

Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

November 2003

BENS Successfully Defends Key Nonproliferation Program

BENS efforts have helped secure adequate, unburdened funding for the DoD's Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, a.k.a "Nunn Lugar" – one of the most effective weapons our country has in the effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

In July of this year, [BENS wrote](#) to members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, urging them to oppose three provisions present in the House version of the bill that would have placed oppressive restrictions upon the construction of a chemical weapons destruction facility in Shchuch'ye, Russia. All three of the provisions we opposed have been struck from the final bill – and the end language is strikingly similar to our suggestions:

	BENS Says	Congress Agrees
✓	Fully fund the President's request for Shchuch'ye – the House sought to transfer \$30 million away from the program.	Shchuch'ye will receive its full funding of \$200 million in FY '04.
✓	Clarify permit requirements – House language would have required Shchuch'ye (and all other CTR projects) to receive <i>all</i> necessary permits before more than 35 percent of the total funding could be obligated. But some permits are only granted when facilities are near completion!	The final language – as BENS suggested – requires only the construction related permits needed at start-up.
✓	Remove the "matching funds" clause - Shchuch'ye has enjoyed some of the best international contributions of any CTR project, yet the House bill would have held half its U.S. money as "matching funds" to force foreign spending. BENS opposed this clause as an unnecessary complication to a situation well in hand.	Shchuch'ye funding has been authorized free and clear of any "matching" restrictions.

The final defense bill also for the first time approves the use of \$50 million of CTR funds annually to meet proliferation threats outside the Soviet Union – an authority that BENS has supported for years.