

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

October 4, 2016

Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

We write to urge your continued support and vigilance in maintaining full funding for the Army's Improved Turbine Engine Program (ITEP) at \$126.105 million in the final version of the FY 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill.

As you know, the House version of the bill fully supported the Army's budget request. However, the Senate reduced the program by \$30 million. Any reduction to planned funding could result in delayed fielding of the ITEP engine.

ITEP is the number one Army Aviation modernization program and will dramatically improve the fuel efficiency and mission capability of the Black Hawk and Apache aviation platforms. Combat Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and warfighter feedback have identified critical performance gaps that ITEP will rectify while delivering significant fuel savings and reliability improvements. Within the last month, senior Army leadership directed that a plan to accelerate the program be developed. Any funding reduction in fiscal year 2017 will significantly jeopardize the opportunity to accelerate the program.

ITEP development is on track to meet program requirements. The Army plans to award up to two contracts for the Preliminary Design (PD) phase of the program this summer and plans to obligate all FY 2016 funds, \$51.164 million, before September 30, 2016. The PD phase begins upon contract award and, if fully funded in fiscal year 2017, concludes in 3rd Quarter FY 2018.

As you no doubt understand, funding reductions at this early program development stage could push out future timetables and critical decisions. This could send an unfortunate signal to Army aviators, warfighters, and guardsmen who are counting on a higher performing engine capability and reliability for the Black Hawk and Apache for the next thirty years.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to assert the House position for the Improved Turbine Engine Program of \$126.105 million in fiscal year 2017.

Thank you for your attention to this critical request.

Sincerely,

  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty  
Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks  
Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

Tom Cole  
Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

Rich Nugent  
Rich Nugent  
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth  
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster  
Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Paul Cook  
Paul Cook  
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo  
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Member of Congress

James A. Himes  
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Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

Tom MacArthur  
Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress

Tom Rooney  
Tom Rooney  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

David Schweikert  
David Schweikert  
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones  
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

Tom Graves  
Tom Graves  
Member of Congress

John Culberson  
John Culberson  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



Stephen Knight  
Member of Congress



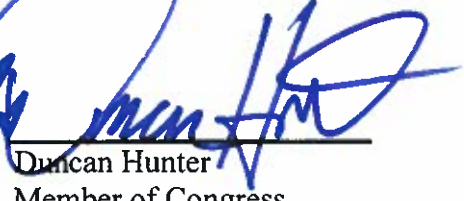
Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



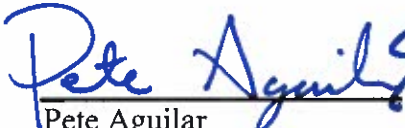
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham  
Member of Congress



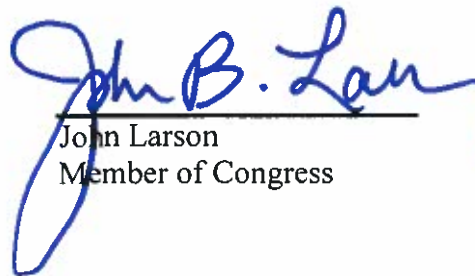
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



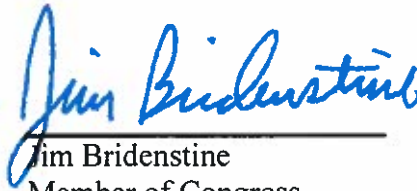
Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



John Larson  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress