

BOB STUMP, ARIZONA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN R. KASICH, OHIO
HERBERT H. BATEMAN, VIRGINIA
JAMES V. HANSEN, UTAH
CURT WELDON, PENNSYLVANIA
JOEL HEFLEY, COLORADO
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
TILLIE K. FOWLER, FLORIDA
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JAMES M. TALENT, MISSOURI
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
J.C. WATTS, JR., OKLAHOMA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, INDIANA
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA
VAN HILLEARY, TENNESSEE
JOE SCARBOROUGH, FLORIDA
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JIM RYUN, KANSAS
BOB RILEY, ALABAMA
JIM GIBBONS, NEVADA
MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBIN HAYES, NORTH CAROLINA
STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL, CALIFORNIA
DON SHERWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

FLOYD D. SPENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2000

SUPPORT DEFENSE MODERNIZATION VOTE "YES" ON H.R. 4205

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI
NORMAN SISISKY, VIRGINIA
JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
OWEN PICKETT, VIRGINIA
LANE EVANS, ILLINOIS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
MARTIN T. MEEHAN, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD, GUAM
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, ILLINOIS
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
THOMAS H. ALLEN, MAINE
VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
JIM TURNER, TEXAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
JAMES H. MALONEY, CONNECTICUT
MIKE McINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY, GEORGIA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT

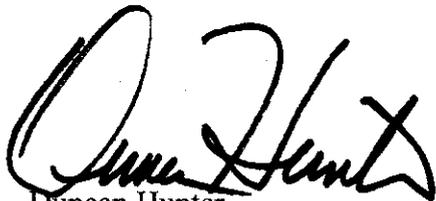
ANDREW K. ELLIS, STAFF DIRECTOR

Dear Colleague:

More than four years ago, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, first advised the Secretary of Defense that to recapitalize the U.S. Armed Forces after a decade of ever-decreasing defense procurement budgets, \$60 billion would be required annually by fiscal year 1998. Over four years after this pronouncement and three years after its subsequent endorsement by the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Fiscal Year 2001 budget request finally reaches this level, although it is \$1.5 billion below what was forecast at the time the Fiscal Year 2000 budget was submitted to the Congress only one year ago.

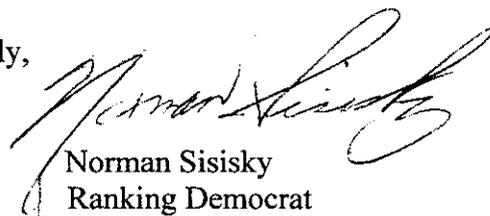
Consequently, it is not surprising that the Service Chiefs continue to acknowledge the fact that many of their modernization needs are going unmet. To address some of these requirements, Congress has added nearly \$18 billion to the President's procurement budgets over the past five years. Despite these efforts and recent calls for increased procurement spending by former Secretary of Defense Bill Perry and former Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre, however, the shortfalls have grown over \$6 billion just since last year. The Department's aging equipment situation is getting worse, and its inventory of the platforms and key precision weapons required for two major theater wars remains far short of what is required.

Against this backdrop, H.R. 4205 adds funds to modernize the Department's weaponry for the sixth consecutive year. Specifically, \$2.6 billion has been added; and, by prioritizing programs within the budget request, the bill satisfies over \$1.8 billion of the unfunded requirements identified by the Service Chiefs and Defense Agencies. We strongly urge you to vote "YES" on H.R. 4205—a vote to increase defense procurement.



Duncan Hunter
Chairman
Military Procurement Subcommittee

Sincerely,



Norman Sisisky
Ranking Democrat
Military Procurement Subcommittee