

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2012

**Oppose the Quigley-Gutierrez Amendment to Eliminate the V-22 Osprey**  
***Current Multi-Year Procurement Contract Saves DoD Nearly \$1 Billion a Year***

Dear Colleague,

I urge you to oppose the Quigley-Gutierrez amendment to H.R. 4310, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, which would eliminate the V-22 Program.

Deployed since 2007, the V-22 has quickly become the essence of 21st Century American military technological advancement, combining the best technologies of the vertical takeoff and landing abilities of a helicopter with the speed and range of a turboprop airplane. Deployed by the Marine Corps and Air Force Special Operations Forces, the V-22 enables our forces to conduct combat operations at unprecedented speeds and greater ranges, and offer remote resupply capabilities over greater distances than a conventional helicopter. With this unparalleled flexibility, the V-22 has been declared critical to the U.S. Marine Corps. In a letter to the House Armed Services Committee, Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos said of the V-22, "Not since the introduction of the helicopter more than 60 years ago has such a revolution in military aviation occurred. The Osprey is a cornerstone of the Marine Air Ground Task Force and we must have it in sufficient quantities to support your Marines on the ground."

The V-22 has been battle-tested since 2007 and is deemed by the Marine Corps to be its most survivable rotorcraft. The V-22 can provide support for the Marines and Special Operations in ways that have never before been possible. From casualty evacuation and humanitarian support – such as food and medical supplies and transportation of victims in Haiti – to combat support and direct enemy assaults, the V-22 has been deployed in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and in support of Special Operations throughout the world. It truly is the platform of choice for our Marines.

Major studies from both government and industry show that the V-22 is more operationally effective and cost efficient than any helicopter alternative. The Pentagon's top tester highlighted the rotorcraft's improvements in safety, reliability and combat effectiveness. In its annual report, the Director of Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E) Dr. Michael Gilmore gave the program high remarks, stating that new software upgrades "provided new piloting options and power margins" that were "increasing safety and reducing pilot workload." Procured under a multi-year procurement contract, the V-22 program will save a proposed \$852 million over single-year contracts, while providing a required capability for the Marine Corps and Air Force Special Operations. Additionally, replacing the required capability of the V-22 with any other platform would be 74% more costly than procuring the V-22.

Last year, this body overwhelmingly rejected a similar effort to eliminate the V-22 Osprey Program (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll343.xml>).

**The V-22 program combines functionality and unparalleled flexibility in real-world combat situations for our Warfighters. We cannot deny our men and women on the battlefield this crucial piece of equipment or afford to cut any part of the V-22 program. Please OPPOSE the Quigley-Gutierrez amendment that would eliminate this vital program.**

Sincerely,



PAT MEEHAN  
Member of Congress



ROBERT BRADY  
Member of Congress



JIM GERLACH  
Member of Congress