

National Security and Science Experts, Political Leaders Speak Out Regarding Dirty Fuels, Climate Change and Security

Military/security experts

Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, USN, Retired Member, Military Advisory Board, CNA

“Moving beyond recent studies on the dangers of imported oil, our new report finds that not just foreign oil – but all oil – and not just oil but all fossil fuels, pose significant security threats to military mission and the country, and are “exploitable by those who wish to do us harm.”

“We cannot pursue energy independence by taking steps that would contradict our emerging climate policy. Energy security and a sound response to climate change cannot be achieved by pursuing more fossil fuels. Our nation requires diversification of energy sources and a serious commitment to renewable energy. Not simply for environmental reasons – for national security reasons.”

Senator John Warner (Retired)

“I firmly believe that the challenge before us is to build a foundation resting on three legs: energy, climate change and national security. Eventual success requires all three legs to remain equally strong. Global climate change has the potential, if left unchecked, of adding missions to the already heavy burdens of our military and other elements of our nation’s overall national security.”

General Gordon Sullivan, Former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, who chaired the Military Advisory Board of the Center for Naval Analysis

“The Cold War was a specter, but climate change is inevitable. If we keep on with business as usual, we will reach a point where some of the worst effects are inevitable... back then, the challenge was to stop a particular action. Now the challenge is to inspire a particular action. We have to act if we are to avoid the worst effects.”

Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.) President, American Security Project

“Climate change poses a clear and present danger to the United States of America. But if we respond appropriately, I believe we will enhance our security, not simply by averting the worst climate change impacts, but by spurring a new energy revolution. “

“The report, entitled “*Powering America’s Defense: Energy and the Risks to National Security*,” suggests strongly that national security, linked to energy security and economic growth, which undergird all of our nation’s power, can be achieved by taking action now to avert the worst

consequences of climate change. The imperative, then, is for leadership and action on a global scale. The United States must act. The United States must lead.”

Dr. James Hansen, Widely Recognized as World’s Leading Climate Scientist, NASA

“The tar sands of Canada constitute one of our planet’s greatest threats. They are a double-barrelled threat. First, producing oil from tar sands emits two-to-three times the global warming pollution of conventional oil. But the process also diminishes one of the best carbon-reduction tools on the planet: Canada’s Boreal Forest.”

“An underlying fact has become crystal clear. The horrendously carbon-intensive unconventional fossil fuels, tar shale in the US and tar sands in Canada, cannot be developed. The carbon emissions from tar shale and tar sands would initiate a continual unfolding of climate disasters over the course of this century. We would be miserable stewards of creation. We would rob our own children and grandchildren.”

“Now is a critical moment in the history of our planet. The US and Canadian governments must agree that the unconventional fossil fuels, tar sands and tar shale, will not be developed. They will thus send a message that their statements recognising "a planet in peril" are not empty rhetoric. They will provide hope to young people and nature. We can preserve our heritage with its remarkable diversity of life.”

Political leaders

President Barack Obama:

“This (climate change) is a matter of urgency and of national security and it has to be dealt with in a serious way. That’s what I intend my administration to do.”

Vice President Joseph R. Biden

“Climate, energy, national security – these are all facets of the same single challenge: A strong domestic and international response that increases our energy security, that slows, stops and reverses the buildup of greenhouse gases

Peter Ogden, chief of staff to Todd Stern, the State Department’s top climate negotiator.

“The sense that climate change poses security and geopolitical challenges is central to the thinking of the State Department and the climate office,” said Peter Ogden, chief of staff to Todd Stern, the State Department’s top climate negotiator.