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

August 18, 1988

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The Tolmach Family

Oxnard, CA 93030

Dear Friends:

As the Second Session of the 100th Congress nears its end, the important business of authorizing next year's defense program is still pending. As you may know, Congress passed a distressingly flawed defense authorization bill. I voted against this irresponsible measure and President Reagan, a consistent supporter of a strong defense, vetoed it. Because of the veto, the defense bill was returned to the Armed Services Committee for redrafting, hopefully into a form more akin to the President's balanced original proposal. Investment in real national security is the insurance we pay for our freedoms.

Further defense cuts, proposed by some, are very dangerous to both the nation and local communities. While we need to eliminate the deficit and balance the federal budget, this should not be done at the expense of national security and local jobs. The defense budget did not create the deficit. In fact, for every two dollars spent on domestic and other federal programs, only one goes toward defense. Over the past four years defense spending has "grown" negatively, -4.2%, -3.3%, -2.9%, and -1%. While the Soviet Union spends about 50% of its budget on defense, we spend only 28%. And, only about a quarter of that is for the purchase of weapons. Despite these reductions in American defense, the threats to our nation's security have increased. Of course, we must continue to eliminate waste, fraud, and mismanagement in our defense program.

Defense related industries provide over 60,000 jobs to the 19th Congressional district. Local military bases, namely Vandenberg AFB, Port Hueneme and Point Mugu, add some \$3 billion to local economies. A weaker defense means fewer jobs. We cannot afford to lose defense contracts for local firms. We've worked too hard to bring them here.

By supporting President Reagan's defense program, I've been responsibly helping secure our nation's borders and our district's economic welfare. These efforts clearly benefit our part of California and our country as a whole. As the House will soon have another opportunity to vote on a revised defense package, I would very much appreciate any thoughts you may have on this important issue.

Sincerely,



ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO  
Member of Congress