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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

MAY 09 2007

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515120

Dear Madame Chairwoman:

Thank you for your letter of April 18 regarding global climate change and national security. Thank you as well for bringing the CNA Advisory Board report to my attention. We have noted the report's recommendation that climate change be considered in future National Intelligence Estimates (NIE) and will do so as appropriate.

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. But precisely because the issues associated with global climate change are so important, we believe it would be a mistake to predicate these evaluations on work undertaken by analysts who are ill-equipped to provide credible and comprehensive characterizations of how, where, and what the physical effects of global climate change will be.

Therefore, we believe strongly that the task of examining the implications of global climate change should be approached in a way that will enable the NIC to use the work of analysts better able to assess and predict physical consequences in specific countries and regions. We therefore request that the legislation also direct that other appropriate organizations, perhaps the National Academy of Sciences, the national laboratories and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, work with the NIC so that the task of evaluating and extrapolating the various scenarios that the UN and others have presented -- as well as the feasibility and costs of mitigation -- can engage those best able to evaluate the available scientific data, scenarios, and mitigation strategies.

With regard to your recommendation that the Intelligence Community assess the impact of global climate change on its global operations, again, I would note that before such an assessment can be made, competent scientific authorities would have to engage our analysts on their assessments and predictions of the precise physical consequences of climate change.

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We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this important matter. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact my Director of Legislative Affairs, Kathleen Turner at (202) 201-1698.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. M. McConnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and "M".

J. M. McConnell

cc: The Honorable Sylvestre Reyes
The Honorable Peter Hoekstra
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.

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MICHAEL DELANEY
STAFF DIRECTOR

MICHAEL MEERMANS
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 18, 2007

The Honorable Michael McConnell
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director McConnell:

The consequences of global warming have far reaching impacts on our environment, our economy, and increasingly on our national security.

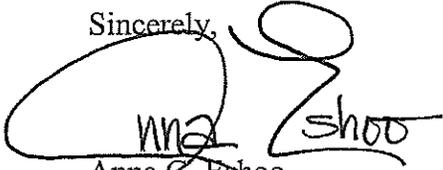
This week, the non-profit CNA Corporation released a report from their Military Advisory Board entitled *National Security and the Threat of Climate Change*. This Board is composed of senior generals and admirals with deep and respected experience in national security. The Report eloquently points out the threats that global warming poses to our security. As the Report notes, extreme weather events have the potential to exacerbate already volatile situations and increase the risk for: massive migrations, increased border tensions, greater demand for humanitarian relief operations, and conflicts over essential resources to include food and water.

The Report makes a number of recommendations, some of which should be of interest to the U.S. intelligence community. First, the Report recommends that the intelligence community "incorporate climate consequences into its National Security Estimate[s]." Second, the Report recommends that the Defense Department assess the worldwide impact of "rising seas, extreme weather events, and other projected climate changes over the next 30-40 years" on its military installations.

I encourage you to adopt the Board's recommendations and incorporate climate consequences into the National Intelligence Strategy and National Intelligence Estimates. I'm also requesting that the intelligence community assess the impact of global climate change on its operations worldwide, and that the assessment be shared with the committee. Finally, I believe that an NIE should be undertaken on the anticipated geopolitical effects of global climate change and the implications of such effects on the national security of the United States.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue, and look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Eshoo', written over a large, loopy scribble.

Anna G. Eshoo

Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management

cc: The Honorable Sylvestre Reyes, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Peter Hoekstra, Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Chairman
Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Ranking Member
Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence