33RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

SENATE BOX 203033
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3033
PHONE: 717-787-4651

37 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 200
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
PHONE: 717-264-6100

33 YORK STREET
GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
PHONE: 717-334-4169

Senate of Pennsylvania
DOUG MASTRIANO
SENATOR

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October 20, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

RE: Request Suspension of Defense-Related Funding for Biden/Obama legacy program

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

I request the suspension of Department of War participation and funding connected to the Climate Change / Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) initiatives being funded by the department through DARPA, NOAA and other federal agencies.

Under the Obama and Biden Administrations, the Pentagon classified *climate change* as a *national security threat*, a move that redirected billions of dollars away from combat readiness and modernization into unproven environmental schemes. In FY 2023, the Department of Defense sought $3.1 billion in "climate investment," a portion of which supported SRM research and atmospheric experimentation.[1]

This massive expenditure is a waste of the department's resources that should have been devoted to strengthening the force, not financing speculative weather-manipulation projects with no operational benefit to national defense. Every dollar spent on this reduces resources available for training, munitions, maintenance or caring for our veterans.

The department's climate change initiatives represent a direct readiness risk as it diverts funds, talent and research capacity from core defense missions. At a time when our forces face rising threats from China, Russia and Iran, we cannot afford to waste defense funding on experiments that do nothing to deter our adversaries or strengthen our capabilities.

I request the following:

1. Cease all DoD and DARPA involvement in Solar Radiation Modification projects.
2. Audit and disclose all climate change and SRM-related expenditures, contracts, and inter-agency agreements.

3. Redirect funds to core readiness initiatives—warfighter training, weapons modernization, cyber defense and veteran care.

Conclusion

SRM is a Biden-Obama era holdover that drains defense resources, jeopardizes public health and undermines confidence in the Department's mission. It has no place in a War Department focused on strength, deterrence and victory.

Respectfully,
Senator Doug Mastriano
Pennsylvania State Senate, 33rd District
Chair, Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Footnotes

John Conger, "Unpacking the Pentagon's $3.1 Billion Climate Request," *Center for Climate and Security*, May 5, 2022. (climateandsecurity.org)