

Washington, D.C. – A February House vote in support of an amendment sponsored by U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) to save taxpayers billions by striking funds for the extra engine for the F-35 joint strike fighter was named one of fourteen “Key House Votes of 2011” in [CQ Weekly’s Annual Report](#)

“The vote to strike funding for the extra engine sent a message early in 2011 that the old ways of doing business were over, and we were going to go after wasteful spending everywhere we found it,” Rooney said. “Killing this unnecessary program saved the taxpayers almost \$500 million last year alone, and billions more in the years to come.”

### [Key House Vote of 2011: Funding of F-35 Alternative Engine](#)

*Excerpts from CQ Weekly:*

Jan. 9, 2012

By John M. Donnelly, CQ Staff

“Reversing years of consistent support, the February vote marked the first time a chamber of Congress had opted to block funding for an alternative engine for the next-generation F-35 Joint Strike Fighter . . .

“ Every year, Congress backed the program, even during the four years starting in fiscal 2007 when the Pentagon and the White House urged Congress not to fund it. Both Presidents George W. Bush and [Barack Obama](#) felt the benefits of having two manufacturers were not as clear as advocates said and that spending the several billion dollars needed to finishing developing the second engine was not worth it . . .

“The House amendment by [Tom Rooney](#) , R-Fla., stripped \$450 million in research and development funds from a spending bill. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats supported Rooney. Republicans split, and the key to his victory was the fact that more than half the freshman Republicans backed ending the second-engine effort.

**“The vote on the Rooney amendment sent such a clear signal that the Pentagon did not even wait for that April vote before announcing in late March that it was terminating the GE program . . .”**

Read the full article here: <http://www.cq.com/doc/weeklyreport-4009193> .

###