May 15, 2008

Senator Joseph Lieberman
706 Hart Bldg. (Fax No. 224-9750)
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 2191, America's Climate Security Act of 2007

Dear Senator Lieberman:

Thank you for your sponsorship of S. 2191, America's Climate Security Act of 2007. As the first national mandate to reduce greenhouse gases responsible for global warming, its passage by Congress is not only important from an environmental perspective, it is critical to our national security.

The Council for a Livable World's Veterans' Alliance for Security and Democracy ("CLW-VETPAC") is a political action committee established under the federal election laws. As an alliance of veterans working with veterans, and of veterans working in alliance with the American people, to address issues of particular urgency for protecting the security and enhancing the democratic processes of the United States, we have become increasingly concerned about the serious threat that projected global climate change poses to America's national security. Our concerns are underscored by a report issued last year by a blue-ribbon panel of retired admirals and generals from all branches of the armed services under the auspices of the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA Corporation). Entitled *"National Security and the Threat of Climate Change,"* the study explores the serious threat to America's national security from global warming, not only for Americans here at home but also in terms of its impact upon U.S. military operations. According to the report, projected climate change will serve as a "threat multiplier" in already fragile regions of the globe, heightening global tensions and exacerbating conditions particularly in some of the most volatile regions of the world – leading to failed states, the breeding grounds for extremism and terrorism.[1]

As the CNA report concludes, climate change, national security and energy dependence are a related set of global challenges. From this perspective, S. 2191 is extremely important legislation, deserving of immediate passage. According to a recent report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, major greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere much faster than previous reports had indicated. We thus need to move expeditiously to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases, as S. 2191 would provide.

Sincerely yours,

Col. Richard L. Klass, USAF (Ret.)
President

[1] To review the CNA report in its entirety, go to http://securityandclimate.cna.org.

322 4th Street, N.E * Washington, D.C. 20002 * (202) 543-4100 EXT 1031 * www.clw.org