



News From:  
**U.S. Congressman John B. Larson**  
serving Connecticut's First District  
1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106

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## **DEFENSE SPENDING BILL CONTAINS BILLIONS FOR CONNECTICUT**

WASHINGTON, D.C.- The U.S. House of Representatives is expected take up the final conference report for the defense spending bill for Fiscal Year 2005 today, containing \$417 billion in funding for national defense programs and operations. The bill includes billions in funding for systems manufactured in Connecticut including the F/A-22 Raptor, the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) the C-17 aircraft, Black Hawk helicopters and new Virginia-Class submarines. The conference report for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 4613, is expected to be passed later this evening, and will then move to the President for his signature.

◆Connecticut's major defense priorities are fully funded in this conference report,◆ said Larson. ◆This measure meets our national security needs and is great news for the state. Connecticut's defense industry and workforce continue to play a vital role in arming and equipping our military. I am especially pleased that critical next-generation systems such as the F/A-22 and the JSF received such strong support in this measure.◆

The bill includes:

◆ \$3.6 billion for the F/A-22 Raptor - 22 aircraft

◆ \$2.7 billion for the C-17 - 15 aircraft

◆ \$4.4 billion for the Joint Strike Fighter

◆ \$343 million for the Black Hawk

◆ \$469 million for Submarine Conversion

◆ \$1.6 billion for next Virginia Class Submarine

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*Larson Serves on the House Armed Services Committee*