



GENERAL COUNSEL

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1600

APR - 1 2002

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Department of Defense proposes the enclosed bill, Repeal of Various Reports Required of the Department of Defense, as part of its legislative program for the Second Session of the 107th Congress, and we urge its enactment. The legislation supports our continuing effort to streamline the management of the Department of Defense.

The Department has carefully examined the numerous recurring reporting requirements throughout title 10, United States Code, and in various Department of Defense authorization bills. We are also looking at reporting requirements required by other provisions of law and will forward legislation relating to those provisions at a later date. In Fiscal Year 2001, various laws required the Department to prepare 449 recurring reports to Congress, of which 338 were in title 10. Also, stand-alone provisions included in various annual appropriations or authorization laws required 534 one-time reports.

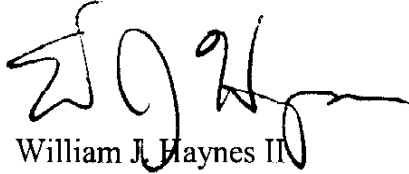
Each reporting requirement may have some historical significance or may be the product of a one-time issue that triggered Congressional oversight. Many of the reasons for these requirements no longer are relevant. Many other reporting requirements are redundant or otherwise unnecessary. The cumulative effect of the many required reports, however, is highly burdensome. This proposal is a first step in cleaning out the unnecessary and obsolete provisions of law in title 10. The enactment of this request for trimming down these reports will facilitate our continued efforts to manage the Department efficiently.

Our focus in preparing this legislation was to initiate a process that will reach a level of reporting that reflects the trust we believe exists between the Congress and the Department. We want to continue our close relationship and build on this trust by remaining responsive to Congressional requests and questions about our activities while removing burdensome and unnecessary reporting requirements.



The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection the presentation of this legislation to the Congress, and that its enactment would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WJ Haynes II', written in a cursive style.

William J. Haynes II

Enclosure:
As Stated.