

Dear Mr. Danilow:

Thank you for contacting me about funding levels for defense spending. I have always advocated for adequate pay and benefits for our servicemembers, who risk their lives to protect our country, and the families who support them. We must also provide predictability to our industrial base.

Our nation is at a critical juncture. The meat-cleaver cuts, known as the sequester, have done real damage to people's everyday lives. They have also hurt the growth of our economy and the safety of American citizens.

It is crucial that our defense spending accomplishes the following objectives:

- * Ensure adequate pay and benefits for our service members
- * Ensure a strong, ready military force
- * Ensure that our military has the training, equipment and support they need
- * Eliminate waste and redundant programs
- * Reduce our nation's debt

In addition, the Defense and Aerospace industries have significant roles in Florida's economy, making up more than seven percent of GDP and employing tens of thousands in our State. We must continue to make investments in research and development, and carefully consider any cuts to defense spending so that we preserve our military superiority and defense industrial base.

You can be assured that I will continue to work with my colleagues to produce defense spending bills that reflect the values and priorities of Florida and the nation. I appreciate your taking the time to share your views with me. If you have any other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,
Bill Nelson