

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee Defense
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for language to be included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Appropriations bill that would prohibit the Department of Defense, or any branch of military service, from implementing any policy or regulation that would limit or prohibit access to legal products that service men and women can choose to purchase on their own. We respectfully ask that you consider the following bill language request:

General Provisions: *SEC. ____.* *None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense (DoD) or any service branch to enforce or implement any policy that would limit, restrict, or ban the sale or distribution of any tobacco products on any military installation or DoD vessel at sea.*


As we struggle to meet global security challenges, we believe that DoD should prioritize efforts to improve the Navy's deferred readiness, operations, and maintenance, all of which directly impact the Navy's ability to carry out its expanded mission. Given the current fiscal climate, the strain on the Navy to conduct global operations, the impending reduction to the size of the fleet and personnel, recent efforts to restrict access to tobacco products is a frivolous abdication of more urgent matters of national security.

We support the continued efforts of service leaders in implement low-to-no cost alternatives to incentivize service members to quit smoking. Last year alone, tobacco sales in Navy Exchanges decreased by 12 percent, indicating considerable success through DoD's existing cessation program. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you need any additional information please don't hesitate to contact us or our staff members.

Sincerely,


DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress


RICHARD HUDSON
Member of Congress


TOM ROONEY
Member of Congress