



Jim Nussle
President & CEO

Phone: 202-508-6745
jnussle@cuna.coop

99 M Street SE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20003-3799

April 29, 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Reed, and Ranking Member Thornberry:

On behalf of America's credit unions, I am writing regarding the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2020. The Credit Union National Association represents America's credit unions and their 115 million members.

Through years of discussion with the Department of Defense (DoD) and amendment of the Federal Credit Union Act in 1996, DoD has the discretionary authority to waive the cost for credit union land leases as well as administrative and logistical fees provided that certain standards are met.

As the only member-owned, not-for-profit, democratically controlled option in financial services, credit unions' mission is to promote thrift and provide access to credit for members. It is a mission they have fulfilled for more than 70 years and it's a mission that remains unchanged today. Credit unions are focused on ensuring the financial readiness of our service members and their families.

During consideration of the NDAA last Congress, an amendment was proposed under the guise of parity, requiring DoD to allow banks rent-free access to military installations. Through the efforts of credit unions and Members of Congress, both expressing concern over the amendment, the language was ultimately rejected.

CUNA and its members would be concerned with the inclusion of any similar language in the FY 2020 NDAA that would go beyond DoD's current authority in regard to exemptions from the costs related to leases, utilities, and services on military bases for financial institutions or other more complex profit-centered entities.

On behalf of America's credit unions, thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nussle".

Jim Nussle
President & CEO