modest amount now – about a dime a day, according to a recent EPA analysis⁵ of the American Clean Energy and Security Act – and get cleaner air, greater energy security, new energy jobs, and a brighter future for our children. Or, by choosing to do nothing, we can pay much more later in greater government spending to maintain public infrastructure, agricultural damage from droughts, the spread of insect-borne disease, increased international instability.

The most damaging thing we can do about climate change is nothing.
Vote “Yes” on H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

¹ CSIS-CNAS Nov. 2007 report: .The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change.

² CNA 4/06/07 report: .National Security and the threat of Climate Change.

³ CNA May 2009 report: Powering America's Defense: Energy and the Risks to National Security.

⁴ Dr. Fingar testimony 6/25/08 .National Intelligence Assessment on the National Security Implications of Global Climate Change to 2030.

⁵ EPA's analysis is online at <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/economics/economicanalyses.html#wax>.

Find more fact sheets, reports, and testimonies on climate and energy issues at www.edf.org/ClimateAnswers.