



Air Force Association

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An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

Michael M. Dunn
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

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Senator Tom Udall
110 Hart Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

The Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 120,000 current and former Airmen and their families, is writing to express support for S. 1798, the Open Burn Pit Registry Act of 2011.

Because our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have a plethora of health problems possibly linked to the extensive use of open air burn pits, the AFA believes it is necessary to keep record of those with such health issues.

Although a recent Institute of Medicine report sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded there is not yet enough data to prove a link between burn pits and long-term health consequences, the report did suggest particulate matter appears to be a cause of respiratory problems.

Therefore, AFA strongly believes getting ahead of this issue is extremely important. A registry will ensure that should science prove proximity to open air burn pits is the cause of servicemember ailments, we will be able to quickly give care and benefits to those who deserve it.

AFA will not silently stand by for 30-40 years while another possible Agent Orange situation develops. Thank you for sponsoring this bill so we can get this right.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Dunn
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO