

Rep. Hunter defends funding of plane

by UPI

WASHINGTON - A U.S. House committee is considering whether to keep funding an experimental aircraft built by a California company favored by Rep. Duncan Hunter.

DuPont Aerospace has received \$63 million to develop the DP-2 during the past 17 years, even though the Pentagon was cool to the design from the beginning, Copley News Service reported.

Hunter, R-Calif., defended his support for the DP-2 at a hearing of the House Science and Technology Committee's oversight subcommittee, calling it "potential leap-ahead technology." He headed the committee until the Democratic takeover of Congress and is now the ranking Republican member.

"The idea around here that if the Pentagon doesn't come up with something, that if the services don't like it, you're not going to build it, is ridiculous," he said.

Hunter received \$36,000 in campaign contributions from the LaJolla-based company.

Several aeronautics experts testified the aircraft has failed to meet its promises, with one engineer calling it "a pipe dream."

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