



June 15, 2016

Dear Representative,

Thank you for voting for a common sense, bi-partisan amendment offered by Reps. Huffman (D-CA) and McClintock (R-CA) to the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill last year.

That amendment, which passed by a significant margin of 252 to 159, ended a decades-old requirement to ship a particular type of coal (anthracite) 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 Senate bill included no such provision and the final Defense Appropriations bill (as part of the Omnibus) did not include the requirement.

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."*

This is a thinly disguised attempt to accomplish the same thing that you rejected last year. The energy source still must come from the U.S. and be shipped across the Atlantic Ocean. You may hear the argument that the coal, or other energy, must come from the U.S. or the Air Force will be forced to buy it from Russia. Don't be fooled. Germany also produces anthracite coal. Besides, removing the requirement doesn't force the Air Force to do anything, it just enables them to pursue the lowest cost option. If that happens to be shipping coal from Pennsylvania to Germany so be it.

Reps. Huffman and McClintock are once again offering a bipartisan amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill. We urge you to once again vote for the Huffman/McClintock amendment. To do so is a vote for fiscally conservative values and against the continuation of another outdated government subsidy.

For more information contact me or Wendy Jordan at [wendy\[at\]taxpayer.net](mailto:wendy[at]taxpayer.net) or 202-546-8500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ryan Alexander'.

Ryan Alexander
President