

Coburn Amendment 3004 – To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a searchable database on installation renewable energy projects

The Department of Defense (DOD) spent more than \$80 million on energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives in 2013 alone. These initiatives – far from a core mission of the department – are completely separate and distinct from any similar projects at the Department of Energy and other federal agencies.

Although DOD prepares an annual report on its energy programs with information such as its progress meeting facility energy and water goals, there is no transparency into its return on this investment with regard to cost or power generated by each individual project.

Without such data, taxpayers are unable to see if these projects being implemented at taxpayer expense are performing as envisioned. Moreover, no oversight review of the DOD's investments has been completed since a 2012 report by the Government Accountability Office. Without an accounting of how these projects are performing, the American taxpayers have no record of how effectively their tax dollars are being spent by the Department of Defense.

This amendment would rectify this situation by requiring the Secretary of Defense to establish a searchable database to uniformly report information regarding installation renewable energy projects undertaken since 2010.

This report would include information on project costs, estimated power generation, cost savings to date, and operational status. Furthermore, it would require both the estimated and actual figures for these elements, which will allow the American public to see if these initiatives are performing as intended, or if they are failing.

The Department of Defense cannot continue to spend taxpayer dollars on renewable energy projects without any accounting of how effectively these dollars are being spent. This simple amendment would bring transparency to initiatives that cost tens of millions of dollars every year.