




AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

 **Center for**
Fiscal
Accountability

July 26, 2010

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dicks,

We write on behalf of millions of taxpayers to ask that you swiftly reject any funding for the F136 Alternative Engine Program in the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill or the National Defense Authorization Act.

Both the White House and Defense Secretary Gates have rejected the extra engine for the F35 Joint Strike Fighter and called on Congress to stop funding this wasteful program. The \$3 billion contract under consideration would fund the program for the next six years, on the faulty assumption that this artificially constructed competition will produce savings for taxpayers.

The Pentagon has been calling on Congress to end funding for the program since 2006. While proponents argue that the Alternative Engine Program is necessary to maintain a competitive engine market, there is nothing competitive about an entrenched political subsidy for an unnecessary and unwanted product.

What's more, almost all of the Department of Defense's engine contracts are already single source and there is no evidence that this has negatively effected engine production or national security.

The Department of Defense has long been shielded from tough spending scrutiny over concerns for national security. However, there should be no question that a program that has been unwanted for four years by the officials charged with keeping the country safe is one that should be expeditiously removed from all future funding considerations.

Thus, we urge you to vote against any funding for the F136 Alternative Engine Program and look forward to working with you to end the wasteful earmark process as a whole.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Corrao
Executive Director
Center for Fiscal Accountability

Cc: All Members of the United States House of Representatives

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