

Grand Forks Herald

DoD frets about climate change; why doesn't Cramer?

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A recent news story quotes U.S. Rep. Keven Cramer, R-N.D., as saying, "Most of the cuts are aimed at getting to the core traditional function and priorities of the EPA or air and water and land pollution as opposed to these other sort of fringy issues like climate and greenhouse gases."

In 2015, the Department of Defense released a report on the security implications of climate change. "The Department of Defense's primary responsibility is to protect national security interests around the world," the report stated.

"This involves considering all aspects of the global security environment and planning appropriately for potential contingencies and the possibility of unexpected developments both in the near and the longer terms."

The report concluded that climate change is a security risk, because it degrades living conditions, human security and the ability of governments to meet the basic needs of their populations.

"It is in this context ... that the department must consider the effects of climate change—such as sea level rise, shifting climate zones and more frequent and intense severe weather events—and how these effects could impact national security," according to the report.

Cramer would better serve his constituents and the nation by paying more attention to the department's concerns, and less to the financial interests of the Koch Brothers and their myriad "grassroots" political action committees masquerading as public service organizations (such as the Cato Institute, American Enterprise Institute, Americans for Prosperity, the Heritage Foundation and others).

The Defense Department clearly does not consider climate change and greenhouse gases to be "fringy" issues. Cramer's loyalties appear to be to the fossil fuel industry rather than the health and security of his fellow Americans.