

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2006

Representative Duncan Hunter, Chair
House Armed Services Committee
2265 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Representative Hunter,

We are writing to request your support for retention in the FY 2007 Department of Defense Authorization conference report of a provision that requires a study on the health impact of depleted uranium (DU) munitions on our troops. This important provision was included by amendment in both the House and Senate Authorization bills and passed both chambers by voice vote. The Senate provision included a requirement that this report be completed within one year of enactment, and we support this provision.

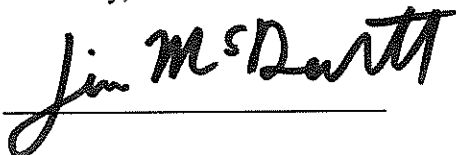
As you know, our military uses depleted uranium in armaments such as tank shells and armor-piercing bullets, and as armor for our tanks. While a very effective weapon, depleted uranium is toxic and may be associated with Gulf War illness.

The Pentagon has sent mixed signals about the effects of depleted uranium, at times claiming DU is not a health hazard, and at other times acknowledging the need for sophisticated protective gear and safety training regarding exposure to DU. About 300 metric tons of depleted uranium were used in the Iraq during the Persian Gulf War, and about 150 metric tons have been used thus far in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This provision requires full and complete studies of the health effects of exposure to depleted uranium. The need for the studies is imperative and immediate to settle the issue of DU's effects on the men and women of our armed forces. Existing research on the long-term health impact of exposure to depleted uranium is limited and there appear to be gaps such as research data on the human health effects from acute exposures to depleted uranium aerosols. We must also verify that we are adequately measuring exposure. A comprehensive study would help ensure that we fully understand the science behind this issue. America's men and women in uniform and their families deserve answers.

We respectfully request that during Conference on the FY 2007 Department of Defense Authorization bill, you maintain this requirement for a comprehensive study of the health effects of exposure to depleted uranium on our soldiers. If you have any questions please contact Jesse Kerns with Representative McDermott at 5-3106.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Murphy

Joe E. Senano

Walter J. Brown

Shan Brown

James J. Murphy

Bob Flier

Norm Dick

Nick Larsen

Hilda K. Solis

Patrick Fong

Ken A. Walker

Paul Oly

Steven A. Ditch

Walter Dwyer

Earl Hammer

Hyd Doggett

Pete Stark

Paul E. Ar

Ellen Taucher

John W. M

Tom Ullr

Sam Farr

Bjorn Siv

Don Moon

Debra

of Amber

Paul Ullr

Tony Balch

Jan Klaty
Betty McCallum

Ann VanHollen

Raul M. Gijel

Dennis J. Kain

Alan Smith

John Kasper