



Truman National Security Project

PRESS RELEASE – July 30, 2009
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Truman Project VP Jon Powers to testify to Senate on National Security & Climate Change

Says U.S. Needs to Focus on National Security Threats Posed by Climate Change and Develop Sustainable Domestic Energy Sources

CAPITOL HILL – On July 30, former US Army Captain and [Truman National Security Project](http://www.trumanproject.org) VP Jonathan Powers testified to the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as part of a hearing entitled “Climate Change and National Security.” He was joined by former US Senator John Warner (R-VA), Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn USN (Ret.) of the Center for Naval Analysis’s Military Advisory Board, and David B. Rivkin, Partner at Baker Hostetler.

“Climate change poses a serious and urgent threat to our national security,” said Mr. Powers, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Powers testified that:

- **Climate change alters Earth’s physical environment:** *“The threat to global stability is both serious and urgent. Changes to our air and sea temperatures are expected to result in increases in frequency and intensity of both storms and droughts, and decrease the availability of drinking water around the globe.”*
- **The changes in our physical environment caused by climate change will drive conflict and harm our security:** *“The fight over the scarcity of resources such as water is happening in already destabilized or fragile states, such as the Sudan or Somalia. As a result, these nations become targeted by extremist groups looking to take advantage of failing governments.”*
- **To fight climate change we must develop clean energy alternatives:** *“Whatever damage is done, is already done. But if we wish to fight climate change, and prevent any further damage to our security then we must attack the problem at its source - fossil fuels. There is little doubt that America’s reliance on oil is an Achilles heel that our enemies deliberately use against us. It is imperative that we develop energy alternatives that will protect us against this threat.”*

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