Jeremy Herb, *Hot Dish Blog* (*Star Tribune*)

Rep. Betty McCollum is moving from military-sponsored race cars to military bands.

After unsuccessful attempts to get Congress to stop spending money to sponsor race cars, McCollum has offered an amendment to the 2012 defense budget that would limit Pentagon spending on military bands to $200 million.

Currently the Pentagon is projecting spending $320 million on bands for the 2012 budget, according to McCollum's office.

"Military bands are an important part of our military's tradition," McCollum writes in a letter to her House colleagues. "But as families and communities across this country see critical services reduced or eliminated because of budget cuts, it's time to ask the Pentagon to make a small sacrifice in its musical budget."

McCollum's letter cited a story from The Hill that says military bands will cost $50 billion over the next 50 years.