

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COAST
GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION



Duncan Hunter
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October 7, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Soon we will be voting on H.R. 702, which would not only lift the 40 year ban on oil exports, but will also increase funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP), which provides crucial support to our national defense capabilities. MSP supports a fleet of active, commercially viable, militarily useful, privately-owned vessels to meet national defense and other security requirements. MSP crews are essential and will serve as the core manning to support expeditionary cargo logistics on government-owned ships that are mobilized during times of contingency or war.

Air Force General, Darren W. McDew, the four-star general responsible for U.S. military transportation, has indicated his need to retain 60 ships in the MSP to meet global cargo transportation requirements. We must remain committed to supporting the 60 commercial vessels that are needed to meet global cargo transportation requirements as 90% of all U.S. military cargo moved from Iraq and Afghanistan has been by U.S. flagged, U.S. crewed commercial vessels enrolled in the Program. Without the increase in funding provided in H.R. 702, we risk losing MSP participants. Currently, the stipend is too low to make the MSP program fiscally viable for companies that have stepped up to defend our nation against foreign threats.

Currently, we have no viable MSP alternative and cannot risk a decline in participation. Estimates to replicate the MSP global intermodal system have the government spending up to \$52 billion of taxpayer money. In the end, we will end up saving taxpayers billions by supporting this increase, as MSP utilizes private sector resources to save taxpayer's money, while enhancing our national security.

Join me in continuing our support for our national defense by voting "yes" on H.R. 702. Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Duncan Hunter".

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress