

Smart Power

Dear Friend,

In 2007 I served as a member of the [Commission on Smart Power](#). Formed by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), this bi-partisan commission was charged with developing a vision and some specific recommendations to successfully meet the national security challenges of the 21st century.

In a time when there is too much partisanship in Washington, the CSIS Commission on Smart Power is a great example of bi-partisan collaboration. The Commission was chaired by Harvard professor Joseph Nye and former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. Its members were a diverse group of Republicans and Democrats, with wide experience in and out of government. We found more common ground than most would expect.

Effective influence in today's world can depend on image and inspiration as much as military strength. Smart Power recognizes that the U.S. needs both - and we need the good sense to know when and how to use them together. The CSIS Smart Power Commission report offers a short set of concrete recommendations for the next administration and Congress to begin to implement a Smart Power vision and strategy.

I invite you to review the [Smart Power report](#) and recommendations and let me know what you think.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mac".

Mac Thornberry