



March 15, 2011

Representative Fred Upton, Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Henry Waxman, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member,

I am writing in opposition to H.R. 910, the so-called "Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011," on behalf of the veterans of VoteVets.org. VoteVets.org is backed by 100,000 members, about half of whom are U.S. Military veterans and their family members.

Our opposition to this legislation is simple – it will increase America's dependence on oil at a time when our national security can ill-afford it.

By gutting Clean Car standards and stripping the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its authority to jointly issue emission standards with the Department of Transportation (DOT), we will consume billion of barrels more of oil. Current new vehicle standards to 2016 are projected to save 1.8 billion barrels but a quarter of those savings will be lost under this bill. Furthermore, by upsetting the EPA endangerment finding, all of the savings are potentially in jeopardy. Moreover, future standards being developed for 2017 to 2025 could save billions of barrels more but this bill would block EPA from adopting those standards. Given that the United States is already the number one consumer of oil in the world, an increased demand for oil in the U.S. would drive up the price of oil on the world market.

While the United States does not buy oil directly from our enemies, a rise in world oil costs enriches them greatly. For example, every time the price of oil goes up by a dollar, the radical and dangerous Iranian regime gets another billion dollars a day. That's more money the regime can funnel towards activities that threaten American troops overseas, and activities that would destabilize the region more than it already is, threatening the security of America and her allies.

The environmental impact from increased greenhouse gas emissions cannot be ignored, either. The Pentagon has been running simulations on climate change, to see how its effects would stretch our military, and put American lives on the line. The idea that climate change might have a direct affect on American security isn't a new notion. In 2008, a National Intelligence Assessment observed that "global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for US national security interests over the next 20 years."

What is new is that the Pentagon is now taking the threat so seriously that it has been war-gaming scenarios. The results?

In one scenario, a flood in Bangladesh "sent hundreds of thousands of refugees streaming into neighboring India, touching off religious conflict, the spread of contagious diseases and vast damage to infrastructure" according to a story in the *New York Times*. Other models put key military installations in severe danger, while melting polar ice open up new shipping channels that must be defended.

"The demands of these potential humanitarian responses may significantly tax U.S. military transportation and support force structures, resulting in a strained readiness posture and decreased strategic depth for combat operations," the report concludes.

Given those facts, we want to be perfectly clear and blunt – a vote for this piece of legislation is a vote to enrich Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and America's enemies. A vote for this misguided piece of legislation is a vote to endanger America's troops and security. We vigorously oppose this piece of legislation, and hope you will put America and its troops above what is clearly an oil-industry written bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

J. Ashwin Madia  
Iraq War Veteran  
Interim Chairman, VoteVets.org