

**REP. LYNN WOOLSEY**  
**TESTIMONY TO BUDGET COMMITTEE ON REDUCING**  
**DEFENSE SPENDING**  
**5 MINUTES**  
**March 11, 2009**

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**Chairman Spratt, Ranking Member Ryan** and Members of the Budget Committee, thank you for allowing me to be here to testify on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. No one can envy the job that you all have in making a budget work, with the dismal numbers that confront us with the continuing financial crisis in this country. So thank you for taking on this immense challenge.

I'm here today to ask for some common sense adjustments to the Budget, for which the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) has been advocating for the last few years, but are now more critical than ever as we look for ways to strengthen the economy and cut out wasteful spending.

Defense spending needs to be brought under control, and now is the time to do it. The **United States** doesn't just lead the world in defense spending; we almost outspend the rest of the world combined. That's right, a full **43%** of the world defense spending comes from the U.S., and the U.S alone, and, when you add in what our **NATO** allies spend, we are well over **50%**. Our annual defense budget dwarfs that of our biggest rivals...we spend four times as much as **China**, and eight times as much as **Russia**.

The President himself said during his address to Congress, that we need to "reform our defense budget so that we're not paying for Cold War-era weapons systems we don't use." And I couldn't agree more. For the past two Congresses, the Progressive Caucus, which I Co-Chair, has been working to do just that.

We can see immediate savings by eliminating over **\$60 billion** in unneeded spending at the **Pentagon**, much of which is spent on weapons designed to fight the **Soviet Union**.

We can save **\$15 billion** a year by reducing the number of nuclear warheads in our arsenal from 10,000 to 1,000...which is still more than we'll ever need, and, more than enough fire power to blow up the world many times over.

We can save **\$6 billion** a year by getting rid of the **F-22 Raptor** and **Virginia Class submarine** which were built to fight the next generation of **Soviet** weapons. Mr. Chairman, we're building weapons to beat weapons that have never even been built.

**Missile Defense** has never been proven and just doesn't make sense in facing our current military challenges. We can save another **\$8 billion** by drastically scaling back this program.

The **V-22 Osprey** needs to be scrapped after almost 30 years of overruns and unproven tests. We've lost too many servicemen in accidents during testing of this thing, and shouldn't lose any more.

The **Cold War** has been over for almost twenty years, it's time these weapons programs are ended. Current events and modern warfare have passed these weapons by. It's time that the **DoD** take stock with a critical eye and spend money on only what they need, not what they want.

Along with scrapping these weapons, we can achieve a **25% reduction** in the Pentagon's Budget by ending the occupation of **Iraq**. By bringing our troops home now, we can save **\$105 billion** this year alone.

The initial invasion of Iraq made no sense, and with the current financial problems we are facing it makes even less sense. We've already spent over **\$600 billion** in Iraq, and the cost is estimated to be \$3 trillion even if we act now.

The time of unquestioned spending at the Pentagon must come to an end. That's why Congresswoman Barbara Lee and I have been working with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to have the DOD implement the over 2,000 recommendations the GAO has made to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon. In the last 7 years since these recommendations have been made, those that have been implemented have saved taxpayers over \$89 billion dollars. Unfortunately, there are still almost 800 more recommendations that need to be addressed that could save over \$8 billion a year. To this point, Mr. Chairman, I thank this committee for the language included in last year's budget, instructing the GAO to continue its work at the Pentagon to implement these recommendations, and I look forward to continuing to work on this issue with the Committee.

**Mr. Chairman**, we must get defense spending under control if we are going turn our economy around. Please consider making the aforementioned defense spending cuts a part of your Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. Thank you again for allowing me to come before your committee to express my views. I look forward to any questions you or our colleagues may have.

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