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May 23, 2012

Honorable Carl Levin, Chair
Senate Armed Services Committee
Room SR-228, Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

RE: Support Alternative Fuels in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013

Dear Senator Levin,

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **strike Section 314 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 (H.R. 4310)**, which prohibits the Department of Defense from producing or purchasing alternative fuels if they are more expensive than traditional fossil fuels.

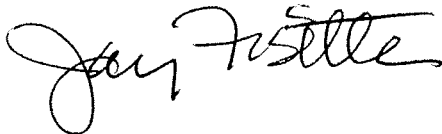
Supporting the development of domestically-produced alternative fuels is essential to promoting our national security. Using non-petroleum fuels would protect the Defense Department from price fluctuations and curtail its dependence on politically unstable regions for its critical energy needs.

The current price of alternative fuels should not deter investment in their development and procurement. These activities, at a large scale, will bring prices down and make clean energy more accessible to government and private uses.

We urge you to **amend H.R. 4310** to allow the Department of Defense to explore alternative fuel options. Developing America's alternative fuel resources is critical to ensure a clean, and secure energy supply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Jay Fisette, Chair
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

CC: Senate Armed Services Committee

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