

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write to express serious concerns with the Department of Defense's (DoD) proposed rule to require contractors to provide extensive information related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We do not believe this rule serves the best interests of DoD, our warfighters or our national security, and therefore ask that you rescind the proposed rule.

On November 14, 2022, DoD, in conjunction with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the General Services Administration (GSA), proposed a rule related to the "Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk." This rule would require certain Federal contractors to disclose their GHG emissions and climate-related financial risk, as well as to set targets to reduce GHG emissions. We have three broad concerns about the content and implications of the proposed rule.

First, the rule would impose significant regulatory burdens on defense contractors. It would require a company to account not only for its own emissions but for emissions that occur elsewhere if they are associated with the company's activities under a defense contract. Contractors will incur significant costs in providing this information, and some will decide they are unable or unwilling to meet this regulatory burden. The rule thus threatens to accelerate the decline of our industrial base and is particularly shortsighted at a time when we must ask the defense industry to speed up production of a variety of weapon systems and munitions.

Second, the rule will increase costs on the Defense Department and result in budget inefficiencies. Extensive GHG disclosures will increase contractor costs, and those costs inevitably will be passed back to DoD in the form of higher bids on future contracts. We repeatedly hear DoD leaders talk about the need to wring efficiencies out of every dollar appropriated in the budget, and yet DoD in essence seeks to self-impose cost increases through the proposed rule.

Third, the proposed rule suggests that in making future contract awards, DoD will prioritize the reduction of GHG emissions over the best value to the warfighter. Under the proposed rule, "major contractors" who receive more than \$50 million in contract funding in a given year must develop targets for reducing GHG emissions that are "in line with reductions that the latest climate science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement." DoD would have no reason to require such targets if it did not intend to use them as a factor in awarding future contracts.

DoD's proposed rule on GHG emissions disclosures is self-defeating. It undercuts our industrial base, drives up costs, and puts environmentalism over national security. As such, it is at odds with DoD's mission and should be rescinded immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely.

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Miss M. Connell

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Mr. Br (FLA)

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Rand Paul

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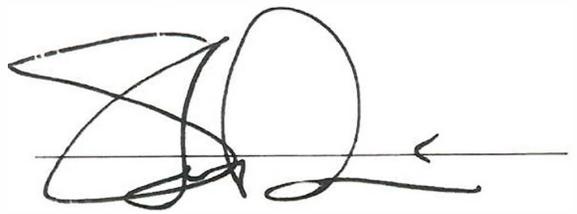
Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Jim R

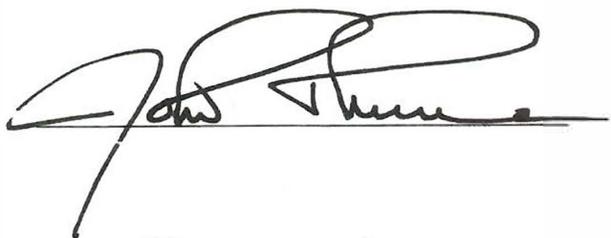
Mitt Romney

Tom Tillis

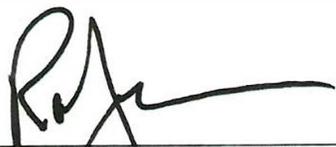
Marsha Blackburn



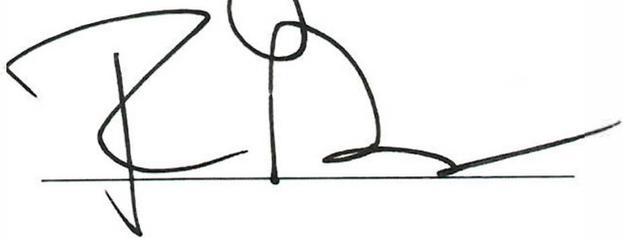
Mike Braun



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