Retired Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn serves as a director on the board and strategic architect of the National Conference on Citizenship, as a senior policy advisor to the American Council on Renewable Energy, is a member of the Center for Naval Analysis Military Advisory Board, and a senior fellow for international security at the Rocky Mountain Institute. He is actively engaged in national forums to highlight the close link between energy and international security and the imperative for innovative government policies, focused investments and effective deployment of technology to create a high-quality, sustainable global environment.

Admiral Dennis McGinn commanded the U.S. Third Fleet, which is responsible for some 50 million square miles of the eastern Pacific Ocean. As Third Fleet Commander, he was recognized for leading great advances in operational innovation.

ABSTRACT

America’s economic, energy, climate change and national security challenges are inextricably linked. Our current and projected energy posture constitutes a serious and urgent threat to national security — militarily, diplomatically and economically. Our past pattern of energy use is responsible, in a significant way, for our present economic recession. The United States must take a long range, comprehensive view to create effective national policies, develop and deploy clean energy technology and make real and positive changes to the ways in which we power America. Without decisive action by our nation, fierce global competition, instability and conflict over dwindling supplies of fossil fuels and increasing global warming will be a major part of the future national security landscape. Moving towards a balanced portfolio of clean and sustainable energy choices can lessen that danger, greatly improve economic prosperity and help the United States to simultaneously confront the challenges of global climate change and energy insecurity.

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