



For Immediate Release

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Nye and Wittman Lead Multi-State Effort to Block Carrier Move

Eighteen Representatives from Across the Country Send Letter to Navy Secretary

Washington, DC – The effort to prevent the Navy from moving a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier out of Norfolk went to a new level this week. On Tuesday, eighteen Representatives led by Congressmen Glenn Nye (VA-02) and Rob Wittman (VA-01) penned a letter to Acting Secretary of the Navy BJ Penn stating their intent to “oppose any request for funds in the 2010 budget” to move a carrier to Mayport, Florida.

Nye and Wittman have been working closely as fellow House Armed Services Committee members to stop the proposed move, which would cost up to \$1 billion in construction and personnel expenses.

Going further than previous efforts to block the carrier move, the joint letter reached out across both party and state lines to include five Republicans and thirteen Democrats from as far away as Washington State, New Mexico, Louisiana and New York.

Congressman Glenn Nye (VA-02) said: **“This is not a Virginia versus Florida issue; this is a question of spending our military dollars wisely at a time when budgets are already stretched thin. Members of Congress from both parties, all across the country, have recognized that it makes no sense to spend a billion dollars to outfit a redundant port facility on the East Coast. From his comments on Tuesday, it’s clear that Secretary Gates understands the need to curtail unnecessary spending, and there’s no better example of an unnecessary project than moving a carrier out of Norfolk.”**

Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-01) said: **“I am deeply concerned by the Navy’s decision to shift the homeporting of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier from Norfolk, VA to Mayport, FL. In fiscal year 2009 the Navy reported unfunded requirements in excess of \$4.5B. Building duplicative infrastructure in the current fiscal environment does not make budgetary or strategic sense, especially given the Secretary of Defense’s budget cuts for fiscal year 2010. Additionally, the former Secretary of the Navy and the combatant commander for SOUTHCOM have stated that a big deck amphibious vessel is more in line with the mission requirements of 4th Fleet’s Area of Responsibility. I hope that this bipartisan letter will encourage the President to reexamine this decision as Administration Officials promised during Senate confirmation hearings.”**

The letter to Secretary Penn was signed by Representatives Glenn Nye (D-VA-02), Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), Rob Wittman (R-VA-02), Bobby Scott (D-VA-03), Jim Moran (D-VA-08), Eric Massa (D-NY-29), Joe Courtney (D-CT-02), Rick Larsen (D-WA-02), Frank Wolf (R-VA-10), Rick Boucher (D-VA-09), Bob

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Goodlatte (R-VA-06), Zack Space (D-OH-18), Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11), John Fleming (R-LA-04), Martin Heinrich (D-NM-01), Frank Kratovil (D-MD-01), Walt Minnick (D-ID-01), and Tom Perriello (D-VA-05).

The full text of the letter can be found online at:

<http://www.nye.house.gov/?sectionid=24&parentid=23§iontree=23,24&itemid=144>

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations.

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