



# OPERATION ★ FREE

Secure America with Clean Energy

**Chairman Mary Nichols**  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chairman Nichols,

We write to you today on behalf of Operation Free, a coalition of veterans and national security experts that recognize climate change and our addiction to oil pose serious threats to U.S. national security. We believe it is our duty to protect America by advocating for clean, domestic energy production. For the sake of America's security, California must continue to provide strong leadership on climate change by reducing our carbon footprint and investing in the next generation of energy technology through a cap and trade program. These investments will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, create millions of new jobs, and secure America's economic future.

The Pentagon, the State Department, the CIA and other American defense agencies consider climate change and our dependence on oil to be threat multipliers. America's billion-dollar-a-day dependence on oil directly funds our most dangerous enemies, putting guns and bullets into the hands of insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan. With new, clean sources of energy to power our economy and fuel our military, we would no longer be forced to pay and protect hostile regimes who don't share our values. The Department of Defense has stated that climate change poses a threat as well, destabilizing weak states and creating breeding grounds for terrorist organizations like al Qaeda.

California has led the nation when it comes to climate and clean energy policies. We encourage you to continue that tradition of leadership by implementing cap and trade along with a robust public interest energy investment program. These policies will play a vital role in reducing California's consumption of carbon fuels and will make major contributions to clean energy development. In the words of retired Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni, "We will pay for this one way or another. We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today...or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives."

Policies like cap and trade keep America safe and strong. We strongly urge you to implement this policy in a timely manner and allow California to continue to lead America into a strong and secure future.

Respectfully,

**Major General Paul Monroe ret.**  
42nd Adjutant General  
California National Guard

**Lieutenant General Norman R. Seip ret.**  
Commander, 12th Air Force - Davis-Monthan Air Force Base  
United States Air Force

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