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HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115

Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

November 14, 2012

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Chairman Whitfield:

The National Research Council of the National Academies recently released a new report, "Climate and Social Stress: Implications for Security Analysis."[1] This study, requested in 2010 by the U.S. intelligence community, evaluates the connections between climate change and U.S. national security. We are writing to request that the Committee hold a hearing on this important new report.

In the new report, the National Research Council finds:

- "Anthropogenic climate change can reasonably be expected to increase the frequency and intensity of a variety of potentially disruptive environmental events."[2]

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[1] National Research Council of the National Academies, *Climate and Social Stress: Implications for Security Analysis* (November 2012).

[2] *Id.* at S-2.

- "It is essential for the intelligence community to understand adaptation and changes in vulnerability to climate events and their consequences in places and systems of concern," as well as, the "changes in their likelihoods of occurrence."[3]

- Some climate events will produce "consequences that exceed the capacity of the affected societies or global systems to manage and that have global security implications serious enough to compel international response" and these "consequences will become more common in the future."[4]

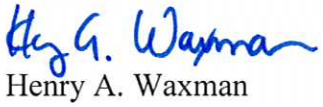
- "Understanding the connections between harm suffered from climate events and political and social outcomes of security concern is arguably the most important aspect of climate change from a national security perspective."[5]

- The U.S. government should begin immediately to develop a "systematic and enduring" strategy "for monitoring threats connected to climate change."[6]

- The intelligence community should "incorporate climate risks and the associated exposures and vulnerabilities" into periodic "stress tests" of "the ability of foreign governments and societies to withstand various social and political stresses."[7]

Understanding the complex relationship between global stressors and climate change is of the utmost importance to the future national security of the United States. We urge you to schedule a hearing in the near future to examine this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member

Bobby L. Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Power

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[3] *Id.* at S-3.

[4] *Id.* at S-4.

[5] *Id.* at S-6.

[6] *Id.* at S-7.

[7] *Id.* at S-9.