

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015**

SPEECH OF

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my appreciation for all the good work that has gone into in the FY 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. I know a lot of difficult decisions had to be made but I wanted to express my concern over a \$20 million reduction in funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

The U.S. flag fleet is critical to our military in delivering cargo overseas to our military to ensure proper readiness and sustainment. The Department of Defense (DOD) for well over a decade has relied on MSP-enrolled vessels for sealift of necessary cargo into conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other troubled areas in the world, all at a fraction of the cost of what it would cost DOD to replicate that sealift if it had to build its own vessels. These military-sensitive cargoes are handled by U.S.-flag ship operators and mariners that must meet DOD and homeland security standards. They have a demonstrated record of delivering these cargoes efficiently and safely.

I would like to encourage the bill's managers to bring the program's funding level to \$186 million in conference with the Senate. This program also has significant support from House members and I am including a letter signed by members in support of this funding. Finally this is the same amount appropriated in FY 2014, authorized by the Armed Services Committee in the NDAA, and requested by the President.