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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 13, 2020

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
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Ms. Elaine McCusker
Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Ms. McCusker:

The Committee has received and reviewed the requested reprogramming action, FY 20-01RA, submitted to the Committee on February 13, 2020, which proposes the transfer of \$3.831 billion from Other Procurement, Army, 20/22; Aircraft Procurement, Navy, 20/22; Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy, 20/24; Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, 20/22; and National Guard and Reserve Equipment, 20/22, to Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense, 20/20.

The Committee denies the request.

The Defense Appropriations Act of 2020 was enacted on December 20, 2019, and inherent in the enactment is the specific allocation of appropriations and the execution of funds as called for under the Constitution between the Congress and the Executive branch.

Article 1 states, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law". The reprogramming transmitted by the Department denies the Congress and the Committee on Appropriations those stated Constitutional prerogatives; these funds were neither requested nor appropriated for the activities described in the reprogramming.

With this unilateral action, the historic and unprecedented comity that has existed between the Committee and the Department continues to be breached.

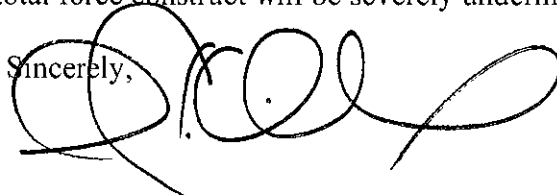
Each account of this law was debated and thoroughly negotiated in a bipartisan fashion. We cannot with any degree of trust negotiate future appropriation bills when the Department conducts itself in bad faith. I hope that at some point the Department will have adequate leadership in place to restore trust to the appropriations process.

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I also have heard ad nauseum about the Department's irreversible fealty to the National Defense Strategy, yet I am again witnessing your complicity in allowing resources needed by our military personnel to be siphoned off for the misguided effort at the southwest border that has no benefit for our national security.

Finally, I am particularly disgusted that the Department chose to use many of the Guard and Reserve investment accounts as the source for this reprogramming action. This sends a clear message to the 800,000 members of the select reserves that they are not a priority for the Department. I do not believe there could be a more damaging blow to their morale than this action and I believe if this goes forward the total force construct will be severely undermined.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Visclosky", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Peter J. Visclosky
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee