

POLICY BRIEF

H.R. 3108 (PETERS) THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENERGY SECURITY ACT (DODESA)

POSITION

The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT H.R. 3108 on September 24, 2015.

STATUS: H.R. 3108 was introduced by Congressman Scott Peters on July 16, 2015. It was assigned to the House Committee on Armed Services and is awaiting a hearing.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3108 would strengthen American energy security by improving the military's battlefield effectiveness through increased investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy technology.

Specifically, it would:

- Leverage private-sector funding to increase efficiency of mobile assets such as ships and deployable equipment
- Streamline efforts across service branches by establishing a central database for energy projects
- Continue research and funding for more fuel efficient tactical vehicles
- Authorize investments in infrastructure on military installations for alternative fuel vehicles
- Enable base commanders and energy managers to reinvest savings realized from smart energy programs back into bases

ANALYSIS

As the largest institutional consumer of energy in the world, the military has prioritized the identification of improved energy efficiency measures. Spawned by wartime experiences including the over 3,000 men and women in uniform who have been killed or wounded in attacks on fuel convoys, it is important that the military focus on ways to ensure safety by eliminating vulnerability.

Overview:

H.R. 3108, the Department of Defense Energy Security Act (DODESA) seeks to reduce the military's fossil fuel consumption and advance energy efficiency policies such as more fuel-efficient vehicles and portable energy generation systems.

Since 9/11, over 3,000 men and women in uniform have died as part of fuel convoys, representing the need for investigations of alternative energy that do not put our service members in such vulnerable positions when deployed.

As the largest consumer of energy, the military should be investigating ways to decrease the cost to taxpayers while still maintaining the safety of their men and women.

DODESA has been presented in previous years and considered as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), however has yet to find enough traction to successfully be passed into law. However, as passage of the NDAA becomes more unlikely in light of budget stalling, it is important to provide the military with the authority to identify ways to diversify energy sources and increase fuel efficiency. Especially when considering the immense energy cost of providing power to military installations domestically, this legislation could result in cost-savings for tax payers in the long run.