

November 11, 2022

Senator Amy Klobuchar:
1200 Washington Avenue South,
Room 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Subject: Reduce U.S. Military Funding and Reallocate Monies for Climate and Social Welfare

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

We at Veterans For Peace urge you to support reduced funding of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to the level originally requested by President Biden. Why? There are much more important needs of our fellow citizens, such as fighting the climate crisis, instituting universal healthcare, and increasing spending on education. Plus, the Pentagon budget could be halved, and the US would still spend more on its military than any other nation.

We thank you for supporting the "*Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*," but point out the bill's \$737 billion over TEN years, is less than the House's version of the NDAA's \$838.8 billion funding for ONE year. In addition, the \$369 billion energy and climate portion of the *Inflation Reduction Act* allocates far less than the US is projected to spend on its nuclear forces alone between 2021 and 2030. As of 2021, the US spends more on its military than at least the next ten countries combined, twelve times more than Russia and nearly three times more than China.

The disproportionate spending by the US on its military does not lead to trusting relationships with other nations. Instead of continuing to throw money at our already bloated military and its contractors, Congress should work to fulfill President Biden's promise of \$11.4 billion annually to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to the worsening climate crisis. If the US finally fulfilled its commitments to this funding, it would help grow international cooperation at COP27 in November by demonstrating the US is more interested in saving our planet than ruling over it.

Finally, regarding the war in Ukraine, while the U.S. announces more aid in the billions for the Ukrainian resistance to Russian aggression, we should also be pushing to end the protracted war with negotiations. The United Nations reinforced the Minsk II agreement of 2015 so it could be the mediator. Although Ukrainians and Europeans are sacrificing bravely, they need a ceasefire and diplomacy to end the war. While this war rages on, the world cannot adequately address the climate crisis.

Sincerely,