



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

SEP 30 1997

Honorable Strobe Talbott
Deputy Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520-7250

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Dear Mr. Talbott:

The Department of Defense (DoD) supports the President's effort to forge an international consensus to address climate change. The effects of significant climate change would impede sustainable development and promote regional instability -- imposing serious dangers to our nation and the world.

This is why we are co-chairing the Federal Leadership Committee on Climate Change and are supporting our Government's efforts to prepare for the new protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled for signing in December 1997 in Kyoto. We strongly believe, however, that this protocol must protect national security by preserving the Nation's ability to conduct military operations with trained forces. We need to make sure that the protocol protects military tactical and strategic systems, including space systems, used in readiness training and in support of national or collective security, humanitarian activities, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, or United Nations, NATO, and other multinational actions. Any other commitments by the Administration for greenhouse gas emission reductions by federal agencies should also preserve the ability to conduct military operations with trained forces.

I want to emphasize that what we are seeking addresses only military operations and readiness. This does not include facilities or non-tactical vehicles. Indeed, DoD reduced its average facility energy use by 15.5% between 1985 and 1996. The Department will continue to be a leader in energy conservation and efficiency, and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing energy consumption can be both financially and operationally beneficial to the Department, and the Department is committed to pursue such reductions to the extent consistent with national security.

Sincerely,