City of Somerville
Massachusetts
Agenda Item
203701

Approved
Jun 22, 2017 7:00 PM

Requesting to shift funds in the US federal budget from military spending to job creation and social and environmental needs.

Information
Department: Board of Aldermen
Sponsors: Ward Five Alderman Mark Niedergang,
Ward Seven
Katjana Ballantyne, Ward Six
Alderman Lance L. Davis
Alderman At Large William A. White Jr.
Category: Resolution Purposes: Resolution

Links
Link 204235 : US Senator Markey responding to #203701 re: moving federal spending from the military to infrastructure, social, and environmental needs.

Attachments
1. Resolution to shift federal funds

Official Text

WHEREAS: President Trump has proposed to move $54 billion from social and environmental spending at home and abroad to military spending, bringing military spending to well over 60% of federal discretionary spending; and

WHEREAS: Part of helping alleviate the refugee crisis should be ending, not escalating, wars that create refugees; and

WHEREAS: President Trump himself has stated that the enormous military spending of the past 16 years has been disastrous and made us less safe, not safer; and

WHEREAS: A fraction of the proposed military budget could provide enormous increases in jobs to rebuild our decaying infrastructure and to fund social and environmental programs at home, directly and indirectly benefitting millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS: 121 retired U.S. generals have written a letter opposing cutting foreign aid; and

WHEREAS: A United States that provided clean drinking water, schools, medicine and solar panels to needy people in other countries, would be more secure and face far less hostility around the world; and

WHEREAS: Our environmental and social needs are desperate and urgent; and
WHEREAS: The U.S. military is itself the greatest consumer of petroleum in the world; and

WHEREAS: Economists at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst have documented that military spending is an economic drain rather than a jobs program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Somerville Board of Aldermen urges the United States Congress to move our tax dollars in exactly the opposite direction proposed by the President -- from military spending to jobs that rebuild our infrastructure and for social and environmental needs.

Meeting History
Jun 22, 2017 7:00 PM Video Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting
RESULT: APPROVED