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February 28, 2011

Representative Albio Sires
35 Journal Square, Suite 906
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dear Representative Sires:

As we approach the 8th anniversary of the war in Iraq, and the 10th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan, it becomes increasingly apparent that too much money has been spent on these efforts. In poll after poll, the majority of Americans questioned want these pointless wars to cease. As of this writing, we have spent \$1.16 Trillion (\$1,160,234,200,000) on these war campaigns since 2001. One August 2010 poll, conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, indicated that close to a majority of Americans understand that our economic woes are tied to our excessive military spending. NJPA wants to give the people of your congressional district the opportunity to receive benefits from the \$425 Million; at least 25% of the \$1.7 Billion allocated for your district 2011.

The Nation's financial crisis has led to an increase in state expenditures, and deep cuts in community programs. The actions of the people of Wisconsin are not confined; people across the nation and in New Jersey are beginning to react to the challenges presented by the 2011 budget for the Department of Defense (DOD).

The budget for Fiscal Year 2011 proposes to take \$1.7 Billion from your congressional district and grant it to the DOD.

NJPA and the New Priorities Network (newprioritiesnetwork.org) propose that the DOD budget be cut by 25%, in order to provide funds for valuable community programs. Earlier this month, Governor Chris Christie proposed that the state cut public school aid by \$475 million, college aid by \$62 million, and hospital aid by \$12.6 million. It is no secret that the state of New Jersey is in desperate need of teachers, our students need financial aid for college, and our veterans and low income families need healthcare aid. And the DOD budget is a perfect place to get it.

In our "Move the Money" campaign, we propose that the DOD budget be cut and that money moved to where we need it; the community. We ask you to support or introduce legislation that will decrease the military budget, and increase the benefits for the people in your community who are suffering. **We also ask that you support all efforts to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

The attached fact sheet describes the proposed DOD budget for Fiscal Year 2011, and the implications of the budget on your district. We have also included a list of "trade-offs", which display the ways in which moving the money can benefit the community. The money proposed for the defense budget can be used to hire school teachers, provide healthcare aid for low-income families and veterans, and help students pay for college.

New Jersey Peace Action will be asking its members and friends to contact you in order to discuss the "Move the Money" initiative. We ask that you do whatever you can to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Hoffman
Executive Director, NJ Peace Action

Ashley Cronk
Student Intern for Lobbying