

OPERATION FREE

Secure America with Clean Energy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2010

CONTACT

David Solimini, 757-876-0295

Senior Military Leaders Announce Support for Climate Bill

33 Generals, Admirals support comprehensive climate legislation

Oil money funds terrorism, climate change causes instability

WASHINGTON – An unprecedented **thirty-three retired US military Generals and Admirals** today announced their support for comprehensive climate and energy legislation in a letter addressed to Senators Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell. It was the largest such announcement of support ever, reflecting the consensus of the national security community that climate change and oil dependence pose a threat American security.

The letter appeared this morning as a full page advertisement in Politico and Roll Call. Next week it will appear in all four Military Times publications. The announcement comes as comprehensive climate change and energy legislation awaits announcement in the US Senate.

Participating in the announcement event were: General Stephen Cheney, General John G. Castellaw, General Norman R. Seip, General Roger R. Blunt, General Paul Monroe, General Paul Eaton, and General Keith Kerr

See the ad: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/operationfree/4561702982/sizes/o/>

The nation's military and security community have been leaders in addressing the threats to America's national security posed by oil dependence, highlighting the flow of money from oil-rich nations to terrorist organizations. In addition, the Pentagon's strategic plan, released in February, note that climate change destabilizes weak nations. Failed states, destabilized by drought, flood, famine, and crop failure, are often the breeding ground and safe haven of terrorist organizations.

Full text of the letter signed by these senior military leaders:

Dear Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell,

Climate change is threatening America's security. The Pentagon and security leaders of both parties consider climate disruption to be a "threat multiplier" – it exacerbates existing problems by decreasing stability, increasing conflict, and incubating the socioeconomic conditions that foster terrorist recruitment. The State Department, the National Intelligence Council and the CIA all agree, and all are planning for future climate-based threats.

America's billion-dollar-a-day dependence on oil makes us vulnerable to unstable and unfriendly regimes. A substantial amount of that oil money ends up in the hands of terrorists. Consequently, our military is forced to operate in hostile territory, and our troops are attacked by terrorists funded by U. S. oil dollars, while rogue regimes profit off of our dependence. As long as the American public is beholden to global energy prices, we will be at the mercy of these rogue regimes. Taking control of our energy future means preventing future conflicts around the world and protecting Americas here at home.

It is time to secure America with clean energy. We can create millions of jobs in a clean energy economy while mitigating the effects of climate change across the globe. We call on Congress and the administration to enact strong, comprehensive climate and energy legislation to reduce carbon pollution and lead the world in clean energy technology.

Signatories to the letter:

Lieutenant General Joseph Ballard, US Army (Ret.)
Lieutenant General John Castellaw, USMC (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Robert Gard, Jr., Army (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy, US Army (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Don Kerrick, US Army (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Frank Petersen, USMC (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Norman Seip, USAF (Ret.)
Vice Admiral Donald Arthur, US Navy (Ret.)
Vice Admiral Kevin Green, US Navy (Ret.)
Vice Admiral Lee Gunn, US Navy (Ret.)
Major General Roger Blunt, US Army (Ret.)
Major General George Buskirk, US Army (Ret.)
Major General Paul Eaton, US Army (Ret.)
Major General Donald Edwards, US Army (Ret.)
Major General Paul Monroe, US Army (Ret.)
Major General Tony Taguba, US Army (Ret.)
Rear Admiral John Hutson, JAGC, US Navy (Ret.)
Rear Admiral Stuart Platt, US Navy (Ret.)
Rear Admiral Alan Steinman, US Coast Guard (Ret.)
Brigadier General John Adams, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.)

Brigadier General John Douglass, US Air Force (Ret.)
Brigadier General Michael Dunn, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Pat Foote, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Larry Gillespie, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Keith Kerr, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Phil Leventis, USAF (Ret.)
Brigadier General George Patrick, III, USAF (Ret.)
Brigadier General Virgil Richard, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Murray Sagsveen, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Ted Vander Els, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General John Watkins, US Army (Ret.)
Brigadier General Steve Xenakis, US Army (Ret.)

Earlier this week, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan delivered an “Iran Oil Profits Counter” to the office of Senator John Kerry. The counter tallies the \$100 million dollars a day that America would deprive Iran of if we passed strong carbon cap legislation.

- Learn more: <http://www.operationfree.net/2010/04/27/vets-deliver-%E2%80%9Ciran-oil-profits-counter%E2%80%9D-to-kerry-hill-office/>

The Veterans for American Power Bus Tour, currently in its fifth month, has traveled more than 25,000 miles and held hundreds of events to highlight the connection between security and climate.

- Learn more: <http://www.operationfree.net/2010/01/14/op-free-launches-veterans-for-american-power-tour/>

Recent polling showed strong support for climate legislation among veterans. A significant majority of Iraq and Afghanistan vets support climate change legislation and a believe oil dependence is a security threat.

- Learn more: <http://wonkroom.thinkprogress.org/2010/03/16/new-poll-dadt/>

Operation Free is a coalition of veterans and national security organizations dedicated to securing America with clean energy. Operation Free sponsors the Veterans for American Power National Tour, a 29 state tour by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans making the connection between energy policy and national security. More at www.OperationFree.net. Operation Free is an advocacy campaign of the Truman National Security Project.

The Truman National Security Project is a national security leadership institute, the nation's only organization that recruits, trains, and positions a new generation of progressives across America to lead on national security. More at www.TrumanProject.org.

###