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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY,  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND  
SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3807  
May 25, 2011

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM COMMITTEE  
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AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dear Colleague;

I once again encourage your support for the critical V-22 Osprey Program and urge you to oppose any amendments to H.R. 1540, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 that would cut or eliminate this vital program.

**The V-22 program combines functionality and unparalleled flexibility in real-world combat situations for our Warfighters.** MV-22Bs and CV-22s have operated successfully in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, provided search and rescue operations in Libya, have been used for humanitarian missions in Haiti and for medical and casualty evacuation. The V-22 fleet is performing the full range of missions as the aircraft unmatched capabilities in speed, range and survivability exceed that of legacy helicopters.

Major studies from both government and industry show that the V-22 is more operationally effective and cost efficient than any helicopter alternative. This successful program has been lauded by Commandant of the Marine Corps General Amos as offering "A very efficient use of resources. In 2010 the MV-22 had the lowest cost per seat mile of any Department of the Navy rotorcraft." Cutting the V-22 program would eliminate an effective rotorcraft with no suitable replacement to meet the warfighting requirement.

Despite what critics may suggest, the V-22 has overcome early challenges as it becomes the rotorcraft of choice in combat. Since introduction in 2007, the mission readiness rates have increased and are now on par with other types of aircraft at similar periods. Moreover, a clear roadmap exists to increase readiness levels and reduce operational costs and there is an aggressive approach to solving these problems while still providing aircraft to the men and women on the front lines.

Eliminating V-22 funding would affect roughly the 6,500 employees that directly work on the V-22, and thousands of other businesses that supply and support the program would lose work as well. Cutting this program will take away high-paying jobs and add to unemployment at a critical time in our economic recovery. Our Congressional priority should be on creating and preserving jobs, not destroying them.

Earlier in 2011, the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly voted against cutting the V-22 Osprey Program (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll080.xml>, <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll043.xml>).

Please OPPOSE the Woolsey Amendment that would eliminate this vital program. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact Maribeth Collins with Congressman Meehan at 202-225-2011 or [maribeth.collins@mail.house.gov](mailto:maribeth.collins@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress

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