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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

December 16, 2005

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concern, based on a growing number of reports, that the Department of Defense fiscal year 2007 budget request for research and procurement may be reduced substantially compared to those presented to the Congress in your fiscal year 2006 budget request and future years defense plan.

News agencies report that internal department memoranda call for budget reductions across the services totaling \$7.5 billion for fiscal year 2007, \$32.1 billion over the future years defense plan, and that further reductions may be requested. These proposed reductions, both in fiscal year 2007 and beyond, would disproportionately cut weapon systems development and procurement, and would break the five-year trend of modest, but sustained, real growth needed to make up for the "procurement holiday" in the 1990s. Failure to continue this growth would impair our ability to replace the existing inventory as required by wartime stress and would jeopardize procurement of new systems, which the Department has declared for years are necessary to protect America against current and future challenges.

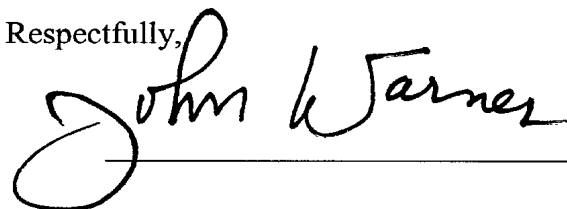
We recognize the many fiscal constraints facing the nation as you develop your administration's fiscal year 2007 defense budget request. At the same time, we remain a nation at war. The amount presented to Congress last year for fiscal year 2007 was the minimum which the Department believed it needed for future requirements. We do not believe it would be responsible to reduce that figure at the eleventh hour, especially for budgetary reasons obviously unrelated to any analysis of military necessity.

We urge you, at the very minimum, to recommend a funding level for procurement, and research and development, for fiscal year 2007 of no less than the previously planned \$158.3 billion, and \$443.1 billion for the entire Department of Defense, excluding supplemental funding.

Respectfully,



Jim Talent



John Warner

President Bush  
December 16, 2005  
Page Two

Saxby Chambliss  
Elizabeth Dole

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Appia Stump  
Susan M. Collins

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