

Dear Representative:

During consideration of H.R. 8774, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025, there are several amendments that directly affect taxpayer interests. Taxpayers for Common Sense is committed to defending the interests of taxpayers and ensuring appropriate oversight of federal spending. Unfortunately, two amendments made in order by the Rules Committee run counter to the interests of taxpayers and detract from government accountability.

**We recommend a vote against** the following amendments:

- **Amendment #164** by Rep. Tenney (R-NY) would prohibit funding to finalize, implement, or enforce the FAR Council's proposed “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk” rule. Climate change poses serious national security risks, particularly to military installations and to the Pentagon contractors and their supply chains that the military depends on. This rule would enhance the Pentagon’s ability to make acquisition decisions based on climate-related financial risks and threats to critical supply chains. Blocking the proposed rule would needlessly keep the Pentagon in the dark as to the many climate-related risks facing the defense industry. Using the Pentagon’s purchasing power to mitigate climate-related risks to the defense industrial base is just common sense.<sup>1</sup>
- **Amendment #71** by Rep. James (R-MI) would prohibit funds from being used to retire any fighter aircraft in the inventory of the regular or reserve components of the Air Force (including Air Force Reserve & Air National Guard) until the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits a fighter recapitalization plan. Prohibiting the Pentagon from retiring aircraft that it deems unnecessary for national defense puts unnecessary strain on the Pentagon’s ability to fully fund its key priorities and achieve its missions. Prohibitions on retirements of aging weapons systems are often proposed for parochial reasons, having nothing to do with national defense. The Pentagon should be afforded the flexibility to retire systems that no longer serve its needs without interference from lawmakers motivated by parochial politics.

Should you have any questions about our recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me or our policy analyst Gabe Murphy at [gabe@taxpayer.net](mailto:gabe@taxpayer.net). Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

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<sup>1</sup> “Five Fast Facts about Government Purchasing and Climate Impacts & Risks,” Taxpayers for Common Sense, Oct. 25, 2023, <https://www.taxpayer.net/climate/five-fast-facts-about-government-purchasing-and-climate-impacts-risks/>

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis

President