



**THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING**

**Opening Statement for Chairman Edward J. Markey
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
“Learning from a Laureate: Science, Security and Sustainability”
January 30, 2008**

Last February, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first report of their Fourth Assessment, which provided a scientific smoking gun that human activities were unequivocally responsible for global warming. Three more reports followed throughout 2007. Taken together, the Fourth Assessment reports represent the seminal review of the science of global warming, its impacts and strategies to address it.

For their work in educating the world about both the dangers of global warming and the policies needed to prevent it, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, and his colleagues were jointly awarded the 2007 Noble Peace Prize with former Vice-President Gore.

With the award of the Peace Prize, the Nobel Committee acknowledged that stopping global warming is not just a matter of economics or environmental stewardship – it is a matter of war and peace.

As the Fourth Assessment shows, the dangerous buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere due to human activities is already threatening the peace and security of communities around the world. Sea levels are rising. Rainfall patterns are changing. Public health is suffering. Conflicts are spawned and fed. And the disproportionate amount of injury is occurring in the developing world, to the people least responsible for global warming.

And so a scientific report highlights our moral obligation to reduce global warming pollution and prepare for those impacts that have become unavoidable.

We can't mortgage our children's and the planet's future by continuing to emit global warming pollution in the atmosphere unabated. We need to achieve real reductions now. The energy bill that became law in December was a significant down payment on the necessary emission reductions, but it was nowhere near sufficient to meet the enormous challenge we face. In order to further reduce global warming pollution, the House will consider legislation this year that puts the United States on a path for 80 percent reductions in our emissions by 2050.

The obligation of the United States to adopt such policies is clear and compelling. When the Chinese and Indians look up in the sky, they see red, white and blue CO₂. The United

States alone is responsible for over a quarter of the carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere over the last 150 years. While China's total annual emissions may now equal those of the United States, U.S. emissions are still four times greater than China's on a per capita basis. It is time for the Congress to re-establish America's position in the fight against global warming as a leader, not a laggard.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Pachauri quoted fellow Noble Peace Prize winner Willy Brandt's observation that "next to reasonable politics, learning is... the true credible alternative to force."

I believe history will look back upon the work of the IPCC -- and especially the Fourth Assessment -- as the very credible force that helped the world avoid catastrophic global warming conflicts and secure an equitable energy peace.