

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey,

As you prepare for the conference negotiations with your Senate counterparts over the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Appropriations bill, we write to you to respectfully urge you to support the House position on a critical defense R&D priority.

We are asking you to strongly support the House position and add \$11M to Army RDT&E Line 31, Aviation Advanced Technology (PE 0603003A) for Future Vertical Lift.

Like both of you, we are strong supporters of Army Aviation and of America's rotorcraft industry. The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that vertical lift aircraft have been some of the most effective workhorses in the U.S. fighting arsenal. At the same time, insufficient investment in vertical lift technology over a sustained period threatens the long-term performance, maintainability, survivability and affordability of the entire U.S. rotorcraft fleet. In the decade following 9-11, for example, the U.S. military lost more than 600 Americans and 400 vertical lift aircraft to hostile action and mishaps. With the exception of the V-22 Osprey, all U.S. rotorcraft deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan were designed during or before Vietnam.

Pursuant to Congressional direction in the FY09 National Defense Authorization Act, DOD delivered its Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Strategic Plan to Congress in 2012. FVL is a joint initiative, with support from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Special Operations Command and Coast Guard. The FVL Initial Capabilities Document calls for increased speed, range, payload, survivability, and affordability.

Additional Army Aviation research and development (R&D) funding is needed to deliver these revolutionary capabilities to our warfighters, and regain America's world leadership in rotorcraft innovation. The next generation FVL aircraft will be the centerpiece of the US military vertical lift aircraft for the next 50 years. FY17 is a critical year for the technology development, as wind tunnel testing and other key milestones must be met that will help inform the FVL Analysis of Alternatives. Additional funding is required to meet this aggressive timeline with a

comprehensive R&D program that encompasses a full-range of technical advancements – including next-generation rotors, drive trains, engines, flight controls, sensors and survivability.

Thanks to both of yours leadership, Congress showed its support for robust FVL funding by adding \$14M for Future Vertical Lift in FY15 and \$10M in FY16.

We were pleased the House supported an additional \$11M in funding for Future Vertical Lift in its version of the FY17 defense appropriations bill. As you may know, the Senate did not add any new funds for FVL in its version.

We very respectfully ask you to strongly support the House position, and include the full \$11M in additional funding for Army RDT&E Line 31, Aviation Advanced Technology (PE 0603003A) for Future Vertical Lift in the final Conference Report for the FY17 defense appropriations bill.

Sincerely,




Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Mimi Walters
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



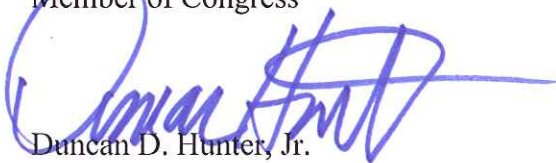
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



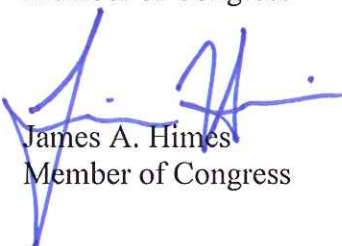
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Duncan D. Hunter, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan

Patrick L. Meehan
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello

Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress

Tom Marino

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo

Mike R. Pompeo
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

Scott Perry

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle

Mike F. Doyle, Jr.
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Brendan Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Donald W. Norcross

Donald W. Norcross
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
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October 14, 2016

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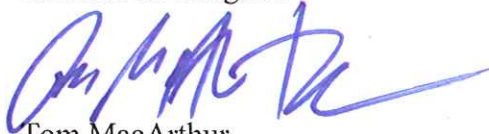
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Sincerely,



Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

