

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 13, 2017

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal Allard:

In his first address to a Joint Session of Congress, President Trump enumerated the existential threats posed by foreign criminals and illegal drugs entering the United States, as well as his commitment to rebuild the military. On the same day, the Associated Press reported details on proposed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cuts to the U.S. Coast Guard in order to provide funding support to strengthen border security.

OMB's financial outline for the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard in particular is cause for serious alarm. The U.S. Coast Guard is a branch of the U.S. military—a fact that appears to have been discounted by OMB, perhaps because of the Coast Guard's unique position as the only Armed Service outside the Department of Defense. Additionally, its counter narcotics mission has a direct impact on border security and law enforcement. In fact, the U.S. Coast Guard interdicts more cocaine at sea than what is interdicted at ports of entry and among all other elements of domestic law enforcement combined. Given the Administration's efforts to strengthen our southern land border, it's likely that the flow of illegal drugs and immigrants offshore will only increase. In this respect, the Coast Guard should see a sizable budget increase to meet the President's goal of eliminating the flood of illegal drugs.

Of particular note is the proposed cancellation of a "roughly \$500 million new ship," which presumably is the ninth National Security Cutter currently under construction in a U. S. shipyard. The termination of this contract is especially disconcerting when considered alongside

the operational successes these assets have demonstrated, not to mention the hundreds of good American jobs and hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars that would be lost.

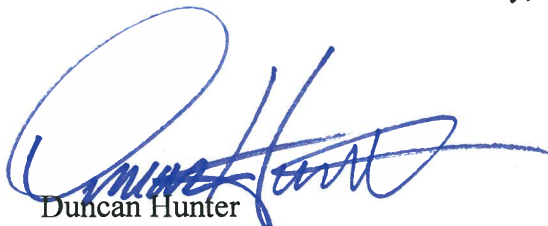
The concern with OMB's financial outline is that it severely discounts the value and effectiveness of the U.S. Coast Guard in drug interdiction and maritime security, and its standing as an Armed Service. Further, there appears to be a bias against the Coast Guard by career bureaucrats that threatens to undermine the Coast Guard mission and, whether intended or not, to degrade its ability to effectively conduct its mission. The U. S. Coast Guard is an Armed Force at all times, operating both overseas and domestically to ensure America's national security. They are facing similar readiness challenges as their Department of Defense counterparts, and must be included in the Administration's effort to rebuild the Armed Forces.

Given the Coast Guard's unique role among its service counterparts, it is ever more imperative that any considerations for additional funding for the U.S. military and border security do not overlook the significance and critical needs of the Coast Guard. Our recommendation is that OMB's financial outline, specific to the Coast Guard, be rejected on the grounds that, if implemented, it would serve to the detriment of U.S. national security and create exposures that will most certainly be exploited by transnational criminal networks and other dangerous actors.

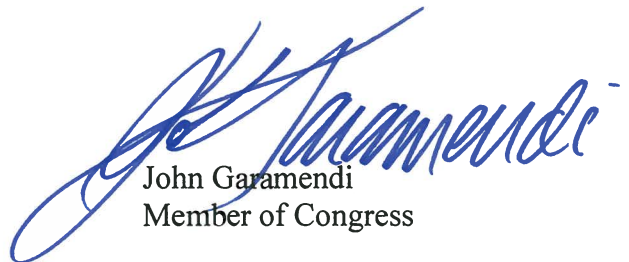
It's nonsensical to pursue a policy of rebuilding the Armed Forces while proposing large reductions to the U.S. Coast Guard budget. Without question, OMB's proposed cut targeting the Coast Guard directly contradicts the President's stated goals and should be dismissed.

The U.S. Coast Guard has, for years, operated under the realities of severe budget limitations. Preserving and strengthening America's security interests and protecting American jobs demand a fully funded U.S. Coast Guard.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Martha McSally  
Member of Congress




Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress




Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress




Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
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Daniel M. Donovan, Jr  
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



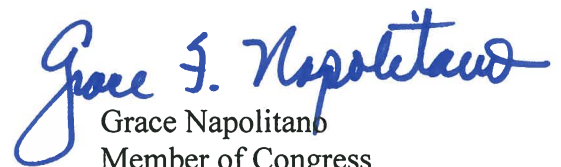
Scott Taylor  
Member of Congress



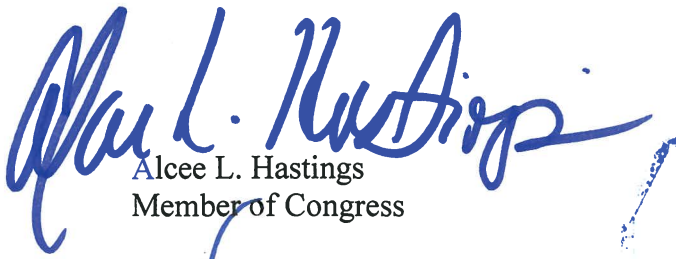
Albio Sires  
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Garret Graves  
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Grace F. Napolitano  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
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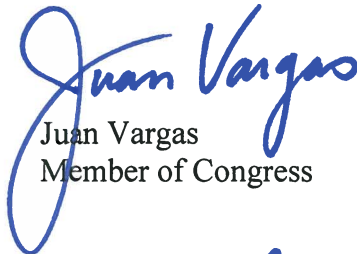
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Carol Shea-Porter  
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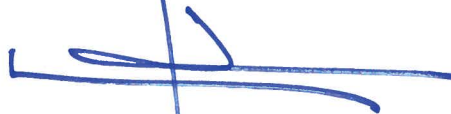
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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Stephanie Murphy  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Colleen Hanabusa  
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Elijah Cummings  
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Seth Moulton  
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Adam Kinzinger  
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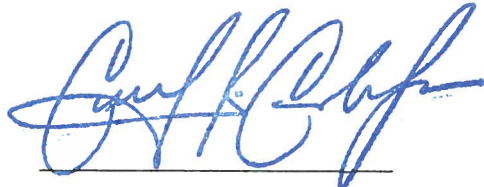
  
Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

  
Ralph Abraham  
Member of Congress

  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

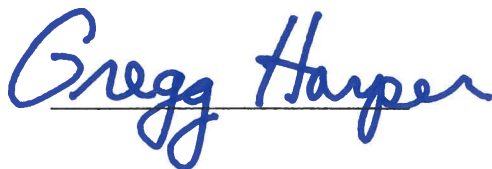
  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

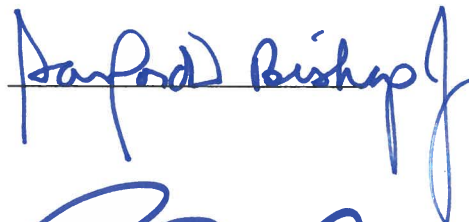
  
Mark Amodeo

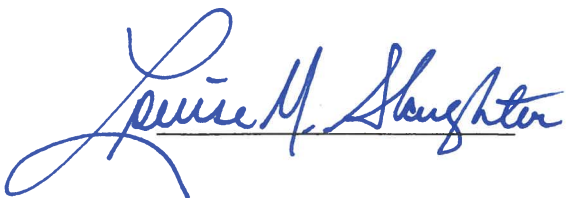
  
Carl Albert

  
Mackinnon-Barkley

  
Walter B. Jones

  
Gregg Harper

  
Sanford Bishop

  
Louise M. Slaughter

  
Representative Nolan

Kathy Costo

All ~~the~~

Mark DeFuria

Fish Vets

Supreme Bravini

Lon Frank

Arson L. Davis

Beto O'Rourke.

Jack Heller

J.

Clulur

Ray B.

Thomas R. Suzzo

SIO.CLL

Mike

Nancy Diaz Barozon