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**FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION**

**YOUR MISSION • YOUR VOICE**

125 N. West Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22314-2754

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October 24, 2019

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 2332 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Fax: (202) 225-4977

Dear Congressman Courtney:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports your legislation, the "Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act" (H.R.566). This bill would remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide.

The current law requires that these veterans prove that the symptoms of these diseases developed within a year of exposure in order to receive presumptive status of service connection from the VA. These veterans served in Vietnam and where exposed to the toxic herbicide, Agent Orange and it is unreasonable to ask these veterans to prove their exposure. They served like all other Vietnam veterans and where exposed to the same toxins and their illness that developed as a result of their service should be treated the same.

The Association appreciates your dedication to active duty issues. The FRA point of contact is Brian Condon, Assistant Director of Veterans Programs, at [brianc@fra.org](mailto:brianc@fra.org).

Sincerely,



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Sincerely,

Christopher Slawinski  
National Executive Director

CS:bc:dt