

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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October 21, 2011

Honorable J. Randy Forbes
United States House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Forbes:

As the national commander of the 2.4 million members of the nation's largest congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization, I believe our organization shares with you a deep and abiding commitment to a strong national defense.

Your sponsorship of H.Res. 441, the "Strong Defense, Strong America" Resolution, clearly indicates your recognition of the stark reality that further erosion of the ability of this nation to defend itself is no longer sustainable. In fact, further cuts to our nation's Defense budget represent a significant threat to our national security. With a fighting force already slashed to nearly half the levels of just two decades ago, our armed forces are fighting wars with equipment and weapons systems dating back to the 50s, 60s and 70s we cannot afford the devastating impact further reductions would bring.

Some make loud promises that this country will never "balance the budget on the backs of our military and veterans". All too often these empty promises are ignored as military and veteran spending are first on the chopping block when the budgetary axes come out. Through this House Resolution you have shown your willingness to truly meet the commitment to protect vital budgetary resources for our veterans and defenders.

Though these are certainly difficult times, working together we can ensure that the security needs of this great nation are not sacrificed on the altar of short term fiscal panic. Thank you for your leadership in this critical matter.

Respectfully,

FANG A. WONG
National Commander