



**THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING**

**Opening Statement for Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
“National Security Implications of Global Climate Change”
Joint Hearing of the
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
And the
Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management
June 25, 2008**

This joint hearing is called to order.

I want to thank Chairwoman Eshoo, Ranking Member Issa and the rest of the Members of the Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management for joining us today for this important hearing.

We find ourselves at a critical moment in history. The impacts of our altered atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels are beginning to manifest themselves in the United States and around the world. Our response to this challenge can be to either unleash a technological revolution that will enhance our national, economic and environmental security or to burden the planet with climatic catastrophe. Whether it is floods in Iowa, cyclones in Burma or drought, starvation and genocide in Darfur, we know that environmental threats underpin many global conflicts and crises, and that global warming will only make matters worse.

The Select Committee’s very first hearing focused on the geopolitical implications of our nation’s dependence on oil and the impacts of global warming. That inaugural hearing occurred in the same week that the UN Security Council held its first ever discussion on the implications of global warming for international peace and security and the same week that 11 retired top U.S. military leaders and the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA) issued the report, *National Security and the Threat of Climate Change*. We are honored to have two key participants in those efforts with us today – the Honorable Margaret Beckett, the former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom and Vice Admiral Paul Gaffney.

One of the key recommendations of the CNA report was for the intelligence community to incorporate the consequences of climate change into a National Intelligence Estimate. After that first Select Committee hearing, I introduced legislation requiring such an analysis. Through the hard work of Chairwoman Eshoo and her colleagues on the House Intelligence Committee, similar language was included in the House’s Intelligence Authorization bill last year. The Director of National Intelligence has since responded with the National Intelligence Assessment (NIA) finalized earlier this month and which

informs much of today's hearing. Unfortunately, the NIA is classified and therefore the public cannot benefit from the excellent analysis that the intelligence community has brought together in this report. But make no mistake: this first-ever high-level intelligence community study of global warming, which calls the climate crisis a threat to American security, is a clarion call to action from the heart of our nation's security establishment.

I understand the reasoning behind the decision of the National Intelligence Council to classify the specific regional security impacts of global warming in this NIA, but I am reserving my judgment as to whether that is the right choice. The science is conclusive: we know that global warming is occurring today, and we know that severe security consequences will result. I believe that our goal must be to marshal the political will to halt and roll back global warming, and save the planet from this disaster. The Intelligence Community is hesitant to tell the world WHO will be affected, WHAT might happen, and WHERE the greatest security risks will occur. But that's exactly what we need. If people know specifically what these severe security problems will be, and where they will be and who they will affect, then perhaps we will finally have enough political will, both in this country and internationally, to do the hard work of solving the climate crisis.

After seven years of ignoring the problem, the Bush Administration continues to limit what their experts can communicate to the public on this critical issue. Whether it is the Environmental Protection Agency or the National Intelligence Council that is sounding the alarm, whether it is a danger to the public or a danger to national security, the President doesn't want America to know the real risks of global warming.

I would now like to recognize the Gentlelady from California, Chairwoman Eshoo.