

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2005

BUNKER BUSTER NOT BUST YET

Dear Colleague:

Even though Congress cut the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), the so-called bunker buster, and all other new nuclear weapons funding in the Department of Energy's Advanced Concepts program last year, the Bush Administration hasn't gotten the message. The Bunker Buster and other new nuclear weapons programs are back in President Bush's budget request.

The nuclear bunker buster would receive \$4 million in FY2006 under the President's Budget request, as well as another \$14 million in FY2007. In addition, the Bush Budget includes \$4.5 million in the Air Force Budget for testing RNEP. According to the DOE Budget request:

Activities include participating in integrated NNSA-DoD integrated product teams for development of RNEP requirements and programmatic documents; system design and integration; planning, cost and risks analyses, and phenomenology studies.

The bunker buster should not be funded, as it:

- *Damages our **nonproliferation efforts** around the world: pursuing new nuclear weapons while telling other countries not to is like telling your kids not to smoke with a cigarette in your hand – no country will take our nonproliferation urgings seriously.*
- *Would, if used, inevitably spread high levels of radiation above ground, potentially resulting in substantial civilian deaths and injuries and property damage.*

The U.S. **already has both nuclear and conventional bunker-busting capabilities.** The B61-11 nuclear bunker buster has been in the U.S. stockpile since 1997, and the GBU-28 conventional bunker buster has been in the U.S. arsenal since the first Gulf War. When the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water cut funding for bunker buster, they stated in their report (H. Report 108-554) that the Department cannot be trusted to do as Congress and the President has passed into law:

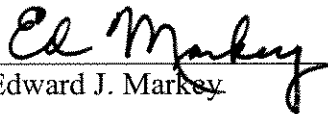
... The Committee notes that the management direction for fiscal year 2004 sent to the directors of the weapons design laboratories left little doubt that the objective of the program was to advance the most extreme new nuclear weapon goals irrespective of any reservations expressed by Congress... The use of artful language to communicate one message with Congress and another with its employees on issues of special interest erodes the credibility of the NNSA and destroys the trust necessary for a useful dialogue in setting public policy.

In addition to the Bunker Buster, the Reliable Replacement Warhead program in the President's budget raises a number of concerns. This program was added in the Omnibus Conference last year to replace Advanced Concepts. The scope and direction of this program must be clearly defined so that this program does not simply replace the one Congress canceled last year. The Reliable Replacement Warhead program requests a whopping \$97 million in funding over the next five years. According to the DOE Budget Request:

Advanced Concepts Initiative...has been replaced by Stockpile Services Reliable Replacement Warhead...to demonstrate the feasibility of developing reliable replacement components that are producible and certifiable for the existing stockpile. The initial focus will be to provide cost and schedule efficient replacement pits that can be certified without Underground Tests

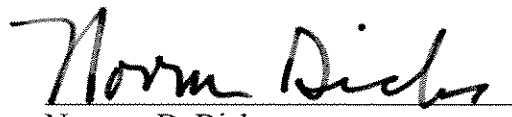
We urge you to sign on to the attached letter to the Authorizing and Appropriating Committees urging them to cut all funding for the bunker buster and other new nuclear weapons funding. For more information or to sign onto the letter, please contact Katie Donnelly (Rep. Markey) at 5-2836 or katie.donnelly@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


Ellen O. Tauscher


John M. Spratt


Norman D. Dicks


Barney Frank