

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

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
The Capitol, Room H-405  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
1205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

Thank you for your work to craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Defense Appropriations Act. As you consider vital Navy programs, we ask that you increase the Research Development Testing and Evaluations (RDT&E) account by \$21 million above the President's Budget Request, to develop the MQ-9 MUX prototype. We appreciate your support of this program.

As you know, the USMC has a requirement for a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Expeditionary (MUX) program. The current effort needs to progress from a single sea-based program to a family of UAS with ISR, payload, and expeditionary capabilities, for which the MQ-9 aircraft may fulfill the requirements.

The FY20 budget included a planned investment of approximately \$125 million for the following year in order to have an operational MUX capability by FY26. The President's Budget Request for FY21 included \$22.5 million for USMC Advanced Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System research, but that falls short of the necessary goals for national defense. Additional funding in the FY21 budget package is needed to fill this mission critical capability.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Your inclusion of the additional funding during this appropriations process ensures American servicemembers have the tools needed to succeed.

Sincerely,



Rep. Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul Cook  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Rep. Rob Wittman

Rep. Jack Bergman

Rep. Ruben Gallego

Rep. Sam Graves