

CCMP press release (as of 18 Aug 2022)

VFP Notes Positive Climate Provisions in Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, But Asks Why Do We Spend Multiples More on War?

The Veterans For Peace Climate Crisis & Militarism Project (CCMP) acknowledges the positive climate measures that have passed in the “*Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*” (*IRA*) after decades of effort. CCMP objects, however, to measures in the bill that negatively impact residents of frontline communities. In addition, CCMP notes the approved expenditures for mitigating the ongoing climate crisis are a fraction of what the United States spends on its military. The just passed \$737 billion bill is for expenditures over TEN years, whereas the military spending bill that passed the House in July is for \$838.8 billion for ONE year (FY2023; <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58281>). In addition, the \$369 billion energy and climate portion of the *IRA* allocates annually far less than the US is projected to spend yearly on its nuclear forces alone ([Projected Costs of U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2021 to 2030 | Congressional Budget Office \(cbo.gov\)](https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58281)). As of 2021, the US spends more on its military than at least the next ten countries combined and twelve times more than Russia and nearly three times more than China (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/262742/countries-with-the-highest-military-spending/>). This disproportionate spending by the US on its military does not lead to trust with other nations, including Russia and China. Chances of cooperation on climate have further declined after the invasion of Ukraine and the visit of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan (see https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/6116/6006/3318/CCMP_Statement_on_Pelosi.pdf). CCMP urges Congress and President Biden to build on the climate provisions in the *IRA* by fulfilling his promised commitments of \$11.4 billion annually to the UN Green Climate Fund instead of continuing to throw money at our already bloated military and its contractors (<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/us-seeks-double-climate-change-aid-developing-nations-biden-2021-09-21/>). If the US finally fulfilled its commitments to this UN fund, it would help gain international cooperation going into COP27 by demonstrating the US is more interested in saving our planet than ruling over it. Plus, money spent on helping developing countries lower their emissions will do more to ensure the future security of US citizens than monies spent on high-priced armaments purchased from Raytheon, Lockheed-Martin, Boeing, and others.