

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 3, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chair, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

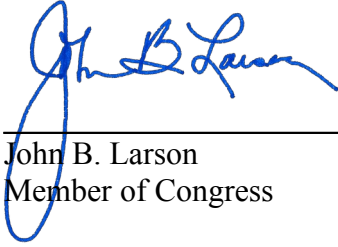
As you work toward finalizing the Fiscal Year 2022 defense appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to stand firm on the House position and fund \$7M in RDT&E, Navy, R-1 Line 101, PE 0304240M, Advanced Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System for “K-MAX Unmanned Logistics System”. The Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee report does not include funding for this important initiative.

The lack of autonomous logistics systems to support distributed forces has been characterized as the Marine Corps’ “Achilles’ heel.” During a Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H. Berger said in response to a question from Senator Tammy Duckworth, “We have to move very quickly to develop and field the unmanned surface vessels and unmanned aerial systems that will move those supplies. Because we'll never get there if we rely only on manned systems. And we have a lot of learning to do there. We have a lot of experimentation to do there. But if there's one area I'd ask for support there, that would be it.” The \$7M in the House bill answers the Commandant’s call to accelerate development of such systems to meet new operating needs. Funds will allow for operational demonstrations in support of real-world training, exercises, and experimentation in support of warfighting concepts in the Indo-Pacific region and will capitalize on opportunities for evolutionary spiral development.

Furthermore, this development effort has dual-use benefit as it addresses an urgent firefighting need to deliver precision, unmanned water drops day or night, saving lives, property, and forests. Similar dual-use benefits would accrue to the future use of unmanned K-MAX for heavy-lift operations to transport supplies, remove debris, reinstall power-line poles, and perform other tasks during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

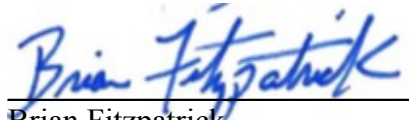
Thank you for your inclusion of funds for this important purpose in the House bill, for your consideration of this request, and for your committee and subcommittee leadership.

Sincerely,



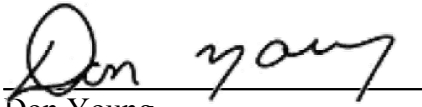
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



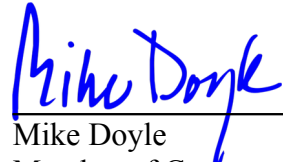
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Don Young  
Member of Congress



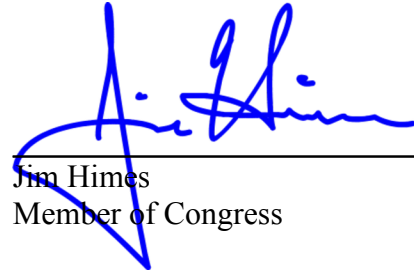
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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress