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### John Warner to launch UM's climate change studies program

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 2, 2009

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**JOHN WARNER TO LAUNCH UM'S CLIMATE CHANGE STUDIES PROGRAM**

**MISSOULA —**

The University of Montana's Climate Change Studies Program, offering the nation's first interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in climate change, will launch with a keynote address by former U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy John Warner on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Warner will present "National Security and Climate Change" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Urey Lecture Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The new UM Climate Change Studies Program combines rigorous training in sciences with course work in ethics and policy to offer students a unique, multidisciplinary understanding of climate change. The minor will prepare students for the challenges and opportunities presented by global climate change and involve them in developing potential solutions.

A distinguished defense expert and veteran of three wars, Warner joined Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) in 2006 to co-sponsor the Climate Security Act, the only climate change bill passed by a Senate committee. Warner completed his fifth consecutive term as a senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia on Jan. 3, 2009.

During his 30 years in the Senate, Warner served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, including three periods as chairman, and was viewed as one of the most influential senators on military and foreign policy issues.

Retired U.S. Navy Adm. John B. Nathman will join Warner at the event. Nathman is a member of the Military Advisory Board of CNA, a nonprofit research organization that operates the Center for Naval

Analyses and the Institute for Public Research. In May, CNA's Military Advisory Board published a groundbreaking report titled "Powering America's Defense: Energy and the Risk to National Security." The report identified a series of risks created by America's energy policies and practices and warned that "business as usual is perilous because of the converging national security risks of energy demand and climate change."

Warner's talk is part of the Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate, an initiative of the Pew Environment Group to highlight the critical links between national security, energy independence, the economy and climate change.

"I am highly honored to join Pew's efforts," Warner said. "I spent thirty years in the U.S. Senate working on behalf of our men and women in uniform serving our country and on the issues related to the impact of climate changes on their future military roles and missions.

"Leading military and security experts agree that if left unchecked, global warming could increase instability and lead to conflict in already fragile regions of the world," he said. "We ignore these facts at the peril of our national security and at great risk to those in uniform who serve this nation."

Information about the Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate is online at <http://www.pewclimatesecurity.org>.

For more information about UM's Climate Change Studies Program, visit <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/CCS> or call Nicky Phear, program coordinator, at 406-243-6932.

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