



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON D.C. 20548

DO NOT MAKE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC READING
FOR 30 DAYS

B-221498.36

May 9, 1986

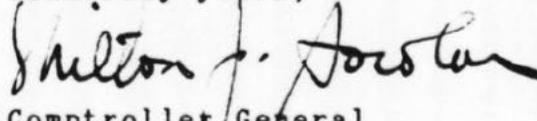
The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your April 10, 1986, request for comments on S. 2187, which would amend title II of Public Law 99-177 (the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) by adding certain veterans' benefit programs to the list of those exempt from reductions required by the Act.

Public Law 99-177 currently includes a number of exemptions, exceptions, limitations, and special rules to protect a number of specified accounts, in whole or in part, from the automatic reduction process. The drafters of the statute made case by case determinations as to which accounts should be included among the list of those exempted or protected, based upon factors relating to policy and equity. S. 2187 would expand that list to cover the additional programs described therein. The need for such an amendment, in our view, is a policy determination best left to the judgment of the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

for 
Comptroller General
of the United States