

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301

(202) 225-6371
www.science.house.gov

September 26, 2016

The Honorable Susan Rice
National Security Advisor
Executive Office of the President
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Ambassador Rice:

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is conducting oversight of climate change activities throughout the federal government. On September 21, 2016, President Obama signed a Presidential Memoranda “requiring the federal government to fully consider the impacts of climate change in the development and implementation of all national security policies and plans.”¹ The official release for this information indicates the following:

That’s why, today, President Obama took another major step to address the threat of climate change by signing a Presidential Memorandum requiring the federal government to fully consider the impacts of climate change in the development and implementation of all national security policies and plans. ... Already, we’ve witnessed the instability and harm caused by rising sea levels, dramatic flooding, regional droughts, extreme heat, and severe weather events in many parts of the world. A devastating drought contributed to the early unrest and eventual conflict in Syria, as water shortages and crop failures led farmers to abandon their homes in search of more stable sources of food and water.²

The Committee has genuine interest in the climate science and information that the Administration claims impacts national security. As the Committee with primary jurisdiction over federal government scientific research within the U.S. House of Representatives, it is necessary for us to better understand the science that underpins the studies, climate models, reports, and conclusions that the Administration will use as the basis of its analysis and national security policy development.

¹ Ambassador Susan Rice and Brian Deese, Integrating Climate Change into National Security Planning, Sept. 21, 2016, *available at* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/09/21/integrating-climate-change-national-security-planning>.

² *Id.*

The Honorable Susan Rice

September 26, 2016

Page 2

In an effort to better understand the development and content of the report and assist the Committee's oversight, we would like to schedule a bipartisan briefing for Committee staff with Mr. Brian Deese by October 10, 2016.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has jurisdiction over environmental and scientific programs and "shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities" as set forth in House Rule X.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Richard Yamada or Joseph Brazauskas at 202-225-6371. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rep. Lamar Smith.
Chairman

cc: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology