



NEWS

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Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld Applauded for Decision to Stay On

Much Work Is Left to Be Done in Pentagon "Competitive Sourcing"

WASHINGTON — Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist today expressed relief that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld would not be retiring in 2006, as was rumored. While media headlines surrounding the Pentagon are dominated by talk of the War on Terror, Rumsfeld's initial peacetime goal—procurement modernization and competitive sourcing—have yet to be fully-implemented.

Before the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Rumsfeld considered himself to be a peacetime reformer of an often-staid Pentagon bureaucracy. It was apparent to most outside observers that the federal government in general, and the Pentagon especially, was badly in need of private sector solutions.

"Rumsfeld has done a good job streamlining procurement and implementing competitive sourcing in the face of Congressional and bureaucratic hostility," said Norquist. **"It would be tragic for him to leave now before that modernization is complete."**

"Competitive sourcing" refers to allowing the private sector to offer more cost-effective alternatives for those commercial jobs performed by bureaucrats. Just like in the real world, the highest-value service receives the contract. Regardless of whether the government continues to perform the service or a private company takes over, cost savings are achieved in the process and taxpayers can breathe a little easier.

"The War on Terror has rightly demanded primary attention from Secretary Rumsfeld," continued Norquist. **"However, there ought to be two legacies for this Defense Secretary: a more stable world, and more taxpayer-friendly Pentagon."**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at cbutler@atr.org.

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