

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
May 23, 2025

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to respectfully request your support for \$27 million for the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Humanitarian Demining Research and Development (HD R&D) Program, implemented by the U.S. Army. The HD R&D Program develops, tests, and validates technology and equipment used to detect and clear landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The program allows for new equipment and technology to undergo in- country field evaluations that provides the DoD with invaluable evaluation report data, which directly translates to improved military countermine and explosive ordnance disposal capabilities, while also benefiting the affected host country through operational humanitarian demining field evaluations. Through DoD's HD R&D Program and its partnerships in over 44 host nations, efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars have achieved demining capability breakthroughs for the U.S. warfighter and recovering, post-conflict nations.

Through prototype testing in real field conditions in partnership with the Department of State's humanitarian demining programs, the DoD's Humanitarian Demining R&D Program aims to improve existing commercial technologies and equipment currently used by the DoD. During field evaluations, operators provide feedback on the functionality and effectiveness of the equipment. This allows HD R&D staff to modify and improve the equipment and increase the United States' technical capacity to respond to explosive threats.

The HD R&D Program generates three specific lines of effort. First, the field evaluation cycle collects enormous amounts of data helping to improve detection technologies used by our soldiers. Second, successfully trialed equipment is used to train and equip explosive disposal units of allied militaries. By equipping partner militaries to handle their own explosive threats, U.S. soldiers are more likely to remain out of harm's way. Third, HD R&D equipment amplifies taxpayer value by increasing the amount of clearance performed on DoS projects without increasing costs.

The HD R&D Program has a track record of success, having performed over 290 operational field evaluations in 44 countries since 1995. The program is responsible for developing advanced technology for the Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System, which combines metal detection with ground penetrating radar and has saved one implementing partner roughly \$52 million since 2007 due to the efficiencies created and approximately \$4.3 million in 2024 alone. The use of the TRAXX/T800, built to cut through hard-to-see tripwires and lift mines from soil saved an implementing partner more than \$3.6 million in efficiencies in Ukraine in 2024 – completing in 1,522 workdays what would have taken 11,537 days with traditional equipment. Overall, HD

R&D equipment has been used to clear more than 27,675 acres of land, and to destroy more than 420,000 mines and UXO. As you know, the HD R&D Program receives funding from **Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army / Program Element 0603920A**.

Thanks to strong bipartisan support, Congress provided \$23.068 million for the HD R&D Program in Fiscal Year 2024, which the program will also receive during the current fiscal year in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2025 Continuing Resolution. Notably, the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee allocated \$25 million to this program in their original Fiscal Year 2025 draft report.

Increased funding is essential to maximize savings in the NSRP budget and support the purchase and evaluation of unfunded new technologies, potentially including the long-distance drone with multispectral and Lidar sensors in Angola, specialized armored excavators for working on slopes in Cambodia, remote controlled systems for John Deere machines in Ukraine, or Minelab GPZ7000 detectors in Sri Lanka.

We urge the committee to support funding at a level of \$27 million in Fiscal Year 2026 for HD R&D.

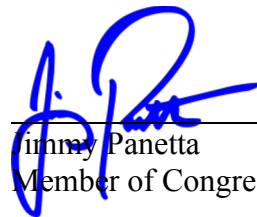
This additional funding will improve the ability of U.S. soldiers and our allies to safely detect and clear landmines, UXO, and IEDs, as well as protect civilian lives. This funding is especially important as new conflicts uncover previously unknown and challenging threats in Ukraine, and across the Middle East and Asia.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process to save many military and civilian lives.


Sincerely,



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



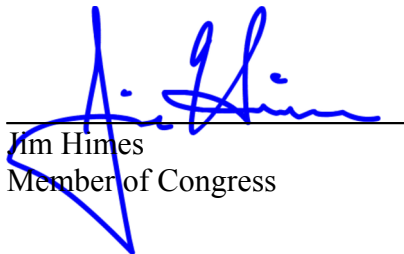
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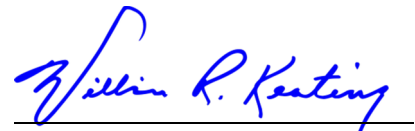
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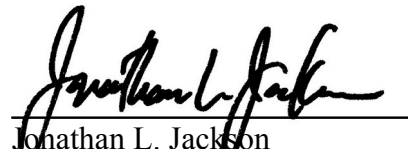
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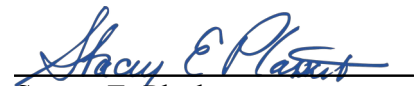
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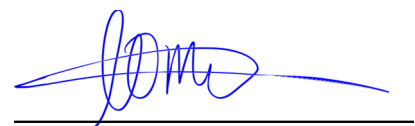
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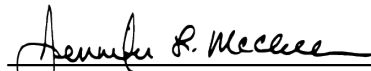
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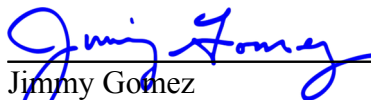
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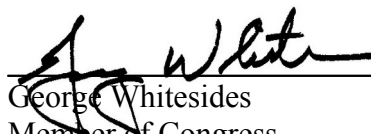
Diana DeGette
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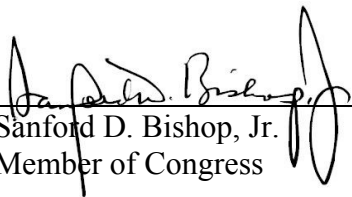
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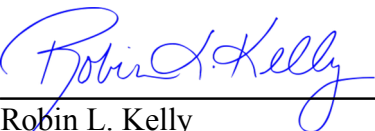
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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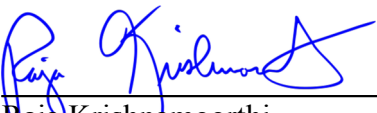
Lori Trahan
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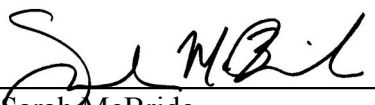
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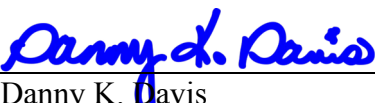
Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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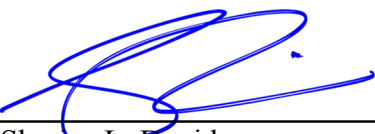
Josh Gottheimer
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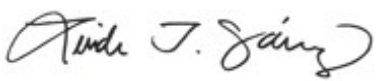
Danny K. Davis
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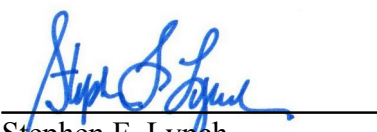
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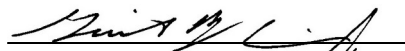
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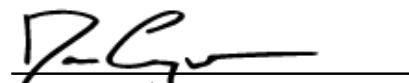
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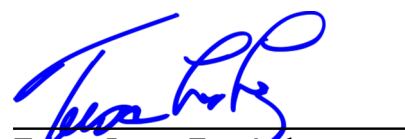
Lloyd Doggett
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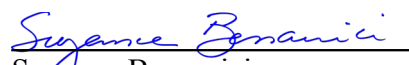
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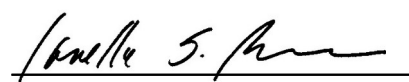
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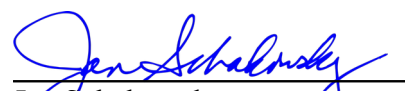
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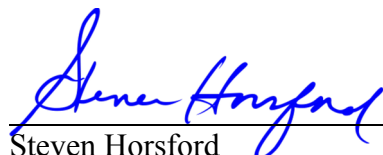



Pat Fallon
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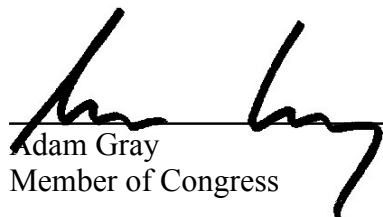



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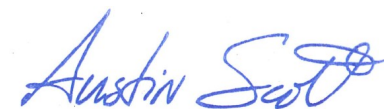

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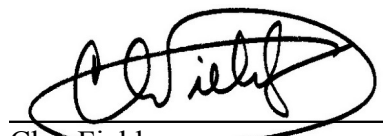

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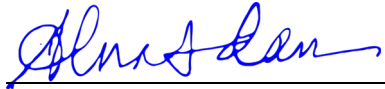
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