

1124 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4061
202-225-5603 (FAX)
3742 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD
CHICAGO, IL 60618
773-267-5926
773-267-6583 (FAX)



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

MIKE QUIGLEY

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

December 20, 2014

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair, Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member, Energy and Water
Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Rogers,

As your colleague on the House Appropriations Committee, I am encouraged by the opportunity to pass appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2014 and look forward to a return to regular order in FY 2015.

I write to request the House Appropriations Committee includes \$369 million for the B61 Life Extension Program (LEP) in the omnibus for FY 2014. This amount is equal to the level included in the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bill, as reported in June 2013. While this number is less than the final amount included in the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I believe that the B61 can be sufficiently upgraded with less cost to the taxpayer while maintaining our security commitments both at home and abroad.

The B61 gravity bomb was developed in the 1950's and served as a vital tool in the United States' nuclear arsenal during the Cold War. However, the military missions that were previously associated with the B61 have become relics as our security priorities have shifted. General James Cartwright has said these B61 bombs have a "military utility of nil." Despite this, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has requested to implement a "gold-plated" life extension program.

The NNSA's current life extension plan for the B61 is to consolidate the four current versions into one variant the B61-12 and includes a proposal for a guided tail kit that would provide new capabilities for a weapon that is not included in any military mission plans.

This NNSA life extension plan has been plagued by continual delays and cost overruns. Costs are now expected to be well over double initial estimates, and the timeline for completion has been extended into the 2020's. I believe it to be unwise to fulfill the NNSA's FY 2014 request of \$537 million, especially when a more cost effective solution exists.

This year, the Senate Appropriations Committee included \$369 million for the B61 LEP and offered an alternative to the overly ambitious NNSA proposals. The funding level provided by the Senate would amply provide for a full life extension program that could be completed on time and on budget. Along with the funding level, the Senate voiced reservations with the NNSA proposals. The Committee wrote that it is "concerned that NNSA's proposed scope of work for extending the life of the B61 bomb is not the lowest cost, lowest risk option that meets military requirements and replaces aging components before they affect weapon performance."

For the remainder of FY 2014, I encourage you to fund the B61 LEP at the Senate subcommittee mark of \$369 million. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you on this important issue in the coming calendar year.

Sincerely,



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress