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October 30, 2023

Dear Representative:

The United States holds a unique position in the geopolitical landscape as a nation committed to safeguarding democracy and freedom worldwide. To fulfill this role effectively, maintaining a robust defense infrastructure is imperative. One often-overlooked but crucial aspect of this infrastructure is the domestic manufacturing of defense equipment. There are several compelling reasons why the U.S. should produce all its defense equipment within its borders.

On behalf of the over 1 million Union Veterans, I write urging you to sign on to a letter (Attached) in support of language in the House-passed Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would strengthen domestic content Requirements for major defense programs.

Producing defense equipment in the U.S. has positive economic ramifications, including the generation of jobs for American veterans. The skills and discipline veterans acquire during their service are highly transferable to various sectors involved in defense manufacturing. By prioritizing domestic production, the United States can provide stable and well-paying employment opportunities to those who have served the country, thereby aiding in their transition to civilian life.


This language, Section 869 of H.R. 2670, would increase domestic content preferences for major defense programs from 55 percent to 75 percent. As COVID-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and other geopolitical crises of recent years have laid bare, unreliable supply chains put our national and economic security at risk. This common-sense change will bolster supply chains critical to our national defense by working to ensure more of our security needs are met by domestic producers.

The foremost consideration is that of national security. Relying on foreign entities for critical defense equipment creates a strategic vulnerability. In times of conflict, supply chains could be compromised, leading to crippling shortages. Domestic manufacturing allows for greater control over the entire supply chain, ensuring consistent and timely availability of essential defense materials.

As veterans, we understand that there are straight in numbers; we ask you to join Congressman Norcross as a co-signer to his bipartisan letter to help strengthen domestic content requirement for major defense programs.

To sign on, please contact Michael Goggin in Congressman Norcross's office at Michael.goggin@mail.house.gov. For more information, please contact the Executive Director of the Union Veterans Council, Will Attig, at Wattig@unionveterans.org

Respectfully,

Will Attig 
Executive Director
Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO