



OPERATION ★ FREE

Secure America with Clean Energy

July 11, 2011

The Honorable Harold D. Rogers
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

I am writing on behalf of Operation Free, a coalition of veterans and national security organizations that recognize the national security threats posed by oil dependence and climate change.

As an Iraq war veteran and a member of Operation Free, I urge you to closely examine the Fiscal Year 2012 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and to remove provisions that prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from doing its job to regulate carbon pollution. The EPA's efforts are necessary steps towards reducing the devastating conflicts caused by climate change and our need for oil.

As you may know, the Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, and other national security organizations have all identified climate change as a serious security threat. As the Pentagon noted in its Quadrennial Defense Review last year, climate change acts as an "accelerant of instability," diminishing international stability, escalating conflict, and contributing to the formation of terrorist breeding grounds. We witnessed this situation last year in Pakistan, where regional insurgents and terrorist organizations like al Qaeda capitalized on extreme flooding to boost their recruitment goals. The result has put a strain on our military forces and impaired America's mission in Afghanistan.

Recognizing the harmful effects of climate change to our security, Operation Free supports the EPA's reasonable, prudent efforts to regulate carbon pollution. To hamstring the EPA in this area would, in the long run, be harmful to national security. We urge you and your fellow members of the Committee on Appropriations to remove language in this bill that would keep the EPA from regulating carbon pollution.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Glenn Kunkel
Operation Free Kentucky State Captain
Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (retired)

CC: House Appropriations Committee members

