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VETERANS FOR PEACE

April 27, 2021

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Dear Honorable John Kerry,

On behalf of Veterans For Peace and other peace and climate champions, we congratulate you on your appointment as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, thank you for returning us to the Paris Agreement, and join you in promoting a transition from fossil fuels to safe, renewable forms of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, and small hydropower.

Let us put militarism at the center of this conversation on climate.

We are pleased that the Biden/Harris Administration has created this position, as a reflection of the seriousness of the climate crisis, and we are pleased that the person with that position is you. It is approaching 50 years since you, as an anti-war veteran, delivered to Congress a lengthy, articulate and devastating critique of the Viet Nam war. Some of us were already anti-war veterans or soldiers, and you spoke truth to power for us. You have had many positions of power since that time; in your present position, we ask that you summon the courage and clarity about war and militarism that you expressed to Congress in April 1971.

You posed the question, "How do we ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

Now the question we pose is, "How do we ask millions of people to die as a result of a climate catastrophe fueled by endless war and militarism?"

To thwart climate catastrophe, we present the following requests:

1) Please implement the inclusion of military emissions in all reporting and data on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The US shamefully demanded, during the negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, that military emissions be excluded from countries' total GHGs, and then did not even ratify the Protocol.

2) We ask that you use your public platform to consistently point out the role that US militarism and the Pentagon play in exacerbating the climate crisis, and push to greatly reduce the military's reach around the world, to bring our troops home, end drone warfare, close hundreds of overseas bases, stop endless wars, reject nuclear modernization and defund the Space Force – to end the squandering of financial, material and human resources, and minimize the Pentagon's carbon bootprint.

3) We ask that you promote bilateral accords between the US and Russia and the US and China to prohibit financial institutions from funding future fossil fuel investments, cease military exercises in the South China Sea, keep the Arctic safe from extractive exploration and weapons systems, and conduct people-to-people "climate protector" delegations to exchange knowledge, build friendships and undertake joint projects to promote biodiversity and renewable energy.

4) We ask that you use your public platform to advocate for the US to pay its fair share into the Green Climate Fund.

5) We ask that you be a strong advocate for a Just Transition so that both workers who have been and will be displaced by the shift from fossil fuel production, and working people who have been marginalized, are able to fully prosper.

6) We ask you to recognize that along with the efforts of many elected and appointed officials including yourself, the efforts of people's movements for climate justice are essential in overcoming the power of those forces that have led us into our present climate disaster. We therefore ask that you work with our groups as allies. We ask these sister groups also, as we are asking you, to challenge war and militarism that so far has been little addressed in the climate movement.

This is in spite of:

a) The Pentagon being the world's largest institutional user of fossil fuels and thus the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses (GHG emissions).

b) The huge additional environmental impacts from manufacturing, shipping and using weapons and equipment, and the intense bombing of infrastructure and natural environments of other countries.

c) The trillions of dollars of our money that have been spent on endless wars, nuclear weapons and some 800 overseas US bases – none of which defend us against climate disruption – which should be redirected to human needs and healing our planet.

d) The deep complicity between the military-industrial complex and the fossil fuel corporations. Our military enforces US corporations' plunder of the planet to steal resources and the fruits of human labor.

Yet, when we listened to your speech of February 18, on the occasion of the welcome return of the US to the Paris Climate Agreement, we noted the lack of any reference to the military contribution to the climate crisis.

Similarly, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Report, "Solving the Climate Crisis" https://climatecrisis.house.gov/report lays out changes needed in many areas. In the section on National Security, however, it only includes how climate change will affect the military on US bases, but nothing on how the military affects the climate crisis.

We cannot afford to ignore the elephant in the room or remain in denial.

As we witness extreme weather events, from flash floods to wildfires to freezing temperatures, we are reminded of the urgency of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure a carbon-free future in a sustainable world, we must redefine global security as climate security and recognize that war and war preparations will only make us less secure. Otherwise, we face an increasingly militarized and dystopian world, in which industrialized countries lock out climate refugees from the Global South, and in which indigenous peoples disproportionately suffer as a result of our addiction to fossil fuels and militarism.

We recognize that ending this existential threat to our survival requires transforming the organizing principle of our society from greed to sustainability, equity, community and regeneration. This will require the collaboration of many groups: frontline communities, racial and climate justice advocates, youth, labor, environmentalists, and religious groups, along with the crucial role that you and other concerned officials can play. Working together to end war and militarism must be a central part of this effort.

We would like to schedule a showing of our slides on "Climate Disruption and US Militarism" and plan to be in touch with you on how best we can work together. Thank you for your time, consideration and leadership as Climate Envoy.

Sincerely, Climate Crisis and Militarism Project, Veterans For Peace

U.S. NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

350.org 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations Alliance for Democracy American Friends Service Committee American Muslim Voice Foundation Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests Ban Killer Drones **Beyond Nuclear** Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security **Climate Hawks Vote Climbers for Peace Coalition Against Nukes** CODEPINK Communities for a Better Environment Courage to Resist Earth Rise Indivisible EcoHealth Network Environmentalists Against War Episcopal Peace Fellowship Extinction Rebellion. XR Justice Fellowship of Reconciliation USA Indigenous Educational Network of Turtle Island Indigenous Environmental Network International Action Center Jewish Voice for Peace Action Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice Living Economies Forum Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute Movement Rights **Muslim Delegates and Allies** National Lawyers Guild (NLG) National Methodist Federation for Social Action National Nuclear Workers for Justice National Physicians for Social Responsibility National Priorities Project: Institute for Policy Studies Native American Veterans Association New Internationalism Project: Institute for Policy Studies Nuclear Age Peace Foundation On Behalf of Planet Earth Our Revolution Peace Action Peace and Solidarity Committee, CCDS Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW! Peacehome Campaigns Popular Resistance **Project Censored Progressive Democrats of America Rise Up Times Roots Action** School of the Americas Watch September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows Sojourners

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) US Peace Council Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity Veterans For Peace (VFP) Victory Gardens for Peace Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) War Resisters League (WRL) Western States Legal Foundation Women Cross the DMZ Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US (WILPF) World Bevond War World Can't Wait Zero Hour

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Cindy Piester, US War Crimes documentarian

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- Nick Rabb, Sunrise Movement Leader, Boston
- Noam Chomsky, Professor Emeritus, MIT
- Norma Field, Professor Emeritus East Asian Studies, University of Chicago
- Norman Solomon, author War Made Easy
- Oliver Stone, Academy Award winning, director, producer and screenwriter
- Omar Clay, Environmental Physicist
- Pat Elder, investigative journalist of military poisons
- Patricia Murphy, Advisory Board Chair, International Philosophers for Peace
- Pennie Opal Plant, Movement Rights
- Peter Kuznick, co-author with Oliver Stone, The Untold History of the United States.
- Peter Phillips, author Giants: The Global Elite Pierre Labossiere, co-founder Haiti Action
- Committee; Thomas Paine Courageous Spirit Award
- Phoebe Anne Thomas Sorgen, Co-founder of Wireless Radiation Education & Defense
- Phil Butler, former POW
- Priscilla Star, director Coalition Against Nukes
- Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies
- Rachel Bruhke, founder LA Harbor Peace Week
- Rachel Clark, interpreter, global coordinator
- Rebecca Irby Founding Partner & Executive Director at PEAC Institute
- Regina Birchem, WILPF/ Pax Christi
- Richard Falk, diplomat, author, professor emeritus
- Fr. Robert Bossie, SCJ, Admin Director, JPR Commission, Priests of the Sacred Heart
- Robert Dodge, president, Physicians for Social Responsibility, LA
- Robert J. Fitrakis, Editor, Columbus Free Press
- Robert Gould, president Physicians for Social Responsibility, SF Bay
- Robert Greenwald, investigative documentary filmmaker
- Robert Jensen, emeritus professor, U Texas, Austin
- Robert Moore (Rev.), director Coalition for Peace Action
- Robert Shetterly, artist "Americans Who Tell the Truth"
- Ron Kovic, author, "Born on the Fourth of July"
- Ryan Madden, sustainability organizer
- Sam Davis, Oakland CA School Board
- Samina F. Sundas, ED American Muslim Voice Foundation
- Sandra Bolzenius, Author, Glory in the Spirit: How Four Black Women Took on the Army during World War II
- Scott Camil, Gainesville Eight
- Sharon Kufeldt, Former Vice-President VFP

- Sharon Tennison, citizen diplomat to Russia
- Sheila Parks, On Behalf of Planet Earth
- Steve Skrovan, Co-Host, Ralph Nader Radio Hour
- Susan Mirsky, National Nuclear Disarmament Coordinating Committee
- Susan Schnall, Vietnam war resister
- Susannah Tuttle, UNC School of Law's Center for Climate, Energy Environment
- Suzannah Glidden, Co-founder Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
- Tarak Kauff, editor Peace and Planet News
- Terry Lodge, environmental attorney
- Thom Hartmann, commentator
- Todd Fernandez, Executive & Legislative Director, ClimateCrisisPolicy.org
- Tom BK Goldtooth, ED Indigenous Environmental Network
- Tom Nielson, singer-songwriter; Lynn Waldron, musician
- Tom Tonorio, President Native American Veterans Association
- Trudy Silver, American Jazz Pianist, Cutting edge Collaborator
- Venerable Gyoway Kato, Buddhist Monk

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) members:

- Coleen Rowley
- John Kiriakou
- Ray McGovern
- Todd Pierce

Vina Colley, National Nuclear Workers for Justice Walter Riley, civil rights lawyer, community activist William Rivers Pitt, activist, editor, best-selling author Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth

Woody Powell, former Executive Director VFP Yana Ludwig, author Together Resilient

INTERNATIONAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

- Alyn Ware, Peace and Disarmament Coordinator, World Future Council
- Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests
- Christine Atieno, Secretary General, International Peace Research Association
- Coalition Against Nukes
- Donnie Maclurcan, ED Post Growth Institute
- Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
- International Peace Bureau
- International Peace Research Association
- Madeleine Rees, Secretary General of WILPF International
- Mary-Wynne Ashford MD, Former Co-President International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Matt Meyer, Secretary General, International Peace Research Association Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute Reiner Braun, Executive Director, International Peace Bureau Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Youth Fusion and World Future Council

GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE OF U.S.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan Institute for Peace Jamila Afghani, feminist, women's education & rights activist WILPF, Afghanistan

WILPF members

Ms. Adila Bahram Nezami Aqila Noori Dr. Fazil ghani Kakar Ms. Hareer Hashim Ms. Huda Afrasyabi Ms. Jamila Safi Jov Ada Onvesoh Ph.D Ms. Maliha Moaheed Ms. Maryam Safi Ms. Masoda Wasie Ms. Parina Jahed Ms. Sakina Ms.Toorpikia Momand Ms. Shahla Safa Ms. Sosan Masoomi Ms. Zarefa Sadiqyan

INDIA

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JAPAN

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Struggle against Violence toward Women WILPF Sénégal Mme Salimata Ba, president WILPF Sénégal

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- Maread Maguire, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Mick Wallace, member of European Parliament from Ireland
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AUSTRALIA

Helen Caldicott, International Anti-nuclear leader John Pilger, award-winning filmmaker and journalist

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ALASKA

Jessica Girard, Iraq War veteran, director Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

ARIZONA

Green Party of Pima County Don't Waste Arizona, Phoenix Stephen Brittle, president, Don't Waste Arizona, Phoenix

CALIFORNIA

350.org Conejo/San Fernando Valley 350.org Ventura County Climate Hub Alameda County Interfaith Climate Action Network Anne Symens-Bucher, co-founder Canticle Farm, Oakland Bay Area Military Law Project (NLG chapter) **Bay Area Nonviolent Communication** Beatitude House, Catholic Worker, central coast, CA Berkeley UU Fellowship Social Justice Committee Better World Associates, San Francisco Betty Stapleford (Rev) UU minister Emerita **BFUU Social Justice Committee** Bike Hub, Oxnard **Biodiversity First!** Biointensive for Russia Brave New Films, Culver City Carol A. Jahnkow, Director Emerita, Peace Resource Center of San Diego Center for Conscious Change Climate Justice Team, First UU Church of San Diego Climate Reality Project, Ventura County Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) San Francisco **CODEPINK San Francisco Bay Area Columbus Community Bill of Rights** Comité Pro Uno Cynthia Papermaster, coordinator, CODEPINK SF Bay Area Dana Worsnop, Minister, Green Sanctuary UU Church, Ventura Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) - Santa Barbara Dennis Apel, resistance work re Vandenberg AFB **Ecological Options Network** Ecumenical Peace Institute/ Clergy and Laity Concerned. Berkeley

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Youth Climate Action Coalition

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CT Coalition Against Millstone (nuclear plant)

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Nuclear Watch South, Atlanta

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Iowa UU Advocacy/Witness Network

LOUISIANA

350.org, New Orleans

MAINE

Greater Brunswick PeaceWorks Maine Voices for Palestinian Rights Peace Action WILPF

MARYLAND

Baltimore Nonviolence Center Casa Baltimore Limay, US-Nicaragua friendship Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility Nuclear Information and Resource Service

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Anti-Imperialist Action Committee, Northampton
Cape Downwinders
Channing and Popai Liem Education Foundation
Climate Action Now Western Mass
Diane D'Arrigo, International expertise in deregulating nuclear waste
Extinction Rebellion, Boston
Extinction Rebellion Western Mass
Gyoway Kato (Ven), Senior Monk, New England Peace Pagoda Peace Action Sheila Parks, On Behalf Of Planet Earth, Watertown Sunrise Movement, Boston Hub Western Mass Latin American Solidarity Coalition

MICHIGAN

Alice Hirt, co-chair Don't Waste Michigan Bette Pierman, Michigan Safe Energy Future-Shoreline Chapter Citizens' Resistance at Fermi 2 (CRAFT) Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes Don't Waste Michigan Jessie Pauline Collins, Co-chair Citizens' Resistance at Fermi 2 (CRAFT) Kary Love, Former ED Taxpayers Association of Michigan Keith Gunter, Alliance to Halt Fermi-3 Michael J. Keegan, chair Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action (MiCCA) Michigan Taxpayers Alliance Mining Action Group of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition Rich Peacock, Co-Chair Peace Action MI WILPF, Detroit Branch

MINNESOTA

Women Against Military Madness, Minneapolis WILPF, MN-Metro Branch

MISSOURI

Mark Haim, Director, Mid-Missouri Peaceworks WILPF, St. Louis Branch

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Peace Action

NEW JERSEY

PEAC Institute Peace Action Occupy Bergen County Rebecca Irby ED, PEAC Institute Sally Gellert, comm. and legislative director Lackawanna Coalition

NEW MEXICO

Citizen Action NM David McCoy, ED Citizen Action NM Joan Jiko Halifax, Abbot, Upaya Zen Center, Santa Fe Peaceful Skies Coalition

NEW YORK

Barbara Warren, Citizens' Environmental Coalition Brooklyn For Peace Extinction Rebellion, NYC Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Joanna Fredricks, Peace Action NY State steering committee Kit Miller, director M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. Rochester Lisa Tyson, Long Island Power 50 MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, Rochester New Masses Media Promoting Health and Sustainable Energy (PHASE) Radiation Truth Ryan Madden, Long Island Progressive Coalition, Brooklvn Svracuse Peace Council Victoria Ross, ED. WNY Peace Center Western New York Peace Center

NORTH CAROLINA

Peace Action Susannah Tuttle, NC Council of Churches Joseph Wangba Joseph, Political Science, U of N'Gaoundéré WILPF, The Triangle Branch

OHIO

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie Anita Rios, president National Org. of Women, Toledo Central Ohio Green Education Fund Cleveland Peace Action Columbus Community Rights Coalition, Inc. (CCRC) Columbus Institute for Contemporary Journalism Lucas County Green Party Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security Radioactive Waste Alert Terry Lodge, environmental attorney Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy

OREGON

350.org, Oregon Central Coast Albany Peace Seekers Sunrise (Corvallis) Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Extinction Rebellion Portland Oregon Conservancy Foundation Oregon Interfaith Power & Light Oregon Peace Works Oregon Progressive Party Planet VS Pentagon, Eugene P & J Works Iraq Affinity Group, Portland Post Growth Institute, Ashland Unitarian Universalists of Corvallis

PENNSYLVANIA

American Federation of Teachers, Local 2026 Brandywine Peace Community David Hughes, Epstein lifetime Achievement Award from PA Sustainable Energy Fund LPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) WILPF, greater Philadelphia branch

TENNESSEE

Kevin D. Collins, President Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance

Linda Cataldo Modica, coordinator Catholic Committee of Appalachia Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA)

TEXAS

Green Sanctuary Ministry, First UU Church of Austin Peace Farm, Amarillo Nuclear Free World Committee, Dallas Peace and Justice Center Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition

VERMONT

350.org
Debra Stoleroff, Chair, Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
Peace and Justice Center
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
WILPF, Burlington Branch

VIRGINIA

350.org Fairfax
Climate Reality Project, NOVA Chapter
Kimberly Williams & Steve Baggarly, Catholic
Worker, Norfolk
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Chesapeake
WILPF, Jane Addams Branch, Fairfax

WASHINGTON

Fellowship of Reconciliation Seattle Ground Zero Center for Non-Violent Action Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Pass the Federal Green New Deal WA Coalition Peggy Maze Johnson, Heart of America NW (re Hanford Nuclear Plant) Seattle Anti-War Coalition Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation South Seattle Climate Action Network Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility West Seattle Neighbors for Peace and Justice

WISCONSIN

Al Gedicks, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River, Inc Don Timmerman, Roberta Thurstin, Casa Maria Catholic Worker, Milwaukee Hannah Mortensen, ED Physicians for Social Responsibility WI John LaForge, Co-director Nukewatch Kelly Lundeen, Co-director Nukewatch Maureen McDonnell, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Nukewatch Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin United Nations Association of Greater Milwaukee Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

REGIONAL - NEW ENGLAND

Citizens Awareness Network New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution Safe Energy Rights Group Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE) Suzannah Glidden, Co-founder SAPE