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California State Senate



SENATOR GEORGE RUNNER
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton, Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Skelton,

The proposal to "in-source" many of the contract services at our military bases presents many problems for many of my constituents, as well as many others throughout our nation.

As the state Senator representing many contract firefighters, police and other public safety employees at both U.S.A.F Plant 42 and Edwards Air Force Base, I am very concerned that such a change will cause great impact on dedicated heroes who have risked their lives to protect the public and our military service personnel.

A major challenge facing these first responders is the age limit and requirements that will prevent them from even requesting a transition to civil service.

At a time when the local unemployment numbers are 6.5 percent higher than the national average, the challenges related to dismissing such firefighters after years of risking their lives presents issues of both fairness and public perception.

Please examine this move carefully and if it is to go forward there needs to be a transition period that will allow the firefighters, police and other existing contract employees at Plant 42, Edwards AFB and throughout the defense department to finish their careers with professionalism & dignity. Fairness to these dedicated professionals should be a top priority.

A lack of action in this matter will result in even higher unemployment, lost homes & displaced families. Thank you very much for your time and consideration to this and our many other matters of national concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Runner".

GEORGE RUNNER
Senator 17th District

Cc: Hon. Buck McKeon, Representative