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MEMORANDUM FOR: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE

1. **Issue:** The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend explicit actions to combat climate change at a domestic level.
2. **Strategic Analysis:** Anthropogenic climate change, largely caused by carbon emissions, poses an existential threat to life on Earth. Rising sea levels will displace millions, unpredictable weather and natural disasters have become more frequent and catastrophic, and the collapse of ecosystems could lead to massive starvation.
3. **Relevant National Interests:** Climate change is a threat to national security. If left unchecked, it will lead to mass starvation, migration crises, resource conflicts, and the collapse of society as we know it in America and around the world. Furthermore, the military has been fighting to secure access to fossil fuels and protect the American way of life at a great cost. Leading the way in an innovative approach to climate change can increase American political and economic influence and inspire other countries to develop their own policies to tackle the global crisis of climate change.
4. **Strategic Options:** Reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by implementation of:
 - a. Research and development to create and improve technology that transitions a fossil-fuel dominated market to renewable clean energy.
 - b. Communications and outreach dedicated to promoting factual information about human-caused climate change while maintaining transparency.
 - c. Formal public education and job training to develop the expertise necessary to meet the challenges of this issue.
 - d. Interagency cooperation to streamline policy implementation.
5. **Recommendations:**

Create a Fuel Development Competition to increase the efficiency of U.S. Government vehicles through advanced fuel development. Based on Congressional Research Bureau recommendations, challenge corporations to develop innovative advanced fuel sources within 2 years. The corporation producing the most environmentally efficient, scalable, cost efficient, and practical solution will be awarded a 10-year contract producing the advanced fuel for the U.S. Government.

Practicality will be determined by use in current U.S. Government vehicles or the necessity to update vehicles to accommodate the fuel sources. The winning company's research and development will be subsidized.

Transfer 50% of the power grid to advanced energy sources by the year 2030, by establishing a Smart-Grid Technology Research and Development Competition to stimulate the creation of a parallel power distribution system predicated on renewables. Offer starter grants to corporations that are researching advanced energy sources that can be integrated into an adaptable Smart Grid. Location-based solutions developed by these corporations will be incentivized with 10-year contracts.

Allocate funds to produce a workforce with the skills necessary to combat climate change. Provide 300% increase in grants allocated to college research focused on combating climate change and increase overall grant funds to schools with climate change majors by 150%. Establish a student loan forgiveness program that offers aid to individuals that teach or work in climate change, environmental science, and other closely related fields. Fund magnet schools with a focused climate change curriculum to produce climate professionals. Subsidize apprenticeship and trade school programs that train and educate students in climate conscious practices.

Use current recruitment military media infrastructures and internal communications, such as the Armed Forces Network, for the DOD to publicize their use of climate conscious technologies and efforts. Create a campaign that will promote information on the issue and redirect the focus of the public susceptible to misinformation. Use the military to create new standards of climate conscious innovation and practice to establish and develop across military and civilian life. Promote specialized and highly skilled occupations within each branch that work in both private and public sectors to combat climate change.

6. **Implementation:** Utilize the House Appropriations Committee to create a DOD-led interagency task force that will assign recommendations to the appropriate subcommittee and appropriate funds for the above lines of effort. Funding of said agencies is contingent on success in these lines of effort. Each agency must reduce carbon emissions by a commensurate amount to achieve the government-wide goal of 50% reduced emissions. Agencies must report to the interagency task force within 6 months with action items to implement the above recommendations. Future appropriations will be contingent on compliance and success.
7. The point of contact for this memorandum is CDT Olivia Skelton at olivia.skelton@westpoint.edu.

Appendix

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