

Akin Opening Statement for Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Markup of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012

Washington D.C.—U.S. Rep. Todd Akin (R-MO), the chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, today released the following opening statement for the subcommittee's markup of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012:

"The United States is a maritime nation, and global reach is essential for both our economy and national security. The Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee portfolio includes Navy shipbuilding and weapons, Marine Corps amphibious warfare requirements, and Air Force mobility, refueling, and bomber aircraft. With our Armed Forces currently engaged or supporting three conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya, our troops depend on equipment and supplies delivered by sea and by air. Protection of the sea lanes of communication, projection of credible combat power, presence, and humanitarian assistance are all missions where this subcommittee's focus must be.

"I want to thank Mr. McIntyre and his staff for their assistance in pulling this mark together. We had hearings this year on the Navy shipbuilding program and on amphibious warfare, along with briefings on the replacement for the *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarine, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, and the new long range strike bomber. These hearings and briefings were useful in informing the content of this mark.

"Let me briefly mention a few items. First, I continue to believe that the decision to cancel the EFV was a bad one. The decision was handed down, and the Marines have been struggling ever since to come up with the analysis that justifies this decision. This mark requires the Department to actually do the homework before starting a new EFV replacement program or doing any further upgrades on the AAV. In other areas, this mark supports the future of two legs of the nuclear triad by supporting the next generation bomber program as well as the ballistic submarine replacement program. There are a number of other specifics that members have seen and have already been released to the public.

"Lastly, I want to thank the committee staff that helped put this mark together: Tom MacKenzie, Heath Bope, John Wason, Phil MacNaughton, and Mary Kate Cunningham. Their diligent work has been key to this good bill."

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