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## U.S. House of Representatives

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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

March 17, 2008

Craig H. Close  
300 Front Street, Apartment 102  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Dear Craig:

Thank you for contacting me regarding disability benefits for Agent Orange exposure. I appreciate having the benefit of your views on this issue.

On August 16, 2006 in Jonathan L. Haas v. R. James Nicholson, No. 04-491 (U.S. Vet. App. August 16, 2006), the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruled that the VA could not preclude a veteran who served on a ship or in an aircraft from the presumption of exposure to the herbicide and defoliant referred to as Agent Orange. The VA is currently appealing this decision and oral arguments are scheduled to be heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on November 7, 2007. The VA has been granted a stay of relief by the Court, allowing them to hold processing of these claims until a decision is reached on the appeal.

I support the Veterans Court's initial ruling which would provide our veterans with the benefits that they have earned and deserve. I will continue to support legislation that would expand the eligibility for presumptive conditions to all veterans of the Vietnam War, regardless of where they served while there. Thank you again for expressing your concerns and for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER  
Chairman

KR/tc