

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2007

Representative Silvestre Reyes
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Representative Peter Hoekstra
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Dear Chairman Reyes and Ranking Member Hoekstra:

As the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence conferences with the Senate on the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, we write to request your continued support for a critical provision in the House-passed version.

Section 407 of the House-passed bill, National Intelligence Estimate on Global Climate Change, requires the Director of National Intelligence to submit to the Congress a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on the anticipated geopolitical effects of global climate change and the implications of such effects on the national security of the United States. The production of the highest-level intelligence analysis about the implications of climate change for our national security is a necessary and sensible measure to take in light of the potential effects of climate change – including droughts, food shortages, population movements, and rising sea levels.

This is the approach called for by eleven former three- and four-star admirals and generals in a report entitled, “National Security and the Threat of Climate Change.” They found that the consequences of global climate change pose serious challenges to our national security, and that such changes “can act as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world.” They recommended that the intelligence community incorporate the adverse consequences of global climate change into a National Intelligence Estimate. Former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army General Gordon R. Sullivan, Ret., wrote to us that, “we remain convinced that planning for potential national security implications of climate change is a smart and necessary component in America’s ongoing fight against terrorism. We see prudent planning as a key to helping our military stay ahead of this struggle into the mid-century and beyond.”

The Director of National Intelligence J. M. McConnell wrote that, “with regard to your request for a NIE on the anticipated geopolitical effects of climate change and its implications on the national security of the United States, I believe it is entirely appropriate for the National Intelligence Council (NIC) to prepare an assessment on the geopolitical and security implications of global climate change.” In fact, the intelligence community is already preparing a National Intelligence Assessment on the “National Security Challenges and Opportunities Resulting from Global Climate Change.”

Section 407 has been approved by the House of Representatives in the face of a direct challenge. During floor debate on the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, an amendment was offered to strike Section 407. That amendment failed by a vote of 185-230, showing the strong support of the House of Representatives for this critical provision.

We urge you to insist on including Section 407 of the House-passed version in the final Conference Report.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey



Roscoe G. Bartlett



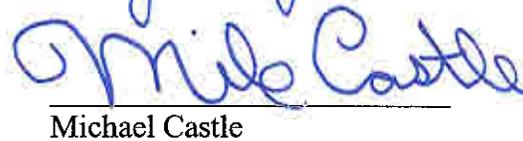
Henry Waxman



Wayne Gilchrest



George Miller



Michael Castle



Rosa DeLauro



Barney Frank



Ellen Tauscher



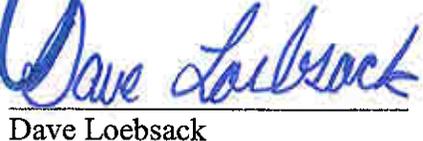
Hilda Solis



John Larson



John Olver



Dave Loebsack



Earl Blumenauer



Bill Delahunt



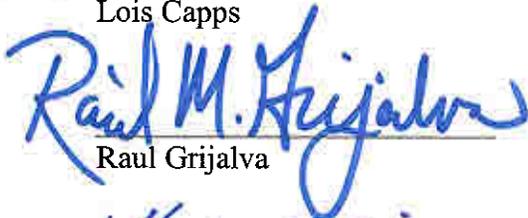
Donald Payne


Emanuel Cleaver

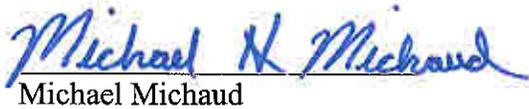

Jay Inslee

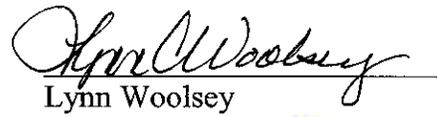

Barbara Lee


Lois Capps


Raul Grijalva


Keith Ellison

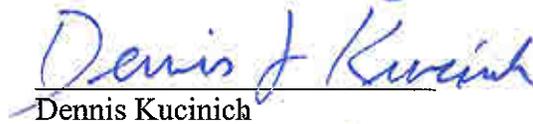

Michael Michaud

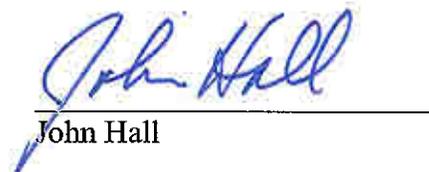

Lynn Woolsey


Jim McGovern


Maurice Hinchey


Loretta Sanchez


Dennis Kucinich


John Hall

Cc: Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Cc: Sen. Christopher S. Bond, Vice Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence