

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 4, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader,

We share your commitment to addressing the needs of our veterans, service members, and their families, while protecting the interests of hard working American taxpayers. As we have said from the beginning, we will support a clean Military Construction, Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs conference report, as long as it is not used as a vehicle for a pork-laden omnibus.

Therefore, we hereby reiterate our support for a conference if, and only if, it is limited to producing a military construction and veterans spending conference report and a potentially a clean continuing resolution for the remaining unfunded appropriation bills to ensure the uninterrupted operations of the Federal government.

Additionally, with respect to the military construction and veterans spending legislation –

1. Each spending provision or directive language in either the text of the final legislation or the statement of the managers must meet one of the following criteria –
 - a. it is authorized in current law, and the amount in the conference report does not exceed the authorized level;
 - b. it was requested in the President's Budget, and the amount in the conference report does not exceed the amount in the President's Budget;
 - c. it is listed on the Future Years Defense Plan and the amount in the conference report does not exceed the amount in the Future Years Defense Plan.
2. Each spending item contained in the conference report must be contained in either the House or Senate bills and must not exceed the higher of the two amounts for that specific provision.
3. The total spending level in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill shall not exceed the current 302(b) allocations.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to do the right thing for American taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signatures in blue ink: Jim DeMint, Tom L. Coleman, and Jim Wolfe.