

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2001 MAR 22 AM 11:14

February 20, 2001

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In a defense policy speech made on September 23, 1999, while a candidate, President Bush pledged that he would *"begin an immediate, comprehensive review of our military, conducted by a leadership team under the Secretary of Defense"*. The goal, as he expressed it, *"is to move beyond marginal improvements – to replace existing programs with new technologies and strategies. To use this window of opportunity to skip a generation of technology"*.

We encourage you and your leadership team to consider high-energy laser weapons to help fulfill the President's vision. Toward realization of this vision, the Advanced Tactical Laser (ATL) has just been approved as an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD). The ATL-ACTD will demonstrate a modular, highly-mobile laser with the ability to conduct ultra-precision strikes from a standoff distance of up to 20 kilometers. The ultra precise laser will give U.S. forces the capability to engage ground targets in urban environments and/or mixed enemy and noncombatant situations with varying degrees of lethality without collateral damage. Follow-on enhancements promise speed-of-light capability for applications in many other mission areas.

We, the undersigned, believe that laser weapons represent technologies with revolutionary capabilities; those capabilities that the President is asking your team to find. Your support of the ATL-ACTD's system-level demonstration is needed to help prove the *military utility* of this emerging new capability. Standing in support, we recommend a robust program, and upon successful completion of the ACTD, the rapid incorporation of mobile tactical laser weapon capabilities into our military forces. We would appreciate learning more about your review and support of the ATL-ACTD.


Sincerely,




Bud Cramer
Member of Congress




Terry Everett
Member of Congress

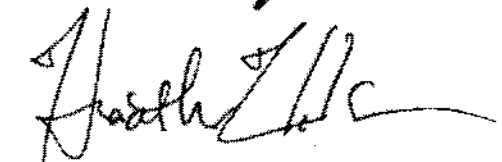

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress


Sonny Callahan
Member of Congress


Bob Riley
Member of Congress


Joe Skeen
Member of Congress


Heather Wilson
Member of Congress


Tom Udall
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NOV 16 11 7:01

November 14, 2001

Secretary of Defense



SA0000917

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon Room 3e880
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The Border Region is facing a boom in power plant construction in both the United States and Mexico that could result in far more environmental degradation and resource depletion than necessary. Urbanized areas on the border generally suffer from unhealthy levels of air pollution and overexploitation and/or contamination of aquifers and surface waters. Readily available and cost-effective emission control and water saving process technologies are often not used in many plants. To underscore the urgency of the border power plant issue, the Working Group on Environment and Natural Resources at the XVIII U.S. - Mexico Binational Commission summit on September 4, 2001 in Washington, DC determined that *"the existing U.S.-Mexico Binational Air Workgroup will meet as soon as practicable to examine ways of assuring that new energy projects in the border do not cause unacceptable impacts to border communities."*

We strongly support establishing an environmentally-sustainable energy policy as soon as reasonably possible that would adequately protect the air and water of border states in both countries. Some power projects have already begun construction, while many others are in the permitting phase. These projects will be operational for 40-50 years, underscoring the importance of taking steps now to build these plants to the highest level of environmental sustainability using proven and cost-effective technologies.

Based on the common use of these environmentally-sustainable power plant technologies in both countries, we would like to encourage your consideration of the following power plant technologies in efforts designed to protect our border populations.

- Where non-renewable energy production needs to be used, the use of natural gas as fuel whenever possible ;

U00801 /02

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld

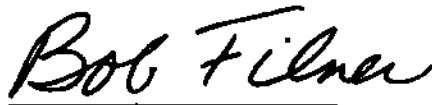
November 14, 2001

Page 2

- State-of-the-art catalytic air emission control systems which have been proven to minimize air emissions,
- The use of Dry cooling technology which can eliminate the tremendous water loss associated with wet cooling systems,
- "Zero liquid discharge" technology which eliminates wastewater discharges.

We appreciate your consideration of these technologies, and suggest that many or all of these efforts be considered in the future as vital ingredients in our future National Energy Plans.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress



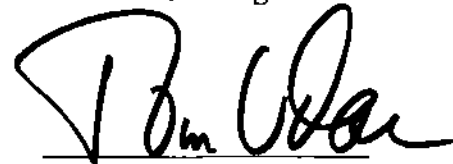
JOE SKEEN
Member of Congress



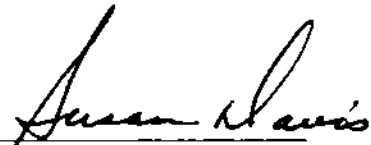
RUBEN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES
Member of Congress



TOM UDALL
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress

TOM UDALL
3D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

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301 11/15/01

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103

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FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION AND
PUBLIC LANDS

January 17, 2002

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary.

Thank you for your service to our country during this challenging time. I share the appreciation of all Americans for the manner and effectiveness with which you have conducted the war on terrorism overseas.

It has come to my attention that the Department of Defense is preparing a classified version of the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). I respectfully request that you release a declassified version of the NPR as expeditiously as possible provided that doing so does not compromise the national security of the United States in any way. It is my understanding that a declassified version of the 1994 NPR was released almost simultaneously with the classified report. I am not advocating for a near-simultaneous release of both the classified and declassified versions, but I do believe that an expeditious release of a declassified version is in the public's best interest.

Not only does the NPR essentially set the force levels of the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal, but it also mandates the needed capabilities of the DOE nuclear weapons complex and is therefore of particular interest to me and my constituents, considering the Los Alamos National Laboratories reside in the Congressional district that I represent. In addition to this information, various parties view the upcoming NPR as the first tangible sign of a concrete commitment to reducing the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia, as President Bush and President Putin recently announced their intentions to do. For these and other reasons, I believe it important that a declassified version of the NPR be released as soon as practicable.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, I would appreciate a reply as soon as possible. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues in the future.

Secretary of Defense



SA0003884

TU/mc

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

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CLOVIS, NM 88101
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88102-0888
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U03539 /02

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

CLASSIFIED
SECRET

July 30, 2003

2003 AUG 11 11:17:31

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Secretary of Defense



SA0028450

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We respectfully ask that Admiral John Poindexter be removed from his position as Director of the Information Awareness Office.

Admiral Poindexter's plan to create what is called the Policy Analysis Market is both ludicrous and morally repugnant, and opens our nation to ridicule around the world. This program, which would allow traders to invest and potentially profit on whether or not a terrorist attack will occur - such as an assassination - is not only offensive and a waste of taxpayer's money, but reinforces the most negative stereotypes of the U.S. government abroad. At a time when the Administration is proposing record shattering increases in the deficit, this obvious squandering of resources is particularly odorous. Spending \$8 million on a dubious -- if not outright silly -- program at a time when the government is slashing critical domestic programs is indefensible to the American people.

With the US military deployed in 120 countries overseas, and programs for first responders engaged in homeland defense in jeopardy, this is hardly the time to waste money on offensive and comical schemes that embarrass America.

Admiral Poindexter's participation in the Iran-Contra deceptions and illegalities in the 1980s in themselves raise serious questions about his participation in government. In light of the Policy Analysis Market scheme, we have totally lost confidence in Admiral Poindexter's ability to lead the Information Awareness Office. Instead of further undermining the credibility of US intelligence, we should be focusing our attention on more responsible and accurate intelligence gathering to prevent genuine terrorist threats against America from succeeding.

Because of Admiral Poindexter's dangerous judgment, there is no alternative than he be removed from his position forthwith.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

TOM UDALL
Member of Congress

JIM MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE
CLERK
2005 MAY 27 PM 2:56

May 25, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are greatly concerned with the Department of Defense's (DoD) failure to release all installation-specific data it used to prepare recommendations under the Base Closure and Realignment Act. While DoD met statutory requirements to provide the list of military bases scheduled for closure and realignment, it has unduly delayed release of critical analytical data to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, Congress, and the Comptroller General for review.

This delay leaves the BRAC Commission without essential data to do its job. Furthermore, it leaves affected communities in a seriously compromised position, as they are unable to fully review crucial data needed for responding to the Department's recommendations.

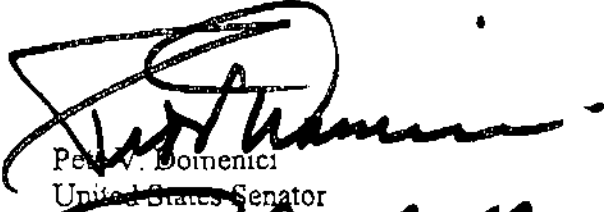
Congress intended the BRAC process to be open and transparent. The statute states that "in addition to making all information used by the Secretary to prepare the recommendations under this subsection available to Congress (including any committee or member of Congress), the Secretary shall also make such information available to the Commission and the Comptroller General of the United States".

By failing to release all data in a timely fashion, affected communities and the BRAC Commission are unable to comprehensively review DoD's recommendations. All parties involved deserve adequate time to review how their bases were evaluated, to prepare for regional hearings that will be held in just a few weeks, and to develop informed challenges to the recommendation. In order to avoid the appearance of an unfair process, DoD should immediately release this data.

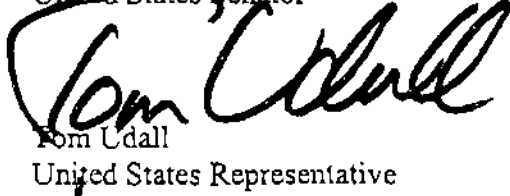
OSD 10171-05

We thank you for your prompt attention to his matter.

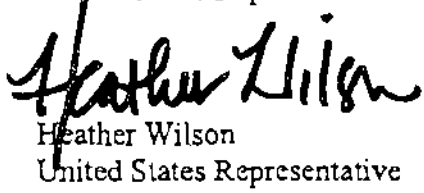
Sincerely,



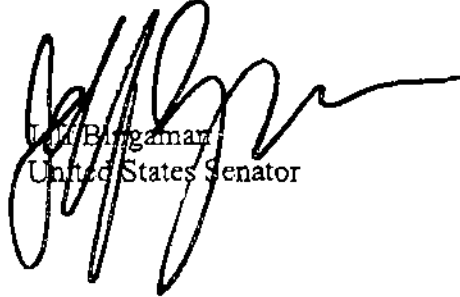
Peter W. Domenici
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Representative



Heather Wilson
United States Representative



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

Steve Pearce
United States Representative



JB/jd

9/6 R

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2005 SEP -2 AM 7:14

August 29, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The Department of Defense recommended closure of Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) as part of the Department's submission to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). In their final deliberations, the BRAC Commission determined Cannon AFB to be a fully modern base with the potential to fulfill a variety of missions critical to our national defense. The Commission ultimately voted to maintain Cannon AFB as a military enclave while directing the Secretary of Defense to reassess Cannon and determine a suitable mission for the base.

We understand that Cannon AFB has been viewed by other DoD Services as a desirable location for mission execution, and that at least one Service has an active proposal under consideration for a new mission at Cannon. In light of this activity and the Commission's recent directive, we stand ready to assist in your review of Cannon and the determination of its new role.

We would like to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss your commitment to determining a follow-on mission for Cannon. Further, we urge you to assign Acting Deputy Secretary Gordon England to direct Cannon's mission review and determination process. We suggest Secretary England visit Cannon in the very near future to meet with New Mexico's Congressional delegation, Governor, and community leaders. Secretary England should see firsthand the excellent facilities at Cannon, the widely-varied capabilities of its ranges, air space, and low-level routes, and the community's strong commitment to our Armed Forces.

The communities surrounding Cannon have a long history of supporting the Department of Defense. We remain committed and eager to continue this tradition of service in support of our national security, and we look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Pete V. Domenici
U.S. Senator

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

Bill Richardson
Governor

Tom Udall
U.S. Representative

Heather Wilson
U.S. Representative

Steve Pearce
U.S. Representative

TOM UDALL
30 DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

**Co-Vice Chair
CONGRESSIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS**

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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103**

November 1, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I write regarding the recently competed Joint Munitions Command (JMC), Demilitarization RFP, W52P1J-R-04-0179. I respectfully request that you continue to closely monitor the progress of this competition.

Concerns regarding the awarding of the contract were raised to me by a constituent and owner of one of the companies bidding in the competition. The company, TPL, Inc., is a small business that has over 15 years experience in demilitarization work and has operated Fort Wingate, located in Northwest New Mexico, for years under an Army Facilities Use contract. As you are likely aware, TPL filed a protest with the GAO who in turn issued a stay order on the contract award. It is my understanding that this contract will now be recompleted.

As a member of the House Small Business Committee, I take very seriously the role of small businesses and their owners in fueling our nation's economic growth. In New Mexico, small businesses account for 96 percent of all businesses and employ 57 percent of the state's more than half a million employees. Access to federal contracts is critical to their success. In addition, the activity at Ft. Wingate brings good jobs to one of New Mexico's most impoverished counties. The mostly Native American workforce, as well as the entire region depends upon this program to remain economically viable.

I appreciate your attention to my request. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues important to our nation.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

Cc: Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition,
Logistics and Technology (ASALT)

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PUBLIC LANDS

SMALL BUSINESS

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EMPOWERMENT, AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

NOV 1 11 23 36

OSD 221 56-05

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2006

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We strongly support the young men and women of our armed forces. Our nation owes them its deepest gratitude for their service to our nation.

It has, therefore, come as a shock to learn from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) that there has been a growth of racist extremism in our military. According to the SPLC, military recruiters and commanders have apparently relaxed certain recruitment standards, and the result is that racist extremists are now serving in the armed forces. While there are no firm statistics on this growing phenomenon, we write to ask you to investigate the matter and to take forceful action to remove extremists from the military. We owe our courageous men and women in uniform nothing less.

The current policy of the Department of Defense leaves too much discretion to military recruiters and commanders and is not being strictly enforced. The military should adopt a zero tolerance policy and discharge soldiers who engage in white supremacist activities or who are members of white supremacist groups.

It is also our understanding that the military's own investigators are aware of the dangers. Department of Defense gang detective Scott Barfield has warned SPLC's *Intelligence Report* that Neo-Nazis "stretch across all branches of service, they are linking up across the branches once they're inside, and they are hard-core." He also revealed that there is "Aryan Nations graffiti in Baghdad."

We urge you to implement the recommendations of the Southern Poverty Law Center to adopt a zero tolerance policy when it comes to white supremacy and other forms of racial or religious extremism in the military. Like your predecessors, Secretaries Casper Weinberg and William Perry, who issued similar directives, we urge you to confront this problem head-on by showing no tolerance for ethnic hatred among our service personnel.

OSD 11744-06



Hate group membership and extremist activity are antithetical to the values and mission of our armed forces. We are proud to support the men and women in the military who represent the best America has to offer and know that extremists represent only a radical fringe. Yet, however small, we must stamp out the scourge of racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of hatred wherever they are found. It is our hope that your expeditious action on this matter will help to ensure that our military continues to uphold only the highest principles.

Sincerely,



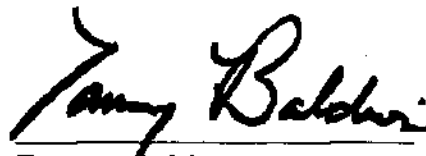
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



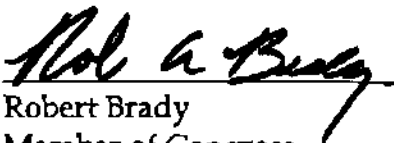
Artur Davis
Member of Congress



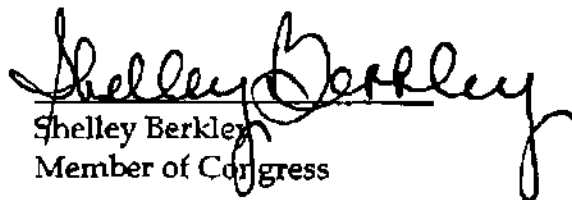
Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



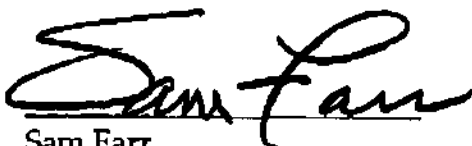
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



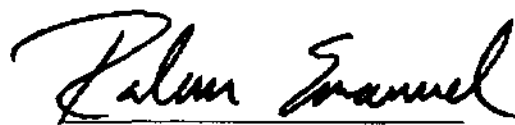
Robert Brady
Member of Congress



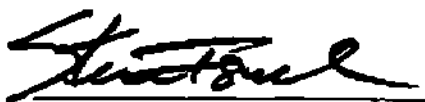
Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



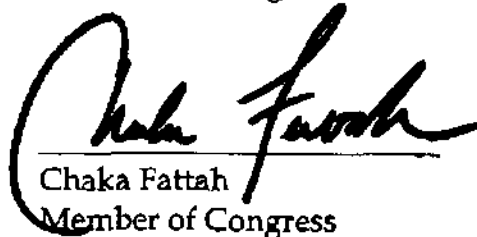
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



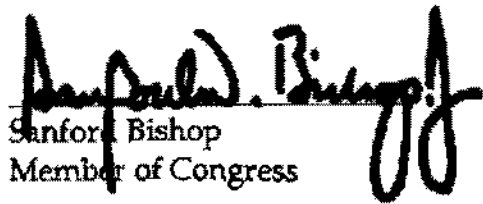
Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



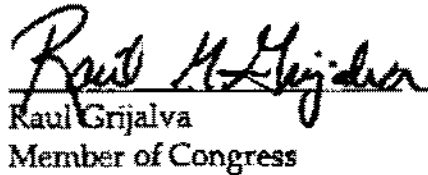
Steve Israel
Member of Congress

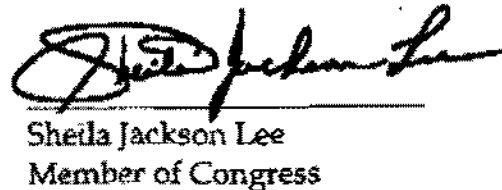


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

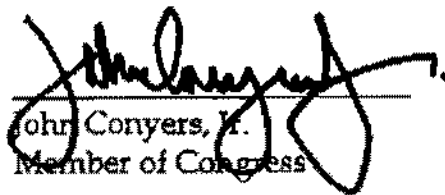

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

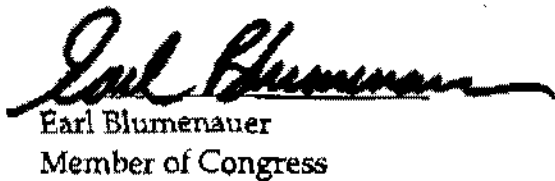

Benjamin Cardin
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

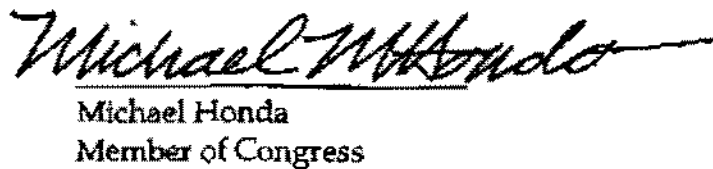

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

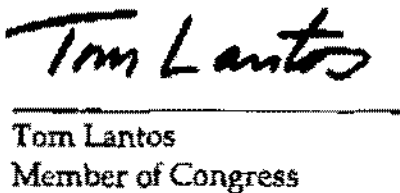

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

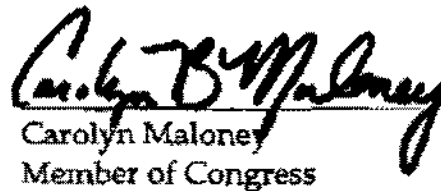

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

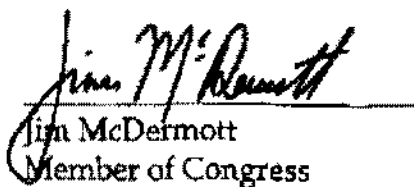

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress


Tom Lantos
Member of Congress


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


James McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



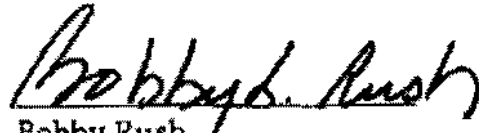
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



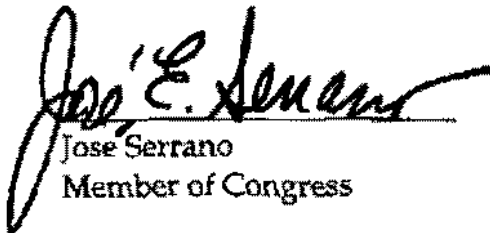
Major Owens
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



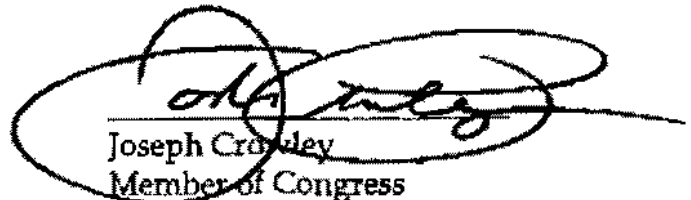
Jose Serrano
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



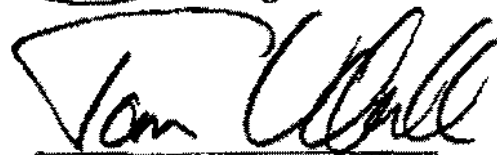
Diane Watson
Member of Congress




Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



Tom Udall
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress


Martin Meenan
Member of Congress


Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515**

November 15, 2006

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

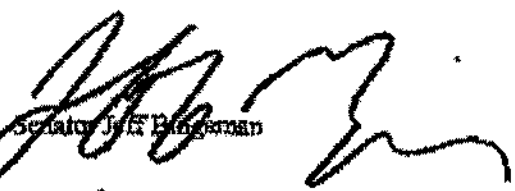
We write to urge action on a very important Military Construction project for Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB). Originally included in the FY06 Military Quality of Life/Veterans Affairs Appropriations legislation, this \$13.2 million project was included for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to "Replace Fuel Loading and Storage Facilities" at CAFB. It is our understanding, however, that, to date, progress on this project has been stalled. We strongly believe this MILCON project is of critical importance and request that this funding be released to allow this project to move forward.

As you know, MILCON projects slated for CAFB were put on hold once CAFB was recommended for closure. When it was announced that CAFB would be the new home to the 16th Special Operations Wing from Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), three other CAFB MILCON projects began moving forward. Specifically, progress has been made on the Aerospace Ground Equipment Complex, Dining Hall/Airmen's Center, and Housing Privatization projects. The Fuel Loading and Storage Facilities project is the only CAFB MILCON project that has yet to have funds released. We understand AFSOC analyzed the original project, validated it as suitable to its needs without modification, and certified that it will satisfy valid requirements for its operations at CAFB. AFSOC, accordingly, informed the Defense Logistics Agency of the need to release funding and initiate the project.

We eagerly anticipate the transition of CAFB to an AFSOC installation, and we look forward to assisting in that transition. We believe that progress on these important projects is necessary to ensure the men and women of AFSOC have the equipment and facilities they need to accomplish their mission. To that end, we respectfully urge the release of funds for the Fuel Loading and Storage Facilities project to further improve CAFB in preparation for the 16th Special Operations Wing assuming control of the base in October 2007.

We thank you for your attention to our request and are willing to answer any questions you may have.


Senator Pete Domenici


Senator Jeff Bingaman


Representative Heather Wilson


Representative Tom Udall


Representative Stevan Pearson

OSD 18101-06



11/20/2006 12:46:45 PM

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States

November 13, 2006

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

We write today to respectfully request that the Department of Defense, through the United States Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command, move forward with plans to utilize Cannon Air Force Base (Cannon) for an Air Force special operations wing by executing a written memorandum of your June decision to utilize Cannon as a special operations base.

As you may recall, the Air Force announced that Cannon would become home to such a wing on June 20, 2006. We understand that there are important steps that need to be completed relating to this decision in the near term.

However, it is our understanding that as a prerequisite to many of these steps, a written memorandum of your June decision to utilize Cannon as a special operations base must be in place. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to provide such written approval of this decision as soon as possible to allow the Department of Defense to move forward with its plans for Cannon.

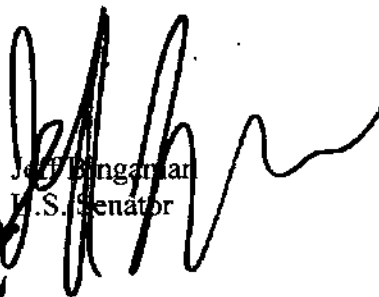
In September, we asked the Air Force to brief us on the transition plan for Cannon Air Force Base. We look forward to receiving this briefing to learn what else must happen to make the Air Force's plans for Cannon Air Force Base a reality.

Thank you for your service to our country and for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions about these matters, please feel free to contact us or Tara Shaw of Senator Domenici's office (202.224.7086) or Jon Davey of Senator Bingaman's office (202.224.1803).

Sincerely,



Pete V. Domenici
U.S. Senator



Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall
U.S. Congressman

OSD 18111-06



11/20/2006 2:38:34 PM

cc: Secretary Michael Wynne
1670 Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1660

General Bryan Doug Brown
U.S. Special Operations Command
7701 Tampa Point Blvd.
MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5323

TOM UDALL

30 District, New Mexico

1410 LONGMOUTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190

811 SAINT MICHAELS DRIVE
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SANTA FE, NM 87505
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3103

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**CO-VICE CHAIR
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April 25, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write today to enquire about the status of Federal Recognition for Brigadier General Kenny Montoya, The Adjutant General (TAG) for the New Mexico National Guard. General Montoya was appointed to TAG four years ago and has yet to receive Federal Recognition for his first star. This is extremely concerning and I would appreciate a timely and thorough response detailing why the Secretary of the Army effectively pulled his name for consideration and the reasons why there continues to be an ongoing delay resubmitting his name to the U.S. Senate for federal recognition. Additionally, please cite the relevant laws and guidelines that the Secretary of the Army followed in withdrawing General Montoya's name for consideration. I would also appreciate an update from you with a timetable outlining what action the Army intends to take on this matter in the near future.

Since being appointed TAG in April of 2003, General Montoya has served with great distinction and dedication. Upon appointment, General Montoya began a complete transition of the New Mexico National Guard force structure from Air Defense units to Infantry, Military Police and Engineers in order to be more relevant and deployable for both State and Federal missions. That transition has largely been accomplished, and in record time despite almost all units in the state being deployed. This is only one of the General's many accomplishments.

As you may know, General Montoya's promotion packet has been before the Senate Armed Services Committee four times and been withdrawn by the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) each time, just prior to reaching a vote. Most recently, the Army cited as a basis for withdrawal the investigation of an Air Guard flyover in Roswell, New Mexico. At the close of that investigation, General Richard Cody in a Memorandum of Concern dated August 8, 2006, found that the facts were substantiated and General Montoya, who, while not directly responsible for the incident, as NMTAG had improperly authorized the flyover. Given the findings, General Richard Cody took no action against General Montoya, did not place the Memorandum of

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ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 108
100 LUNA DRIVE
LAS VEGAS, NM 87701
P.O. Box 928
(505) 454-4280

110 WEST AZTEC
SUITE 102
GALLUP, NM
(505) 863

3800 SOUTHERN BOULEVARD, SE

OSD 07272-07



5/2/2007 10:14:01 AM

Concern in his personnel file, and stated that he considered the matter closed. Previous investigations were unfounded.

As such, I would like to know why General Montoya's packet has yet to be resubmitted in the last eight months since General Cody closed the matter. It is worth noting that two of the senior officers more closely involved in the flyover incident were federally recognized within this last year and the incident was not referenced by the IG in their promotion. Lastly, I would also like to know why General Montoya was not promoted during the two years prior to the flyover incident and its investigation, and request a detailed response regarding the delay to that point.

Your response within thirty days to the issues and questions raised above is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your prompt attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

TU/mc

Congress of the United States

May 11, 2007

The Honorable Eric S. Edelman, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)
2000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2000

Dear Under Secretary Edelman,

Based on recent comments made by General Pace about exploring whether Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operators could relieve some of the current personnel stresses on the Army, we wanted to bring to your attention the many benefits southern New Mexico and Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) offer the Department of Defense's (DoD) Army and Air Force UAV work.

HAFB offers tremendous value to DoD as a potential location for UAV operations. HAFB has many advantages, from its proximity to vast training areas to its ability to readily interact in a joint training and development environment with other Services and organizations outside DoD.

First, HAFB personnel are already knowledgeable in the area of unmanned aircraft because of prior experience with such aircraft, including QF-4 drones, and because of HAFB's present work with the German Air Force, which will soon utilize UAVs. Moreover, as HAFB transitions from an F-117 base to an F-22 base, we understand that space and infrastructure is readily available for other DoD operations and personnel such as UAV operators. We believe this space and infrastructure would offer DoD substantial cost-savings in potential construction costs.

Additionally, HAFB is positioned to serve DoD UAV operators well because it is located on the eastern edge of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), which offers almost 3,200 square miles of unique, exclusive airspace which can be expanded for military training and maneuvers. WSMR offers UAV operators an unparalleled training and flying opportunity because the military controlled airspace eliminates the need to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) National Airspace System (NAS) restrictions in commercial airspace. WSMR's overlapping training space for ground forces would also provide advantageous opportunities for joint training and operational exercises with ground forces who are testing and evaluating Future Combat Systems (FCS) technologies including manned and unmanned vehicles, sensors, launch systems and UAVs at WSMR and nearby Fort Bliss, Texas.

Further, HAFB provides a natural opportunity to expand UAV presence in New Mexico and west Texas, where UAV development and operations already have a strong foundation. As noted above, the Army's UAVs that are part of the FCS program are expected to be tested in Texas and New Mexico. Army UAVs are likely to also be based at Fort Bliss as a result of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission's decision to locate 1st Armored Division Brigade Combat Teams at Fort Bliss. Additionally, Air Force Special Operations' UAVs are expected to soon operate at Cannon Air Force Base as the 16th Special Operations Wing stands up on October 1, 2007. Nearby Navy and Marine operations may also utilize UAVs, and HAFB could serve as a hub for all of this DoD UAV activity, especially since HAFB,

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WSMR, and Fort Bliss leadership have partnered to develop a Joint Test and Training Initiative that focuses on optimizing test and training opportunities in the Southwest.

Lastly, the Department of Defense funds UAV research and development activities, including sense and avoid system demonstrations, at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in nearby Las Cruces, New Mexico. NMSU has begun constructing a UAV hangar at the Las Cruces International Airport, and NMSU continues to work with the City of Las Cruces and the FAA to further the use of UAVs in the NAS. We understand that NMSU is the only non-federal entity with FAA authorization to operate UAVs in the NAS, with operations in a 12,000 square mile FAA-approved area in southern New Mexico.

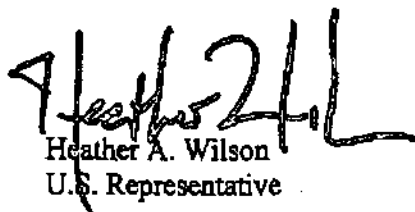
For all of these reasons, we believe DoD should strongly consider locating UAV operators at HAFB and consider making HAFB a UAV Center of Excellence for Operations, and we respectfully request that you consider this option.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact any of us or have your staff contact Tara Shaw of Senator Domenici's office at (202) 224-7086, Jonathan Epstein of Senator Bingaman's office at (202) 224-5521, John Larson of Congresswoman Wilson's office at (202) 225-6316, Mike Collins of Congressman Udall's office at (202) 225-6190, or Steve Traver of Congressman Pearce's office at (202) 225-2365.



Pete V. Domenici
U.S. Senator

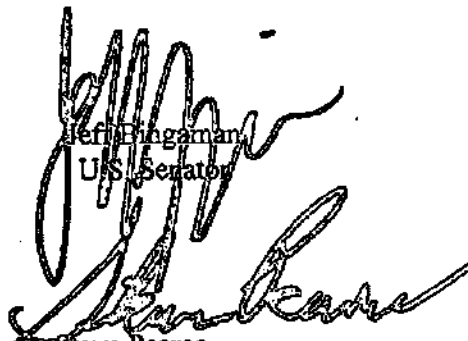
Sincerely,



Heather A. Wilson
U.S. Representative



Tom Udall
U.S. Representative



Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator



Steve Pearce
U.S. Representative

cc: The Honorable Pete Geren
Acting Secretary
United States Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1600

Secretary Michael Wynne
1670 Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1660

TOM UDALL
NEW MEXICO

110 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6621
(202) 228-3261 FAX
<http://tomudall.senate.gov>

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you are well aware, making certain that soldiers recently separated from the military are fully knowledgeable of the benefits due them as a veteran has been a difficult process. I applaud your efforts as Secretary of Defense to ease the transition and working with Secretary Shinseki at the Department of Veterans Affairs in this effort. To build on these ongoing efforts, I respectfully suggest a modification to the DD 214 form and ask that you consider adding a new contact, the email address, to the form as a way to increase communication to these new veterans.

Earlier this year, I was visited by the New Mexico Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services who reported to me that nearly 60 percent of welcoming mail sent by the Department to new veterans in New Mexico, which makes them aware of their education, health, and home ownership benefits, is returned. Oftentimes the return is due to an incorrect mailing address, which is usually taken from the DD 214 and is the only manner in which the Department is able to contact the veteran. The Secretary stated that by adding a requirement that the soldier filling out the DD 214 include an email address, it would make it easier, timelier, and more cost effective to reach the veteran with information he or she can use.

I fully support this idea and I would ask that you look into having the DD 214 form altered to include an email address. The vast majority of Americans use email daily, including our men and women serving in uniform abroad, and it only makes sense that we would try to continue to connect with them after they have left the service by utilizing all forms of communication, including email. This would benefit not only the soldiers, but veterans departments and organizations across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing back from and continuing to work together to serve our soldiers and our veterans.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator

OSD 06665-09



STATE OFFICES:

ALBUQUERQUE PLAZA
201 3RD ST. NW, SUITE 710
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
505-346-6791

LORETTO TOWN CENTER
505 SOUTH MAIN, SUITE 118
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001
575-526-5475

SANTA FE
120 SOUTH FEDERAL PLACE,
SUITE 302
SANTA FE, NM 87501
505-988-6511

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:


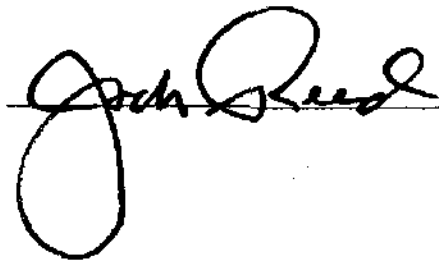
We are seeking your input on a proposal to expand income tax relief benefits, specifically the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion, to civilian federal employees serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We recognize that our uniformed personnel enjoy certain benefits that are not extended to civilians serving abroad. Given the nature of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, your employees frequently confront the same dangers and risks as our uniformed forces. Currently, the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion allows military personnel serving in direct support of operations in designated combat zones to receive their compensation free of federal income tax.

As the need for reconstruction and stabilization operations increases, we must strengthen the corps of civilian experts, like public health officials, city planners, port operators, and agronomists, who have the vital skills necessary for these operations to succeed. In order to successfully accomplish the important diplomacy and development tasks ahead, we must rely on the participation of members of your department to fill these critical missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As such, we would appreciate knowing if such benefits would assist you in providing an appropriate reward for employees' service, and aid in ensuring a consistent supply of qualified individuals to fill these important positions. Additionally, since it is our understanding that providing such benefits requires legislative action, we also would appreciate your views on proposals to accomplish this goal such as S. 1166, which Senator John Warner introduced in the 110th Congress. We have also reached out to your counterparts in the Departments of State, Agriculture, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Justice, Commerce, and Treasury.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.



OSD 08849-09



Tom Kasper

Tom Cole

Paul Beards

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2011

Secretary Robert M. Gates
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you may know, members of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, as well as other supportive Members of Congress, have written in the past in support of TRICARE covering cognitive rehabilitation for service members with brain injuries. In 2008, then-Senator Obama and then-Senator Bayh led letters with eight members of the Senate and over 65 House members. Two years later, the Department is still studying the issue and does not expect to make a decision on the results of a study mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 anytime soon.

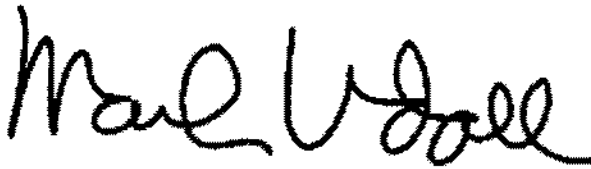
We hope you share our concern that service members returning from the battlefield today cannot wait to receive treatment for their injuries. Yet without a specific waiver applicable only under very unusual and limited circumstances, TRICARE does not cover cognitive rehabilitation – therapy programs that aid in the management of specific problems in thinking and perception – when billed as a separate service. Considering that our service members have been deployed in two conflicts for nearly a decade, it is our hope that there exists some contingency plan to provide cognitive rehabilitation for service members who are returning home today, particularly those with mild traumatic brain injuries. While TRICARE clearly pays for rehabilitation for physical injuries, brain injuries—the invisible wounds of this war—are not given the same therapy if not treated as part of a comprehensive brain injury rehabilitation program. Recent stories by NPR and ProPublica give examples of providers at civilian clinics who have tried to help soldiers with their cognitive rehabilitation, only to be informed by TRICARE that they cannot receive payment for their services.

As this issue is studied, we ask that you share with us your plans to ensure that our service members with brain injuries are not only identified, but also able to receive treatment such as cognitive rehabilitation to restore their cognitive functions. Cognitive rehabilitation is widely recognized as a proven treatment for traumatic brain injury by experts and groups, including the National Institutes of Health, the Brain Injury Association of America, and the National Academy of Neuropsychology. Many states pay for cognitive rehabilitation under their Medicaid programs, and most private insurers cover this service. In light of this consensus from a wide variety of organizations, experts and government agencies, we hope that TRICARE will find some way to provide access to cognitive rehabilitation for our returning service members who would benefit from this therapy – both those with more severe and mild traumatic brain injuries – and to ensure that care decisions are made consistently. We also respectfully request a meeting with appropriate officials at the Department to discuss TRICARE's plans to ensure treatment coverage for our service members with brain injuries.



Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know how you plan to expedite new treatments for traumatic brain injured soldiers as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you to provide the best care to our service members.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
United State Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



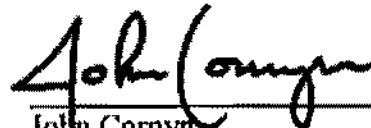
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



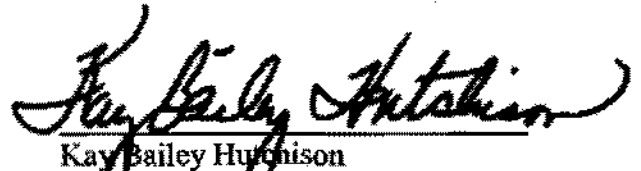
Herb Kohl
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



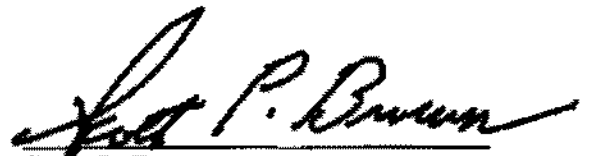
Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator



Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

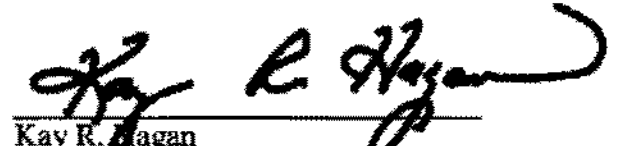


Scott P. Brown
United States Senator


Tim Johnson
United States Senator

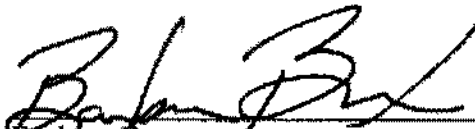

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator


Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator


Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

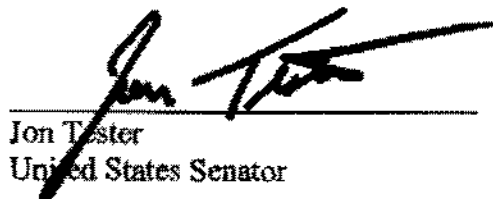

Ben Nelson
United States Senator

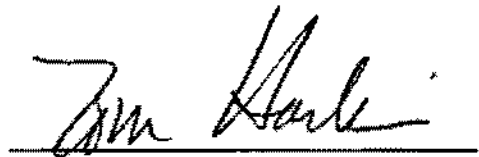

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator


Max Baucus
United States Senator


Joe Manchin III
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Jon Tester
United States Senator


Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Larry Kissel

Larry Kissel
Member of Congress

Wally Herger

Wally Herger
Member of Congress

David Wu

David Wu
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Mark S. Critz

Mark S. Critz
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly

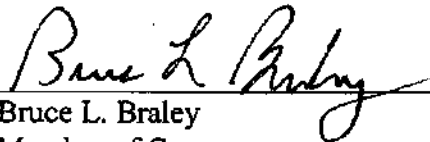
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

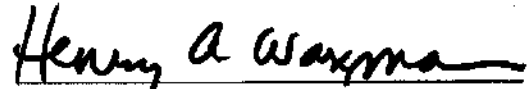
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Bruce L. Braley
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



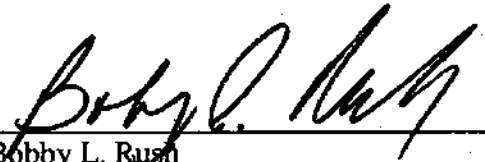
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress



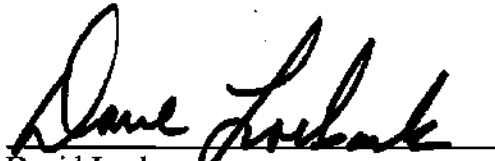
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Joe Baca
Member of Congress



Portney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



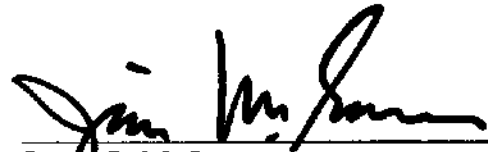
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Jason Altmire
Member of Congress



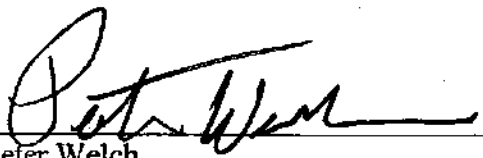
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



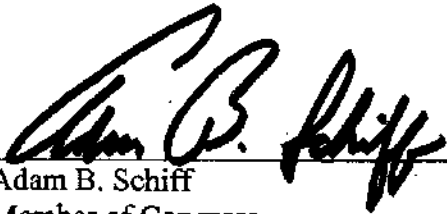
Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress



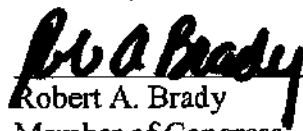
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



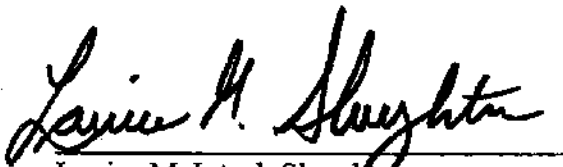
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



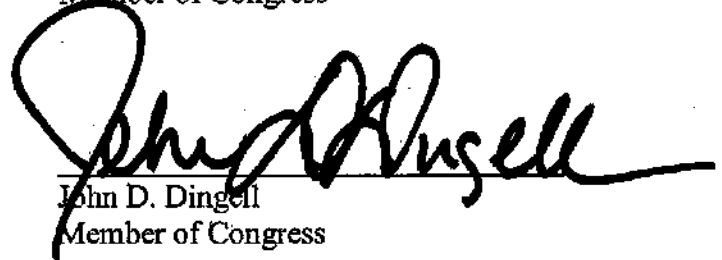
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



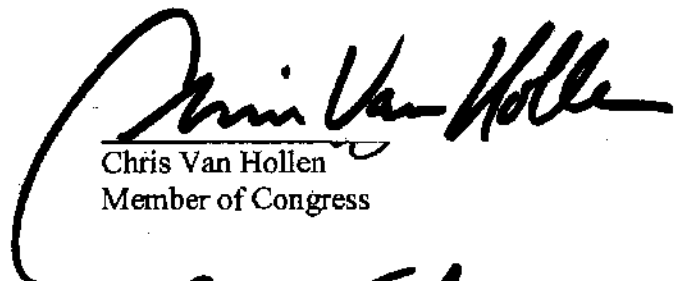
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



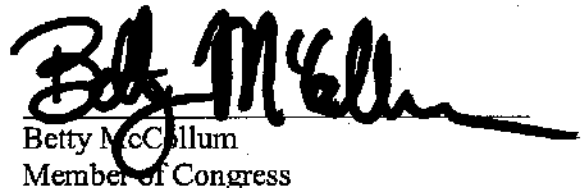
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



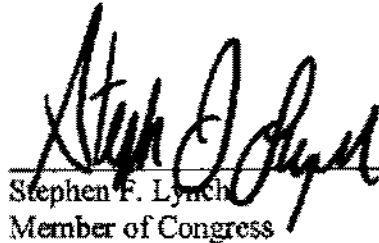
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



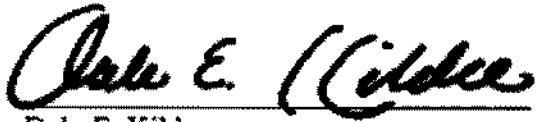
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



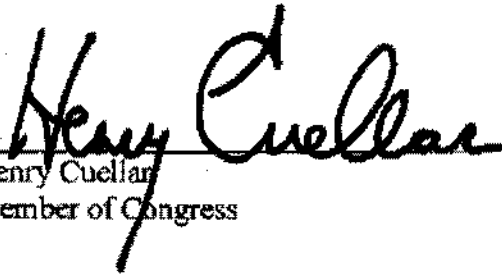
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



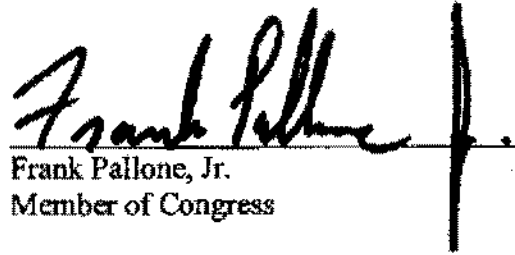
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are gravely concerned about recommendations proffered by the Defense Business Board with regard to America's military retirement, primarily those recommendations altering and/or cutting the military retirement benefits which our career military members who are currently serving our great nation have been promised and are relying upon to assist with their retirement needs.

While deficit reduction is essential, balancing the budget and curbing costs in the U.S. Department of Defense by cutting retirement benefits to those now serving is patently unfair to our military members and their families and puts in jeopardy the recruitment and retention of our nation's future all-volunteer force. We have heard from countless veterans and constituents asking that Congress do the right thing by ensuring that these important benefits are not pulled out from under those who are working hard for what they have been promised.

The current retirement system is a considerable enticement in preserving a career voluntary military force, and any proposed changes must be calculated in that light. Many of our constituents have stated that the current retirement system was a major factor in their decision to choose to serve, or to continue serving in uniform. Contrary to the belief of some, military service is not comparable to the private sector, and a retirement system that works for a civilian career may not necessarily be appropriate for the military.

On this subject, you have said, "People who have come into the service, who have put their lives on the line, who have been deployed to the war zones, who fought for this country, who have been promised certain benefits for that - I'm not going to break faith with what's been promised to them." We believe, as do our constituents, that we must follow your lead and ensure that our government upholds the promises we have made to our military.

Certainly, Congress will be looking to you regarding cuts in defense spending; yet it is our worry that some members will also look to these recommendations by the Defense Business Board. We encourage you then to ensure the security of America's military by relaying to Congress your deep commitment that our nation not undertake any detrimental changes or reductions in military retirement for those who are serving. While our nation must cut spending and balance the budget, we simply cannot do it on the backs of America's military and their families.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please be assured we will assist you in this effort in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

OSD 11608-11





E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator



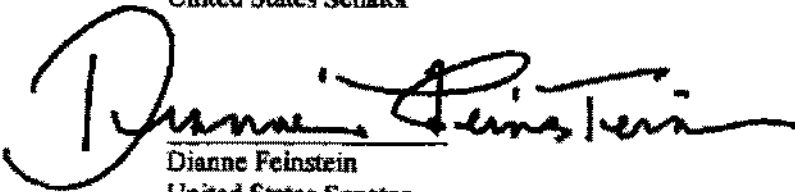
James Inhofe
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Jim Webb
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Richard Durbin
United States Senator



Mark Begich
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



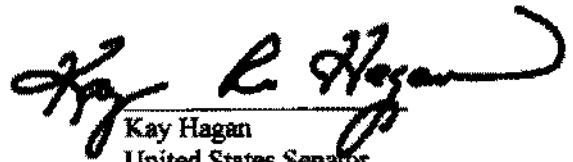
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Kay Hagan
United States Senator



Robert Casey
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2012

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

We are writing to express our concern with the National Nuclear Security Administration's decision to delay construction of CMRR-NF. The existing CMR facility, where the bulk of our analytical chemistry and materials characterization work is done, is 60 years old and functionally obsolete. It sits on a known fault and will be closed in 2019. Plans to replace the CMR began over ten years ago and the first phase, the Radiation Laboratory Utility Office Building, will be completed later this year. Planning and review for a second phase, the replacement nuclear facility (CMRR-NF) started in 2004.

Now the administration has proposed to delay for five years the work necessary to construct that facility. The reason cited for this decision is the projected cost of the replacement facility which unfortunately has grown to between \$3.7 and \$5.8 billion. In our view, this five year delay will have at least three adverse consequences.

- First, it will adversely impact our nation's scientific capabilities, especially in analytical chemistry and materials characterization that are central to assuring the safety, reliability and performance of the nuclear deterrent.
- Second, as both the current and former lab directors have testified, further delay will likely result in further cost escalation in the ultimate construction of the required replacement facility.
- Third, the NNSA's proposed alternative is a high risk option, which may not meet national security requirements for stockpile stewardship, and which will likely take 10 years to implement and cost an additional \$800 million.

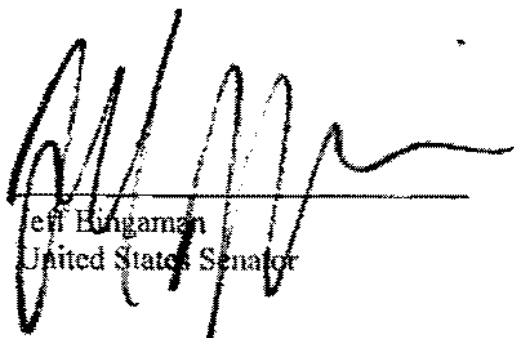
Rather than delaying work on a replacement facility for the planned five years, we believe the administration should present a more specific alternative plan and make the necessary preparation to properly design and implement it. Until there is a feasible alternative, the least risk option is to continue pursuing a replacement facility. In order to meet cost restrictions, we believe changes in the planned facility could reduce its price tag significantly, without compromising safety, while allowing us to still meet our commitments under the New Start Treaty and the 2010 MOU between DoD and DoE.




OSD009186-12

Our national labs are premier facilities, with scientists and engineers who deserve to work in an environment where not only their work is appreciated, but their safety is not at risk because of funding decisions made in Washington DC. We look forward to working with you on this issue as well as the need to adequately fund the national laboratories to compete for other vital mission areas such as non-proliferation and energy security.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator

CC: Dr. Ashton Carter, Deputy Secretary of Defense
Dr. Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Dr. James Miller, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Admiral James Winnefeld, Jr., Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Robert Kehler, Commander, U.S. STRATCOM
Mr. Thomas D'Agostino, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Center, NW
Washington, DC 20528

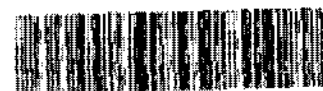
The Honorable Jeffrey D. Zients
Deputy Director for Management
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Panetta, Secretary Napolitano, and Mr. Zients:

We write to express our concern that an important asset used to counter drug smugglers, the Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS), is being decommissioned by the U.S. Air Force without a plan to transfer these capabilities to another agency. Last month, the Department of the Air Force, Air Combat Command issued a request for proposals to conduct a four-phase termination of the TARS program, with all aerostat operations to cease by March 15, 2013, and all sites to be closed and personnel separated by September 30, 2013. Because of the importance of this program for counternarcotics operations, we write to respectfully ask that you reverse this decision and allow for sufficient time to transfer the program to the Department of Homeland Security or develop an alternative long-term solution.

In addition to rescinding the request for proposals to demobilize TARS, we respectfully ask that the Administration's Fiscal Year 2014 budget enable DHS to assume full responsibility from the Department of the Air Force for the program, without any disruption or degradation in its services. In the event that the budget does not propose funding to allow the Department of Homeland Security to commence administration of the TARS program, we ask that it provide for continued administration of the TARS program by the Department of the Air Force until the program can be effectively transferred.

TARS is an aerostat-borne surveillance program that, for over two decades, has provided critical intelligence data to federal law enforcement agencies working to interdict drugs and other contraband along the Southwest border with Mexico, in the Florida Straits, and in the Caribbean. There are eight TARS operational sites located in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. TARS is an important surveillance and command-and-control resource, particularly with respect to the detection, monitoring, and interdiction of suspicious low-flying aircraft. We believe that termination of the program will substantially degrade counternarcotics operations because a suitable alternative to TARS has not been identified.



OSD001645-13

We look forward to working with you to address this important budget priority and welcome your leadership in ensuring that responsibility for the TARS program is transferred from the Air Force to DHS as part of the Fiscal Year 2014 budget request to Congress. At a minimum, if the budget does not propose funding to enable DHS to assume responsibility for this program for Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond, the budget should provide for the Air Force to continue administering this program in the short term until a long-term solution can be identified.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator



Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator

cc: The Honorable Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force
General Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the Air Force
General Gilmary Michael Hostage III, Commander Air Combat Command

United States Senate

February 21, 2013

Ashton Carter
U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Deputy Secretary Carter:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposal to transfer important Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) funding from three highly successful Department of Defense (DoD) education programs.

Specifically, the National Defense Education Program, University Nano Satellite Program, and the DoD STARBASE Program each utilize resources and capabilities of DoD laboratories to provide our youth with opportunities to explore STEM operations and applications, and STEM careers. It is our understanding that OMB proposed transferring funding from these programs to the Department of Education and National Science Foundation. We question whether there is a strong analytical foundation for such a decision given that DoD offers unique technological assets that enable hands-on programs like these to flourish.

The DoD STARBASE Program brings technologies developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Space Vehicles and Directed Energy directorates at Kirtland Air Force Base into the classroom, which motivate students from fifth through twelfth grade to study STEM in a hands-on way while preparing future Air Force leaders. Meanwhile, the University Nano Satellite Program trains tomorrow's space professionals by providing a rigorous, two year, spacecraft competition for U. S. higher education institutions and enables small satellite research and development, integration and flight test. According to AFRL, more than 4,500 college students and 27 institutions of higher learning have been involved in this unique experience since its inception in 1999.

In a recent study by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States ranks 14th in STEM education, behind Iceland and Poland. New Mexico is well positioned to leverage its technological resources. While we would prefer the funds to remain in DoD, keeping the funds in New Mexico is of paramount importance in order the ensure students can utilize the technological resources within the state.

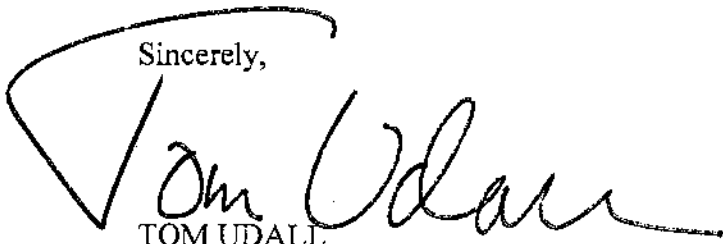


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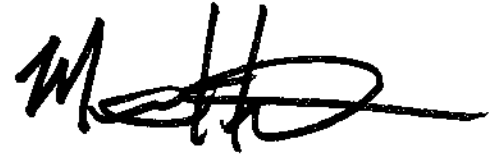
We urge you to reconsider the aforementioned OMB proposal and urge continued funding for these unique programs in the fiscal year 2014 budget.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Udall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

TOM UDALL
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator

MH/ts