

VETERANS FOR PEACE



April 2, 2021

Dear Honorable John Kerry,

On behalf of Veterans For Peace and other peace and climate champions, we congratulate you on your appointment as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, thank you for returning us to the Paris Agreement, and join you in promoting a transition from fossil fuels to safe, renewable forms of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, and small hydropower.

Let us put militarism at the center of this conversation on climate.

We are pleased that the Biden/Harris Administration has created this position, as a reflection of the seriousness of the climate crisis, and we are pleased that the person with that position is you. It is approaching 50 years since you, as an anti-war veteran, delivered to Congress a lengthy, articulate and devastating critique of the Viet Nam war. Some of us were already anti-war veterans or soldiers, and you spoke truth to power for us. You have had many positions of power since that time; in your present position, we ask that you summon the courage and clarity about war and militarism that you expressed to Congress in April 1971.

You posed the question, “How do we ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?”

Now the question we pose is, “How do we ask millions of people to die as a result of a climate catastrophe fueled by endless war and militarism?”

To thwart climate catastrophe, we present the following requests:

- 1) Please implement the inclusion of military emissions in all reporting and data on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The US shamefully demanded, during the negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, that military emissions be excluded from countries' total GHGs, and then did not even ratify the Protocol.
- 2) We ask that you use your public platform to consistently point out the role that US militarism and the Pentagon play in exacerbating the climate crisis, and push to greatly reduce the military's reach around the world, to bring our troops home, end drone warfare, close hundreds of overseas bases, stop endless wars, reject nuclear modernization and defund the Space Force – to end the squandering of financial, material and human resources, and minimize the Pentagon's carbon footprint.
- 3) We ask that you promote bilateral accords between the US and Russia and the US and China to prohibit financial institutions from funding future fossil fuel investments, cease military exercises in the South China Sea, keep the Arctic safe from extractive exploration and weapons systems, and conduct people-to-people “climate protector” delegations to exchange knowledge, build friendships and undertake joint projects to promote biodiversity and renewable energy.
- 4) We ask that you use your public platform to advocate for the US to pay its fair share into the Green Climate Fund.

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5) We ask that you be a strong advocate for a Just Transition so that both workers who have been and will be displaced by the shift from fossil fuel production, and working people who have been marginalized, are able to fully prosper.

6) We ask you to recognize that along with the efforts of many elected and appointed officials including yourself, the efforts of people's movements for climate justice are essential in overcoming the power of those forces that have led us into our present climate disaster. We therefore ask that you work with our groups as allies. We ask these sister groups also, as we are asking you, to challenge war and militarism that so far has been little addressed in the climate movement.

This is in spite of:

- a) The Pentagon being the world's largest institutional user of fossil fuels and thus the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses (GHG emissions).
- b) The huge additional environmental impacts from manufacturing, shipping and using weapons and equipment, and the intense bombing of infrastructure and natural environments of other countries.
- c) The trillions of dollars of our money that have been spent on endless wars, nuclear weapons and some 800 overseas US bases – none of which defend us against climate disruption – which should be redirected to human needs and healing our planet.
- d) The deep complicity between the military-industrial complex and the fossil fuel corporations. Our military enforces US corporations' plunder of the planet to steal resources and the fruits of human labor.

Yet, when we listened to your speech of February 18, on the occasion of the welcome return of the US to the Paris Climate Agreement, we noted the lack of any reference to the military contribution to the climate crisis.

Similarly, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Report, "Solving the Climate Crisis" <https://climatecrisis.house.gov/report> lays out changes needed in many areas. In the section on National Security, however, it only includes how climate change will affect the military on US bases, but nothing on how the military affects the climate crisis.

We cannot afford to ignore the elephant in the room or remain in denial.

As we witness extreme weather events, from flash floods to wildfires to freezing temperatures, we are reminded of the urgency of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure a carbon-free future in a sustainable world, we must redefine global security as climate security and recognize that war and war preparations will only make us less secure. Otherwise, we face an increasingly militarized and dystopian world, in which industrialized countries lock out climate refugees from the Global South, and in which indigenous peoples disproportionately suffer as a result of our addiction to fossil fuels and militarism.

We recognize that ending this existential threat to our survival requires transforming the organizing principle of our society from greed to sustainability, equity, community and regeneration. This will require the collaboration of many groups: frontline communities, racial and climate justice advocates, youth, labor, environmentalists, and religious groups, along with the crucial role that you and other concerned officials can play. Working together to end war and militarism must be a central part of this effort.

We would like to schedule a showing of our slides on "Climate Disruption and US Militarism" and plan to be in touch with you on how best we can work together. Thank you for your time, consideration and leadership as Climate Envoy.

Sincerely,
Climate Crisis and Militarism Project, Veterans For Peace

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

350.org
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
Alliance for Democracy
American Federation of Teachers, Local 2026
(Philadelphia PA)
American Friends Service Committee
Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common
Security
CODEPINK
Communities for a Better Environment
Courage to Resist
Environmentalists Against War
Extinction Rebellion, XR Justice
International Action Center
Jewish Voice for Peace Action
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social
Justice
Living Economies Forum
Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World
Movement Rights
Muslim Delegates and Allies
National Lawyers Guild (NLG)
National Priorities Project: Institute for Policy Studies
Native American Veterans Association
New Internationalism Project: Institute for Policy
Studies
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Our Revolution
Peace Action
Project Censored
Progressive Democrats of America
Rise Up Times
Roots Action
School of the Americas Watch
September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic
Community
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of
America (UE)
United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ)
US Peace Council
Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity
Veterans For Peace (VFP)
Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW)
War Resisters League (WRL)
Western States Legal Foundation
Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom (WILPF)
World Beyond War
Zero Hour

INDIVIDUAL ENDORSERS

Adrienne Kinne, President, VFP
Alan Minsky, Executive Director, Progressive
Democrats of America
Andrés Soto, Communities for a Better Environment,
Richmond CA
Andrew Bacevich, President, Quincy Institute for
Responsible Statecraft
Ann Wright, retired colonel; resigned State Dept due
to Iraq war
Mimi Kennedy, Actress; Board member, Progressive
Democrats of America
Barry Ladendorf, former president VFP
Brian Willson, author
Bruce Gagnon, Global Network Against Weapons &
Nuclear Power in Space
Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
Chris Lombardi, author "I Ain't Marching Anymore."
Christine Anh, Women Cross DMZ
Cindy Piester, US War Crimes documentarian
Dahr Jamail, journalist
Daniel Ellsberg, Pentagon Papers
Daniel Kovalik, Adjunct Professor, U of Pittsburgh
School of Law
Danny Sjursen, author Ghost Riders of Baghdad
Darien De Lu, National President WILPF
David Bond, Associate Director, Center for the
Advancement of Public Action
David Korten, YES magazine
David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
David Swanson, World Beyond War
David Vine, author United States of War
Dud Hendrick, author at Common Dreams
Eduardo Martinez, Richmond CA City Council
Ellen Barfield, Head VFP delegate to the UN
Frank Dorrell, activist, publisher "Addicted to War"
Garett Reppenhagen, Executive Director, VFP
Gayle McLaughlin, Richmond CA City Council
Gerry Condon, president VFP Golden Rule
Committee
Hanieh Jodat Barnes, President, Muslim Delegates
and Allies
Helene Benedict, author The Private War of Women
Serving in Iraq
James Hines, Environmentalist, Organizer
Jessica Girard, Iraq War veteran, director Fairbanks
Climate Action Coalition
Jim Janko, author Buffalo Boy and Geronimo
Joanna Macy, Ph.D., Author and Activist
Jodie Evans, co-founder CODEPINK
Joe Uehlein, President, Labor Network for
Sustainability
John Pilger, multi-award-winning filmmaker
Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence
Kim Scipes, Global Labor Scholar

Marcy Winograd, Coordinator CODEPINK Congress
 Margaret Stevens, author Red International and
 Black Caribbean
 Mari Inoue, co-founder Manhattan Project for a
 Nuclear-Free World
 Marjorie Cohn, former president National Lawyers'
 Guild (NLG)
 Matthew Hoh, Center for International Policy
 Medea Benjamin, Co-founder, CODEPINK
 Michael A. Messner, author Unconventional Combat
 Michael Eisenscher, director SolidarityINFOService
 Michael McPhearson, former Executive Director VFP
 Mickey Huff, Project Censored
 Mike Ferner, former president VFP
 Mimi Kennedy, actress
 Nadia Ahmad, Professor, Environmental Law
 Nancy Price, Alliance for Democracy (US)
 Noam Chomsky, Professor Emeritus, MIT
 Norma Field, Professor Emeritus East Asian
 Studies, U of Chicago
 Norman Solomon, author War Made Easy
 Oliver Stone, filmmaker
 Omar Clay, Environmental Physicist
 Pat Elder, Investigative Journalist of Military Poisons
 Pennie Opal Plant, Movement Rights
 Peter Kuznick, co-author The Untold History of the
 United States.
 Peter Phillips, author Giants: The Global Elite
 Phil Butler, former POW
 Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies
 Rachel Clark, Interpreter, Global Coordinator
 Regina Birchem, WILPF/ Pax Christi
 Rev. John Dear, former director Fellowship of
 Reconciliation
 Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Hip Hop Caucus
 Rev. Liz Theoharis, Poor People's Campaign
 Rev. Robert Moore, director Coalition for Peace
 Action
 Rich Peacock, Co-Chair Peace Action MI
 Richard Falk, diplomat, author, professor emeritus
 Robert Dodge, ICAN Nobel Peace Prize winner
 Robert Greenwald, Filmmaker
 Robert Jensen, Emeritus Professor, U Texas Austin
 Robert Shetterly, artist "Americans Who Tell the
 Truth"
 Ron Kovic, author, "Born on the Fourth of July"
 Sam Davis, Oakland CA School Board
 Scott Camil, Gainesville Eight
 Sharon Kufeldt, Former Vice-President VFP
 Sharon Tennison, citizen diplomat to Russia
 Steve Skrovan, Co-Host, Ralph Nader Radio Hour
 Susan Schnall, Vietnam war resister
 Tarak Kauff, editor Peace and Planet News
 Thom Hartmann, commentator
 Todd Fernandez, Executive & Legislative Director,
 ClimateCrisisPolicy.org

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS)
 members:

Coleen Rowley
 John Kiriakou
 Ray McGovern
 Todd Pierce
 William Rivers Pitt, activist, editor, best-selling
 author
 Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth
 Woody Powell, former Executive Director VFP

INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

Biointensive for Russia
 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, UK
 Code Pink, Osaka, Japan
 Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power
 in Space
 International Peace Bureau, Germany
 Irish Anti-War Movement
 Movement for the Abolition of War, UK
 Nagasaki Citizen's Group, Japan
 Peace Philosophy Centre, Japan
 Re-Thinking Security, UK
 Scientists for Global Responsibility, UK
 Women's International League for Peace and
 Freedom (WILPF)
 WILPF, Afghanistan
 WILPF, Nigeria
 World Future Council, based in Hamburg, Germany

INTERNATIONAL INDIVIDUALS

Alyn Ware, Peace and Disarmament Coordinator,
 World Future Council
 Angelo Cardona, president Alianza Iberoamericana
 por la Paz, Colombia
 Brian Smyth, Maybe International Ireland
 Clare Daly, member of European Parliament from
 Ireland
 David Suzuki, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University
 of BC, Canada.
 Elliot Gabriel, Journalist Truthout, Ecuador
 Gerry Carroll, member Legislative Assembly of
 Northern Ireland
 Harumi Yamamoto, Singer-songwriter, Japan
 Jamila Afghani, WILPF Afghanistan
 Joe Murray, director of Action from Ireland
 John Lannon, University of Limerick, Ireland
 John Pilger, Australian journalist
 Joseph Essertier, Representative of World Beyond
 War, Japan
 Joy Ada Onyesoh Ph.D WILPF, Nigeria
 Madeleine Rees, Secretary General of WILPF
 International
 Maude Barlow, Author Blue Covenant, also Blue

Future, Canada
 Masaki Hirata, Associate Prof, Nagoya City
 University, Japan
 Mick Wallace, member of European Parliament from
 Ireland
 Paul Murphy, People Before Profit TD, Ireland
 Reiner Braun, Executive Director, International
 Peace Bureau
 Richard Boyd Barrett, Member of Irish Parliament
 Roger Cole, Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA),
 Ireland
 Ryoko Yamaguchi, Code Pink Osaka, Japan
 Satoko Oka Norimatsu, editor Asia-Pacific Journal:
 Japan Focus
 Stephen Lewis, former Canadian Ambassador to the
 United Nations
 Stuart Parkinson, E.D. Scientists for Global
 Responsibility
 Sviatoslav Zabelin, Publisher, Goldman prize winner
 Russia
 Yoshiko Tanigawa, English Guide at Kyoto Museum
 for World Peace, Japan

VFP 101 (South Bay/Peninsula CA)
 VFP 102 (Milwaukee, WI)
 VFP 105 (Baltimore, MD)
 VFP 111 (Bellingham, WA)
 VFP 112 (Ventura County, CA)
 VFP 115 (Red Wing, MN)
 VFP 122 (Auburn, CA)
 VFP 132 (Corvallis, OR)
 VFP 134 (Tacoma, WA)
 VFP 136 (The Villages, FL)
 VFP 154 Fargo, ND)
 VFP 157 (Durham, NC)
 VFP 160 (Viet Nam)
 VFP 161 (Iowa City, IA)
 VFP 162 (East Bay, CA)
 VFP 168 (Louisville, KY)
 VFP 169 (Cedar Rapids, IA)
 VFP 174 (Jacksonville, FL)
 VFP 181 (Douglas County, OR)
 VFP 182 (Tijuana/Baja, Mexico)
 VFP 1001 (UK)
 VFP 1002 (Ireland)
 VFP 1004 (Japan)

VETERANS FOR PEACE CHAPTERS

VFP 1 (Maine)
 VFP 9 (Eastern MA)
 VFP 13 (Tucson, AZ)
 VFP 14 (Gainesville, FL)
 VFP 23 (Rochester, NY)
 VFP 25 (Madison, WI)
 VFP 26 (Chicago, IL)
 VFP 27 (Minneapolis, MN)
 VFP 34 (New York City)
 VFP 35 (Spokane, WA)
 VFP 43 (Columbia, MO)
 VFP 46 (Monterey, CA)
 VFP 50 (Northern MI)
 VFP 51 (Syracuse, NY)
 VFP 55 (Santa Fe, NM)
 VFP 57 (Vermont)
 VFP 61 (St Louis, MO)
 VFP 62 (New Hampshire)
 VFP 63, (Albuquerque, NM)
 VFP 69 (San Francisco, CA)
 VFP 71 (Sonoma County, CA)
 VFP 72 (Portland, OR)
 VFP 74 (SE Michigan)
 VFP 80 (Duluth/Superior, MN)
 VFP 89 (Nashville, TN)
 VFP 91 (San Diego, CA)
 VFP 92 (Seattle, WA)
 VFP 93 (South Central MI)
 VFP 97 (Kansas City, MO)
 VFP 99 (Asheville, NC)
 VFP 100 (Juneau, AK)

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ALABAMA

North Alabama Peace Network

ARIZONA

Green Party of Pima County

CALIFORNIA

350.org Conejo/San Fernando Valley
 350.org Ventura County Climate Hub
 Alameda County Interfaith Climate Action Network
 Bay Area Military Law Project (NLG chapter)
 Better World Associates, San Francisco
 Brave New Films, Culver City
 Climate Justice Team, First UU Church of San Diego
 Climate Reality Project, Ventura County
 Comité Pro Uno
 Environmental Action Team, UU Church of Ventura
 Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace,
 Los Angeles
 No Coal in Oakland
 No Coal in Richmond
 Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles
 Proposition 1 Campaign to Protect Rivers
 Richmond Progressive Alliance
 Santa Barbara County Action Network
 Sunflower Alliance, East Bay
 Truth in Recruitment, Santa Barbara
 West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
 WILPF, East Bay Branch

WILPF, Fresno Branch
 WILPF, Humboldt Branch
 WILPF, Palo Alto Branch
 WILPF, Sacramento Branch
 WILPF, San Francisco Branch
 WILPF, San Jose Branch

FLORIDA

Florida Peace & Justice Alliance (Statewide FL)
 Fort Meyers for a World Beyond War Naples for a
 World Beyond War
 World Beyond War, Central Florida Chapter

IDAHO

Environmental Defense Institute

IOWA

Iowa Unitarian Universalist Advocacy/Witness
 Network

LOUISIANA

350.org, New Orleans

MAINE

Greater Brunswick PeaceWorks
 Maine Voices for Palestinian Rights
 Peace Action
 WILPF

MASSACHUSETTS

350.org MASS for a Better Future
 2degrees, Northampton
 Anti-Imperialist Action Committee, Northampton
 Cape Downwinders
 Channing and Popai Liem Education Foundation
 Climate Action Now Western Mass
 Extinction Rebellion, Boston
 Extinction Rebellion Western Mass
 Peace Action
 Western Mass Latin American Solidarity Coalition

MICHIGAN

WILPF, Detroit Branch

MINNESOTA

Women Against Military Madness, Minneapolis
 WILPF, MN-Metro Branch

MISSOURI

WILPF, St. Louis, MO Branch

NEW JERSEY

Peace Action

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Peace Action

NEW MEXICO

Peaceful Skies Coalition

NEW YORK

Brooklyn For Peace
 Extinction Rebellion, NYC
 New Masses Media
 Syracuse Peace Council

NORTH CAROLINA

Peace Action
 WILPF, The Triangle Branch

OHIO

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

OREGON

350.org, Oregon Central Coast
 Albany Peace Seekers
 Sunrise (Corvallis)
 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
 Extinction Rebellion Portland
 Oregon Conservancy Foundation
 Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
 Oregon PeaceWorks
 Oregon Progressive Party
 Planet VS Pentagon, Eugene
 Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group,
 Portland
 Unitarian Universalists of Corvallis

PENNSYLVANIA

Brandywine Peace Community
 LPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee
 of Concern)
 WILPF, greater Philadelphia branch

TEXAS

Peace Farm, Amarillo
 Nuclear Free World Committee, Dallas Peace and
 Justice Center

VERMONT

350.org
 Peace and Justice Center
 Vermont Natural Resources Council
 Vermont Public Interest Research Group
 WILPF, Burlington Branch

VIRGINIA

350.org Fairfax
 Climate Reality Project, NOVA Chapter
 WILPF, Jane Addams Branch, Fairfax

WASHINGTON

Fellowship of Reconciliation Seattle
Ground Zero Center for Non-Violent Action
Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
Pass the Federal Green New Deal Washington
Coalition
Seattle Anti-War Coalition
Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation
South Seattle Climate Action Network
Washington Against Nuclear Weapons
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
West Seattle Neighbors for Peace and Justice

WISCONSIN

United Nations Association of Greater Milwaukee

OTHER GROUPS

Center for Conscious Change
Climbers for Peace
Earth Rise Indivisible
Peace and Solidarity Committee, CCDS
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!
Peacehome Campaigns