

Log 002

Amendment Offered by Mr. Byrne of Alabama

H.R. 4435—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

To strike directive report language entitled “Littoral Combat Ship” and insert the following:

Littoral Combat Ship

The committee is concerned about the survivability, lethality and endurance of the Navy’s Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), as noted by the Government Accountability Office and others. In February 2014, after reviewing preliminary assessments and evaluations of the LCS, the Secretary of Defense reduced the total number of LCS seaframes to 32 from the planned procurement of 52 and also directed the Navy to submit alternate proposals to procure “a capable and lethal small surface combatant generally consistent with the capabilities of a frigate.” The Secretary noted the importance of not only presence but capability and power projection as the foundation of the Navy’s effectiveness and directed the Navy to study options to include a completely new design, existing ship designs (including the LCS), and a modified LCS. The Chief of Naval Operations has directed a Small Surface Combatant Task Force to report on these results by July 31, 2014.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report to the congressional defense committees by April 1, 2015, that examines the Department of the Navy’s study and its implications for the procurement of future small surface combatants. This report should assess:

1. The study’s methodologies and key assumptions;
2. Any alternate ship design(s) and modifications to the Littoral Combat Ship that the Navy evaluated, including expectations of cost, schedule, and requirements; and
3. The extent to which the study was consistent with the approach of a formal analysis of alternatives, as set forth in the Department of Defense acquisition policy.