



June 13, 2016

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our organizations and our combined memberships, we urge you to make in order the bipartisan amendment #8 offered by Reps. Huffman (D-CA) and McClintock (R-CA) to the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Last year's Floor amendment by Representatives Huffman and McClintock ended a decades-long program to ship a particular grade of coal from northeastern Pennsylvania to heat several U.S. military bases in Germany. This program began, on a much larger scale, in 1961. But although its scope has narrowed over the years, the requirement still existed in the Committee's version of the Fiscal Year 2016 bill, 54 years later.

The Huffman/McClintock amendment was put to a recorded vote on the Floor and won by a significant margin, 252 in favor and 159 opposed.

Unfortunately the FY17 DoD Appropriations bill, H.R. 5293, resurrects this requirement in a slightly modified form. While previous language prohibited the modernization of the heating plants at U.S. military installations in the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany to be fired by any fuel other than coal, the new language appears to allow the Secretary of the Air Force to modernize the heating plants, but goes on to state, *"Provided, That in the City of Kaiserslautern and at the Rhine Ordnance Barracks area, such agreements shall include the use of energy sourced domestically within the United States as the base load energy for municipal district heat to the United States Defense installations."*

As you know, the use of the word "shall" ties the hands of the Pentagon.

We urge you to make the Huffman/McClintock amendment in order under the rule. To do so is to allow Members to vote for fiscally conservative values and against the continuation of another outdated government subsidy.

For more information, please contact Wendy Jordan at [Wendy\[at\]taxpayer.net](mailto:Wendy[at]taxpayer.net)

Sincerely,

Campaign for Liberty
Coalition to Reduce Spending
Council for Citizens Against Government
Waste
Less Government

National Taxpayers Union
R Street Institute
Taxpayers for Common Sense
Taxpayers Protection Alliance