

Draft - RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Department of Defense to Annually Report Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Progress on Reduction Targets

Whereas, in his January 2021 statement, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin stated the Defense Department (DOD) “will immediately take appropriate policy actions to prioritize climate change considerations in our activities and risk assessments, to mitigate this driver of insecurity” -

- (1) Austin further stated, “And by changing how we approach our own carbon footprint, the Department can also be a platform for positive change, spurring the development of climate-friendly technologies at scale.”
- (2) Austin concluded, “It is a national security issue, and we must treat it as such;”

Whereas, DOD does not publicly and regularly report its fuel consumption or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and there is no official publicly available DOD source for all military GHG emissions -

- (1) estimated overall GHG emissions of the US military currently relies on publicly available emissions data from the Department of Energy;
- (2) the DOD does not release petroleum fuel consumption data and most US government accounting of US GHG emissions omit figures on how much the military and the military industry contributes to US emissions;
- (3) as the US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat testified in 1997, “At Kyoto, the parties . . . took a decision to exempt key overseas military activities from any emissions targets.” Consequently, excluding US oversea military bases;

Whereas, the US military emits more CO₂ than over 120 separate countries, ranking as #47 out of 170 -

- (1) the Department of Energy reports that DOD produced an average of about 66 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year in the period 2010 to 2018, roughly the same greenhouse gas emissions as 14 million passenger cars driven for one year, or roughly equivalent to the GHG emissions of the residential sector of the United States;
- (2) emissions from US war manufacturing averaged 153 million metric tons of CO₂ each year for the period from 2001 to 2017;
- (3) combined annual CO₂ emissions from DOD and its supporting defense industries exceeds that of the Netherlands, which is home to Royal Dutch Shell;
- (4) Vice President Kamala Harris stated “One country’s carbon emissions can threaten the sustainability of the whole earth” in her 2021 commencement address to the US Naval Academy;

Whereas, NATO’s June 14, 2021 communique states it “will develop a mapping methodology to help Allies measure greenhouse gas emissions from military activities and installations, which could contribute to formulating voluntary goals to reduce such emissions;”

Whereas the October 2018 report entitled “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report found that —

- (1) global warming at or above 2 degrees Celsius beyond pre-industrialized levels will cause —
 - (A) mass migration from the regions most affected by climate change;

- 47 (B) more than \$500 billion in lost annual economic output in the United States by the year
48 2100;
- 49 (C) more than 350,000,000 more people to be exposed globally to deadly heat stress by
50 2050;
- 51 (D) risk of damage to \$1 trillion of public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the United
52 States; and
- 53 (E) to keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrialized levels,
54 which are necessary to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, requires —
- 55 i. global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60
56 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and
- 57 ii. net-zero global emissions by 2050;
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59 *Whereas* the House of Representatives recognizes that as “one country’s carbon emissions can threaten
60 the sustainability of the whole earth...,” the emissions of the globe’s largest institutional source of GHG,
61 DOD, must be monitored and reduced; Now, therefore, be it

62

63 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that-

- 64 (1) It is the duty of the Department of Defense (DOD) to monitor, track and report Greenhouse Gas
65 Emissions (GHG) from all of its operations, including but not limited to wars, drone attacks,
66 weapons production and testing, base construction and functions:
- 67 (A) set clear GHG emission reduction targets for DOD that are consistent with the 1.5°C target
68 specified by the 2015 Paris Agreement;
- 69 (B) commit to GHG emission reporting mechanisms that are robust, comparable and
70 transparent, are based on recognized GHG monitoring protocols, and which are
71 independently verified and include emissions from domestic and overseas U.S. military
72 bases, and from the manufacture and transport of military equipment and weapons;
- 73 (C) set clear targets for DOD to conserve energy, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and switch to
74 environmentally responsible renewable energy;
- 75 (D) contain clear reduction targets for the military technology industry;
- 76 (E) prioritize GHG reduction initiatives at source and not rely on schemes to offset GHG
77 emissions;
- 78 (F) publish GHG reduction policies, strategies and action plans, with annual follow-up reporting
79 on performance;
- 80 (G) address how reducing military expenditure and deployments, and altering military postures
81 can reduce emissions;
- 82 (H) commit to incorporating climate and environmental assessments in decision-making for all
83 procurement, activities and missions;
- 84 (I) highlight the relationship between climate change and environmental degradation, and
85 demonstrate a commitment to reducing the overall environmental impact of all military
86 activities and missions;
- 87 (J) commit to optimizing the management of DOD lands to improve carbon sequestration and
88 biodiversity;
- 89 (K) commit to increase climate and environmental training for decision makers, including how
90 militaries can mitigate climate change and environmental degradation;
- 91 (L) demonstrate leadership, openness and a willingness to collaborate and exchange
92 information on good practice with non-military stakeholders; and
- 93 (M) commit to allocating the appropriate resources to ensure all climate and environmental
94 protection policies can be fully implemented.