



**ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

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General Gordon R. Sullivan  
United States Army (Ret.)  
President

February 9, 2011

On behalf of the more than 100,000 members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to urge you to complete action on 2011 Defense Appropriations legislation immediately. Now is the time for action – not words.

In a time of war, expeditious completion of defense funding legislation is absolutely essential. Our Army in the field needs timely access to appropriate funding. Failure to pass a spending bill creates the possibility of funding the Department of Defense under a year-long continuing resolution instead.

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said that the budget request for fiscal 2011 was \$549 billion, and the continuing resolution would come in at \$526 billion. That would represent a \$23 billion cut in the defense budget in the current fiscal year. “It’s the worst of all possible kinds of reductions, in significant measure because it comes halfway through the fiscal year,” Secretary Gates said.

I ask that you focus your considerable energies solely on completing a bill that will provide an uninterrupted stream of funds and will be ready for signature by the President before March 4th.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN  
General, USA Retired

