

May 21, 2012

Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
722 Hart Building
Washington, DC, 20510

RE: FY 2013 Formerly Used Defense Sites Budget Request

Dear Senator Inouye:

The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) respectfully requests that the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense carefully review and reconsider the FY 2013 Budget Request for the Department of Defense (DOD) program dedicated to restoring contaminated Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS Program). The FY 2013 Budget Request of \$237M is a significant reduction from previous appropriations for the FUDS Program; it is 28% less than the FY 2012 appropriation of \$327M and 25% less than the \$317M appropriated in FY 2011.

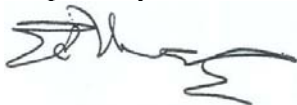
ASTSWMO is the national association representing State experts in solid and hazardous waste management. ASTSWMO's members are responsible for, among other things, oversight of the assessment and remediation of both public and privately owned contaminated lands.

DOD is responsible for environmental remediation of sites contaminated during its use and subsequently transferred to new owners, such as individuals and local governments. There are more than 2,700 contaminated properties in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the five Territories. FUDS properties include residential developments, urban redevelopments (Brownfields) and public recreational spaces. Contaminants include hazardous substances such as PCBs, chlorinated solvents and petroleum. Many FUDS are former military munitions sites with unexploded ordinances that have proved to be particularly hazardous in residential developments.

Protection of public health is of paramount importance, particularly at those sites where children may be exposed to unexploded ordinances. However, there is also an economic burden for States and communities where these potentially valuable properties lie fallow and off the tax rolls. Redevelopment would produce revenue and jobs – that is a legacy that DOD could be proud of. But without the funding necessary to clean up the contamination that was left behind, its legacy will be one of neglect and burden on the citizens it strives to protect.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 406-444-6748 or ASTSWMO Executive Director, Mary Zdanowicz at 202-624-5351 if you need any additional information or would like to discuss this further.

Respectfully,



Ed Thamke (MT)
President