

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

753 JAN 27 PM 3: 03

January 24, 2003

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you finalize the Fiscal Year 2004 budget, we want you to be aware of our strong support for the C-5 modernization programs - the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) and Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Programs (RERP). These programs are vital to improving the safety and performance of our airlift fleet and to dramatically increasing our airlift capability. We hope that both programs will be fully funded to modernize the entire fleet of 112 C-5s as quickly as possible. As we continue to fight the global war against terrorism and deal with other national security threats around the world, we must have a diverse and modernized strategic airlift fleet to move and sustain our forces. It is necessary to the success of both our military and humanitarian missions.

The AMP upgrades to the C-5 cockpit, which feature traffic and terrain warning and avoidance systems mandated after Secretary Ron Brown's plane crash, will enhance crew safety and increase mission reliability. These systems will also allow for compliance with the new Global Air Traffic Management systems, which will allow the C-5 to use advantageous flight paths to rapidly reach its destination quickly while reducing fuel consumption. We were highly encouraged by the news that the AMP's first test flight was successfully conducted nearly two months ahead of schedule this past December.

The Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program (RERP) replaces difficult to maintain parts and the systems that are most prone to breaking. In their place will be modern state of the art equipment that will substantially improve fleet reliability. The centerpiece of RERP is replacing the old engines with very reliable GE commercial engines - the same as those now used on Air Force One. The new engines feature increased thrust and reduced fuel consumption. In their over 80 million accumulated flight hours in commercial operations they have demonstrated an exceptional 99.97% departure reliability rate. The new propulsion system and over 50 subsystem improvements will combine to sharply increase the C-5 take-off, climb and cruise rates, while also increasing mission payload. In addition, fleet operating costs will be reduced by one million dollars a day.

U01358 / 03

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
January 24, 2003
Page Two

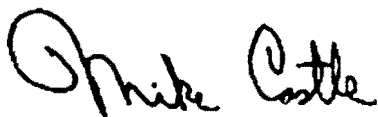
We understand that both AMP and RERP are proceeding according to schedule, but that funding shortfalls and stretched production schedules will slow the fielding of a modernized C-5 fleet. Current funding through the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP) for AMP modifies only 49 aircraft of the 112 aircraft C-5 fleet. It is our understanding that an additional \$302 million would be needed from Fiscal Years 2004-2007 to complete all 112 aircraft. In Fiscal Year 2004, we believe that \$136.8 million is needed for AMP to increase the kit procurement from 18 to 32 and to get the program on schedule to complete installation on all 112 aircraft in Fiscal Year 2007.

As you know, RERP is in the System Development and Demonstration phase with the first flight of a re-engined aircraft scheduled for Fiscal Year 2005. The plan is to modify three C-5s with new engines and subsystems followed by Operational Test and Evaluation for 18 months. Under this acquisition plan, the contractor must shut down the modification line and procurement of long lead items during the Operation, Test, and Evaluation period. The result being that the economical rate of production of 12 aircraft per year is not reached until Fiscal Year 2009. This increases the total cost of the program by over a billion dollars and will cause continued operations and maintenance expenses and mission delays linked to the older engines and subsystems. To close the inefficient gap in production and to field modernized aircraft faster we must begin procurement of long lead items in Fiscal Year 2004 and 2005. It is our understanding that by spending \$90 million on procurement in Fiscal Year 2004, the program can get to the economical production rate two years sooner, in Fiscal Year 2007. This will get the more capable aircraft into the hands of our crews and field commanders and save taxpayers over one billion dollars a year over the life of the program.

We hope that as you finalize the Fiscal Year 2004 budget plan, you will include \$589.9 million for C-5 Modernization - \$136.8 million for C-5 AMP (all in the Procurement account) and \$453.1 million for C-5 RERP (\$363.1 million in the Research, Test, and Development account and \$90 million in the Procurement account). We are very concerned with the current plan which modernizes the C-5s very slowly and is both uneconomical and delays the capability, performance, and capacity improvements that our strategic airlift fleet needs to meet today's national security challenges.

As always, we appreciate your willingness to work with us on this and other national security concerns.

Sincerely,





John Jackson

Jimmy Lee

Mike Medley

Harold Zilk

Ellen Taucher

Mac Collins

Ana Maria

Clara Rodriguez

Jack Kingston

Phil Singmy

Wayne T. Glikson

Bob Theridge

Robert J. Jurek

Sue Myrick

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1011

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

202-225-2931
203 578 -5 / 11 10 31

January 22, 2003

The Honorable Paul Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon, Suite 3D919
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you so much for your assistance in arranging a tour of the Pentagon for my family and friends during the swearing-in activities. The group really enjoyed the experience, and I truly appreciate your help.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Claude Chafin, whom I understand was extremely helpful, welcoming the group to the Pentagon and remaining until the end of the tour.

Again, thank you for your assistance, and for giving my family and myself such a warm welcome to Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

PG:cc

U01635 / 03

PHIL GINGREY
11TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE
SCIENCE COMMITTEE
POLICY COMMITTEE

1118 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2931 Phone
(202) 225-2944 Fax



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205 HENRY CLAY BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20541

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(770) 836-8130

LAGRANGE, GA
(706) 812-1776

COLUMBUS, GA
(706) 320-2040

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

November 7, 2003

The Honorable Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Powell:

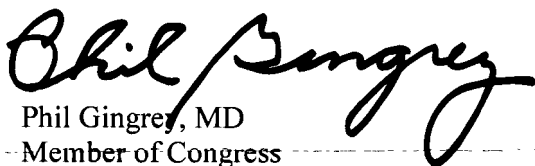
As a freshman representative from Western Georgia, I have been working diligently to provide quality representation to the constituents of the 11th Congressional District. In an effort to better inform the constituents I represent, I am initiating a plan to send periodic updates to constituents who have interests in specific actions Congress is taking.

Specifically, I am asking that your organization, within its set guidelines and principles, to provide a list of mailing addresses for members who would be interested in receiving periodic updates on defense issues.

Understand, I realize the sensitivity of this information and that some organizations are prohibited from sharing this information. If you are able to provide this list, rest assured the information will be used only in the official capacity of representing the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


Phil Gingrey, MD
Member of Congress

PG:jo

U19281 /03

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET

2004 JAN -5 AM 9:47

December 17, 2003

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you finalize adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2005 budget, we ask that you pay close attention to the C-5M modernization programs - the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) and Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Programs (RERP). We strongly support these programs, as they are vital to improving the safety and performance of our airlift fleet and to dramatically increasing our airlift capability in an economically sound manner. We hope that both programs will be funded to modernize the entire fleet of 112 C-5s as quickly as possible.

Operation Iraqi Freedom once again focused attention on the nation's strategic airlift fleet's ability to quickly respond to far reaches of the world and to support our troops in the field. The C-5 was the backbone of airlift operations and demonstrated once again why modernization of the C-5 fleet makes sense. The C-5 fleet flew only 23% of the Iraqi Freedom airlift missions, but moved 48% of the cargo. The same ratio was true of airlift operations in support of Enduring Freedom. No other aircraft in the USAF airlift fleet now, or in the future, matches the cargo capacity of the C-5s; it is truly a national asset. As the global war against terrorism continues and we address other national security threats around the world, our strategic airlift fleet must be diverse and modernized to move and sustain the various cargo requirements of our forces. It is essential to the success of both our military and humanitarian missions.

The AMP upgrades to the C-5 cockpit feature traffic and terrain warning and avoidance systems that will greatly enhance crew safety and increase mission reliability. These systems will also allow for compliance with the new Global Air Traffic Management systems, allowing C-5s to use advantageous flight paths to rapidly reach their destinations quickly while reducing fuel consumption. We are pleased to hear that the AMP flight test program is proceeding on schedule and within budget, with the installation of modification kits on operational aircraft to begin later this year.

The RERP will replace difficult to maintain parts and the systems that are most prone to breaking. In their place will be modern, state-of-the-art equipment that will substantially improve fleet reliability. The centerpiece of RERP is replacing the old engines with very reliable GE commercial engines - the same as those now used on Air Force One. The new engines feature increased thrust and reduced fuel consumption. In their over 90 million accumulated flight hours in commercial operations they have demonstrated an exceptional 99.97% departure reliability rate. The new propulsion system and over 50 subsystem improvements will combine to sharply increase the C-5's take-off, climb, and cruise rates, while also increasing mission payload. In addition, fleet operating costs will be reduced by one million dollars a day, easing pressure on operations and maintenance accounts.

It is our understanding that funding shortfalls and stretched production schedules will slow the fielding of a modernized C-5M fleet. Current funding through the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP) for AMP modifies 49 aircraft of the 112 aircraft C-5 fleet. Approximately \$253.8 million would be needed to complete all 112 aircraft, as planned, by Fiscal Year 2007. We urge you to consider whether additional funds to modernize more C-5's over the FYDP might be in line with the Department's long-range requirements for air mobility assets.

We hope that as you finalize the adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2005 budget plan, you will fully fund both C-5M modernization programs and consider increasing funds for AMP procurement to create a more robust, capable air mobility fleet. We are concerned that the current plan, which modernizes the C-5s at a slow rate, is less prudent fiscally over the long term and delays critical crew safety and mission capability improvements that our strategic airlift fleet needs to meet today's national security challenges.

As always, we appreciate your willingness to work with us on this and other national security concerns.

Sincerely,



REP. MIKE CASTLE




REP. ELLEN TAUSCHER

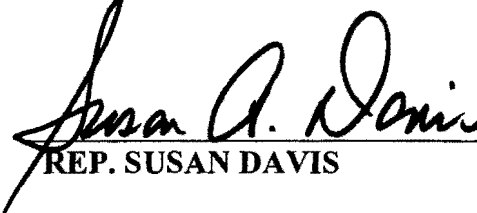


REP. MIKE THOMPSON



REP. PHIL GINGREY


REP. DOUG LOE

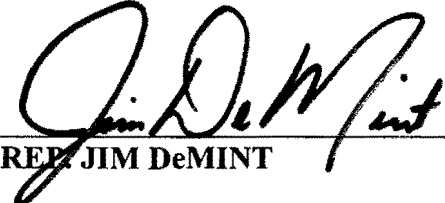

REP. SUSAN DAVIS


REP. CHARLES GONZALEZ


REP. CIRO RODRIGUEZ


REP. ROB PORTMAN

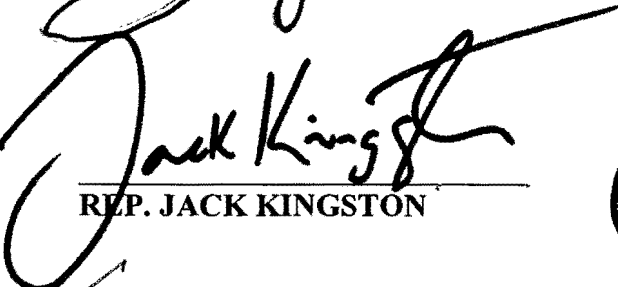

REP. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO


REP. JIM DeMINT


REP. MIKE McINTYRE


REP. JOHNNY ISAKSON


REP. MAC COLLINS



REP. JACK KINGSTON


REP. JIM MARSHALL


REP. JO BONNER


REP. MIKE ROGERS


REP. HAROLD FORD


REP. BOB ETHERIDGE

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

January 23, 2004

2004 FEB 13 PM 3:18

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 2-301

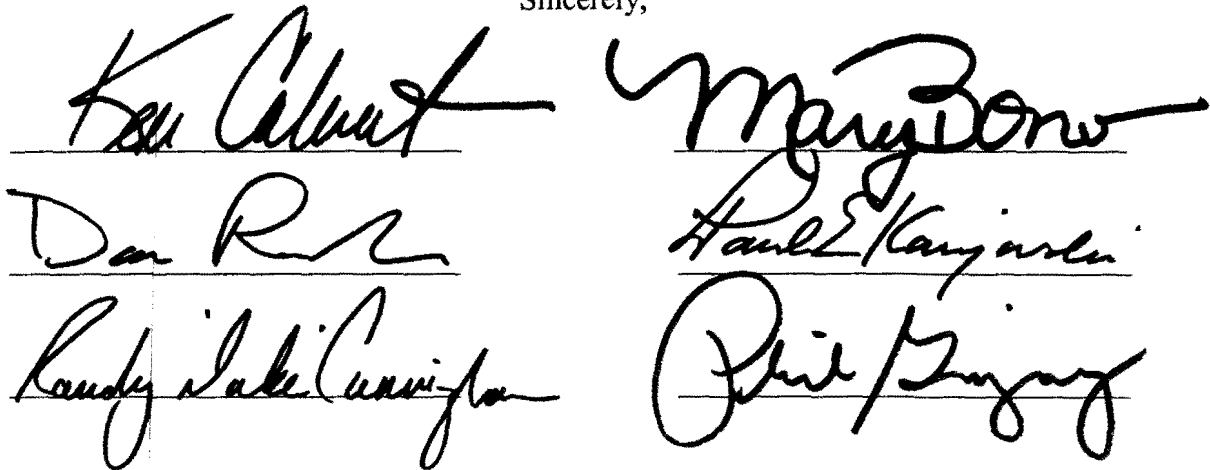
Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We have reviewed with great interest the recently proposed selection criteria for the forthcoming base realignment and closure (BRAC) process. It is evident that the Department is intent on using the criteria of the previous BRAC rounds as its foundation, while also inserting language that recognizes the critical importance of military training, readiness and the enhanced need to protect the U.S. homeland. We believe these measures represent a good foundation but can be improved upon.

We recommend a change to the term "homeland defense" in criterion 2 with the phrase, "*homeland security*." The homeland security term is more inclusive and will permit a more accurate analysis of an installation's total contribution in support of securing and defending the Nation against all forms of attack. This change will also bring the BRAC process in line with recommendations previously made by the General Accounting Office (GAO). As you will recall, the GAO has repeatedly advocated that the BRAC analysis reflect all costs and benefits associated with the roles, missions and services performed at a military installation in support of the Federal government, not simply those activities that are classified strictly as "defense". This change is in concert with the strategic philosophy that you have espoused regarding the Global War on Terrorism – that victory requires the successful employment of a wide range of national assets.

We appreciate the opportunity of working with you and your staff as the process of evaluating our military's infrastructure continues. We look forward to your response to these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Mark Sader
Paul M. Grijalva
Steve King
Garden State
~~Paul~~
Jim Langerin
Vik Fort
Glenn Davis

~~R~~ Simmons CT2
Harold Ford
Bob Filner
Patrick W. Kennedy
LHA L Bundo
John Hattler
Ray Hood

Copy to:

DUSD (I&E)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

September 29, 2004

2004 OCT 13 AM 10:17

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301
Fax: (703) 697-9080

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to respectfully request that a one-year moratorium be placed on a growing trend in the Department of Defense (DoD) that displaces people with severe disabilities working on Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program service contracts. We are concerned that the DoD is using Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality (NAFI) Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) system personnel to replace JWOD workers with severe disabilities performing services that have been placed on the JWOD Program Procurement List. This trend extends to services performed by Small Business and the Randolph-Sheppard Program as well.

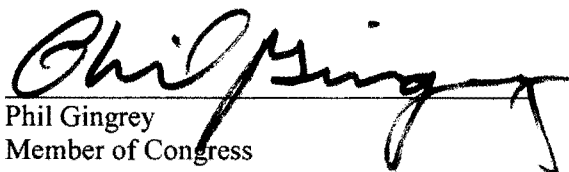
Furthermore, it is our understanding that DOD cites 10 USC § 2482a as statutory authority to use NAFI MWR system personnel to support this transfer. In a memorandum for AF/ILV dated March 25, 2004, Marcia Bachman, Associate General Counsel (Acquisition), states:

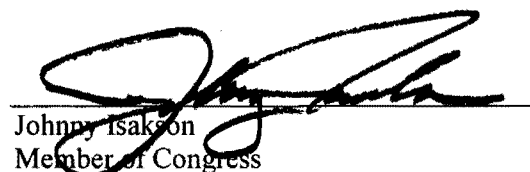
This office has considered the use of MOAs with NAFIs to obtain and provide goods and services. Such agreements are legal. They must be properly documented in writing consistent with the type of MOA involved. The use of the NAF MOA is independently authorized by statute, and legally is not subject to the Small Business Act, Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, OMB Circular A-76 or similar separate authorities.

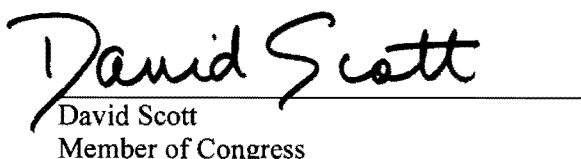
We support the need to enhance the MWR program and we agree that our servicemen and women deserve the best program possible. However, we are concerned that this trend might have a detrimental effect on the employment of people with severe disabilities in the JWOD Program. Additionally, having these services performed by NAF personnel increases the number of federal employees on the books, who actually receive lower wages and fewer benefits than the workers they displace, which is in conflict with the Competitive Sourcing initiative of the President's Management Agenda.

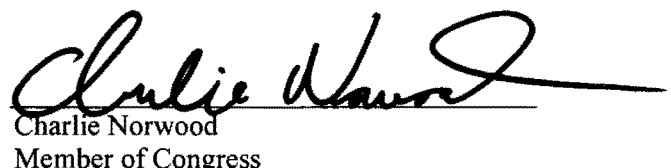
For this reason, we urge you to declare a one-year moratorium on these conversions and to use this time to work with all the affected parties to craft a solution that enhances both the MWR and the JWOD Programs. Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call upon us or our staffs.

Sincerely,


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress


Johnny Isakson
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress


Charlie Norwood
Member of Congress

Jim Marshall
Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

Denise L. Majette
Denise Majette
Member of Congress

Mac Collins
Mac Collins
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2004

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

It is with great pleasure that we bring to your attention Major General David B. Poythress, The Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard. As a 37-year veteran of Active Duty and Guard service and by virtue of his outstanding professional qualifications, we sincerely believe that General Poythress would make an outstanding member of the newly created Commission on the National Guard and Reserves.

General Poythress has had a long and distinguished career encompassing military service, public service, and private law practice. A Distinguished Military Graduate of the Emory University ROTC program, General Poythress served four years on Active Duty with the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate officer, including one year as Chief of Military Justice at DaNang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam. Upon returning to civilian life, General Poythress remained in the Air Force Reserve, where he served as a judge advocate officer in various positions of increasing responsibility. In 1991, he was recalled to Active Duty to oversee the Continental United States backfill of Reserve legal officers during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was promoted to Brigadier General in February 1994, and to Major General in July 1999.

Under General Poythress' leadership, the Georgia National Guard has become a template for transformation. As you know, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, is home to the only joint air wing in the Air Force. The 116th Air Control Wing made history two years ago when it became the Air Force's first blended unit - kicking off an historic transformation of our fighting force. The wing is comprised of both Air National Guardsmen and members of the Active Duty Air Force, and the wing is commanded by a member of the Georgia Air Guard.

Since the closing of Vieques Range, General Poythress has worked doggedly to expand the East Coast range complex - a complex which integrates Active and Reserve components from all four Services. Air crews train in air to air and air to ground operations seven days a week flying over coastal and land routes. Recently, the Georgia National Guard has even begun integrating Army and Marine units with close air support to increase training opportunities in a more realistic warfighting environment.

OSD 19197-04

November 29, 2004

2

In June of this year, Georgia National Guard troops mobilized to support the G-8 Summit held at Sea Island, Georgia. The Georgia National Guard led the Joint Task Force for the G-8 Summit, commanding both Active Duty and Guard soldiers. This was a precedent setting event that may foreshadow how similar Homeland Security threats and initiatives will be handled in the future.

General Poythress is known for his leadership and expertise. His combination of intelligence and experience make him an outstanding Commander and truly deserving of a position with the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. The Department of Defense, as well as the nation, have been very well served by General Poythress. We have no hesitation in giving him our highest recommendation, and requesting approval of his nomination.

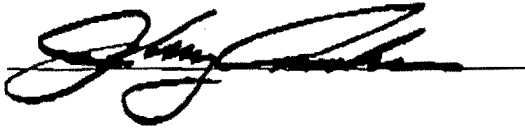

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

<u>Gene Miller</u>	<u>Sally Lambless</u>
<u>John Liska</u>	<u>Phil King</u>
<u>Arnold D. B. Whigg.</u>	<u>Nancy Deal</u>
<u>Charlie Wood</u>	<u>Jack Kingston</u>
<u>Mac Allum</u>	<u>Denise L. Majette</u>
<u>David Scott</u>	<u>Jim Marshall</u>

November 29, 2004

3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John", written over a horizontal line.A solid horizontal line extending across the page.

Enclosure

PHIL GINGREY
11TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

RULES COMMITTEE
POLICY COMMITTEE

119 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2931 Phone
(202) 225-2944 Fax



OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAR 28 2006 11:35

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

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LAGRANGE, GA
(706) 812-1776

COLUMBUS, GA
(706) 320-2040

March 28, 2006

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

Regretfully, I would like to pass along the attached obituary from the Marietta Daily Journal for Dana Eastham. In a previous meeting, you and I discussed your knowing Dana from your wrestling days in college. His wife, Merrilyn, would surely appreciate hearing a kind letter of condolence from you.

Sincerely,

Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2006

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As a result of last year's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations, three metropolitan Atlanta area military bases: Fort Gillem, Fort McPherson, and the Naval Air Station Atlanta, have been slated for closure. While it is disappointing that the Department of Defense and the President decided to accept the recommendations and proceed with closure of these installations, we must now turn our attention to the disposition of individual facilities on these bases. As such, we are writing today to urge you to continue operation of the commissary and post-exchange complex located at Fort Gillem. Servicing over 36,000 retired military personnel, over 50,000 of their family members and another 15,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists, the DECA Commissary and Army-Air Force Exchange System located at these facilities are necessary to support their personnel, even with the closure of the bases.

The Department of Defense has an opportunity to follow the precedent set at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana and Fort Ord, California, by continuing the service of the commissary and post-exchange complex at Fort Gillem. At Fort Benjamin Harrison and Fort Ord, when faced with BRAC-directed closures, the DoD determined that the large number of retired military personnel in the areas and the popularity of their respective DECA Commissaries and AAFES exchanges warranted retaining these complexes. The commissaries and exchanges at both these locations continue to attract large numbers of consumers. As a testament to this fact, Congress recently appropriated \$2 million to construct a new complex at the former Fort Benjamin Harrison.

With the success of the continued service of the commissaries and exchanges at these former bases, the success of a continuation of service at Fort Gillem is unquestionable. The metro Atlanta area has an even larger population of retired military personnel than either location where service was previously extended; and with no other commissary or post-exchange within 100 miles, the complex at Fort Gillem would continue to be the primary location for thousands of active duty, reserve, guard and retired personnel. Currently, the annual sales at the Atlanta area commissaries and post-exchanges total over \$46 million, a sum which will likely be sustained even with the closing of these bases.

OSD 15054-06

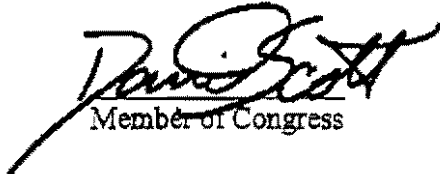


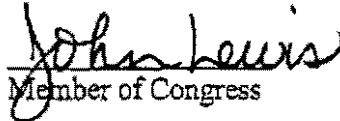
9/25/2006 9:10:29 AM

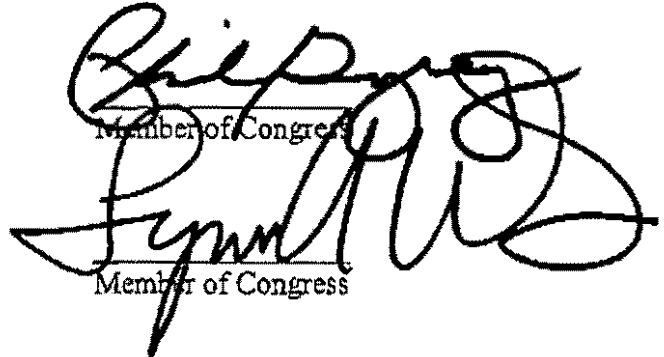
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

The Department of Defense's history of caring for military personnel following a BRAC cut makes us confident that this practice should be extended to the Atlanta area. We strongly encourage you to retain the DECA Commissary and Army-Air Force Exchange Program System at Fort Gillem to ensure the support of retired personnel in the area. Finally, we would appreciate you continuing to keep us abreast of any developments concerning Fort Gillem. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,


Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member of Congress

Cc: Albert Spears, Adjutant/Quartermaster
Peter Wheeler, Commissioner, Georgia State Department of Veterans Service
Eldrin Bell, Chairman, Clayton County Commission
Gen. Phil Browning (Ret.), Executive Director, Georgia Military Affairs Committee
Fred Bryant, Executive Director, FPF Local Redevelopment Authority
Corine Deyton, Mayor, City of Forest Park, GA
Col. Marguerite Garrison, Garrison Commander, Fort McPherson/Fort Gillem, GA
Joseph Whitaker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Housing

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

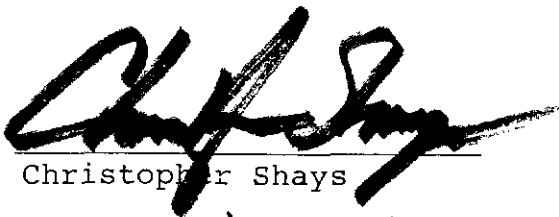
Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our strong support for the E-10 Technology Development Program and its critical Multi-Platform – Radar Technology Insertion Program (MP-RTIP). This large radar will provide unique capabilities in the Global War on Terrorism and against threats for decades to come. Congress has long supported Joint STARS operations and the information it provides to the warfighter. MP-RTIP will provide a quantum increase in capability over the current Joint STARS radar, and is required to increase our forces' ability to detect, track and identify ground moving targets, as well as providing a key link in cruise missile defense capability.

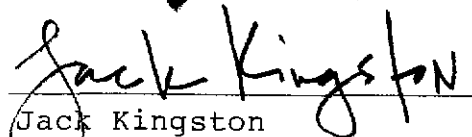
Congress has supported the development of the MP-RTIP radar with the commitment of over a billion dollars to date for the development of this vital program. We believe that it would be unwise and represent significant waste for the Department of Defense to abandon this program after years of successful development, especially when DoD is on the verge of actually characterizing and demonstrating the radar's expected capability. Congress supports the plan to fly the large radar on an E-10, or on an E-8 as originally envisioned, thereby validating the significant investment in developing this critical technology.

We seek your assurance that the Department remains committed to fully fund this critical capability in the budget for fiscal year 2008 as stated in your recent Quadrennial Defense Review report that was submitted to Congress. The Department must continue to demonstrate and characterize the MP-RTIP radar and validate, via live flight, the capability to complete the kill chain against both air and ground moving targets.

Sincerely,



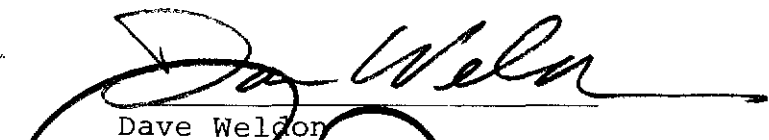
Christopher Shays



Jack Kingston



Nancy L. Johnson



Dave Weldon



Rosa DeLauro



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

OSD 15497-06



C. A. Dutch Ruppelberger
C. A. Dutch Ruppelberger

Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel

Tim B.
Timothy Bishop

Silvestre Reyes
Silvestre Reyes

Peter T. King
Peter T. King

Mike McIntyre
Mike McIntyre

Melissa Bean
Melissa Bean

Ben Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin

Curt Weldon
Curt Weldon

Norman D. Dicks
Norman D. Dicks

Gary L. Ackerman
Gary L. Ackerman

William J. Jefferson
William J. Jefferson

Sam Johnson
Sam Johnson

Ken Calvert
Ken Calvert

Steny H. Hoyer
Steny H. Hoyer

Terry Everett
Terry Everett

Peter Hoekstra
Peter Hoekstra

Rodney M. Alexander
Rodney M. Alexander

Charles J. Melancon
Charles J. Melancon

Henry Bonilla
Henry Bonilla

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor

Chef Edwards

Chet Edwards

Leonard L. Boswell

Leonard L. Boswell

John B. Larson

John B. Larson

Rob Simmons

Rob Simmons

Ander Crenshaw

Ander Crenshaw

Robin Hayes

Robin Hayes

Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop

Kendrick B. Meek

Kendrick B. Meek

Phil Gingrey

Phil Gingrey

Jane Harman

Jane Harman

Ralph M. Hall

Ralph M. Hall

Charles W. Boustany

Charles W. Boustany

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

G. K. Butterfield, Jr.

G. K. Butterfield, Jr.

Joe Wilson

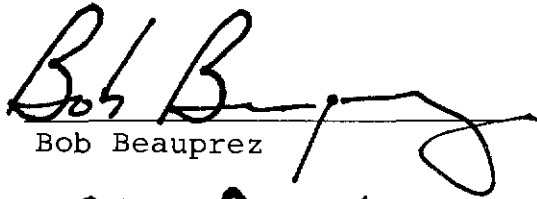
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Allen Boyd

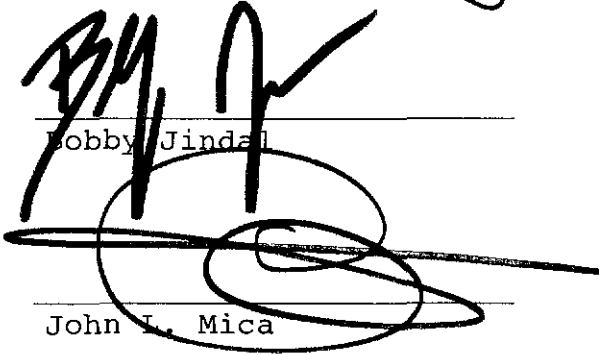
Allen Boyd

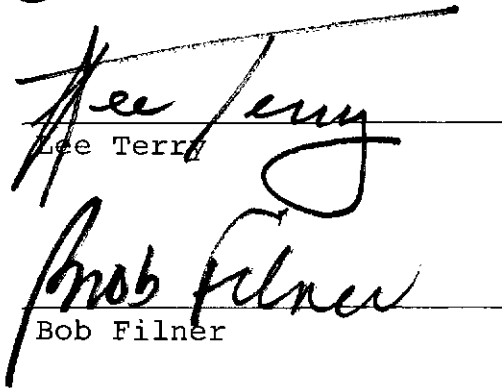
Corrine Brown


Corrine Brown

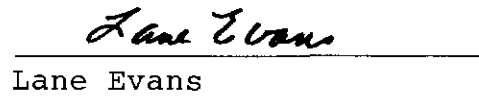

Bob Beauprez


Jim Gibbons


Bobby Jindal


Lee Terry

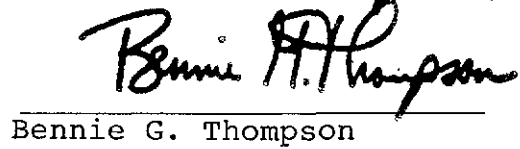

Solomon P. Ortiz

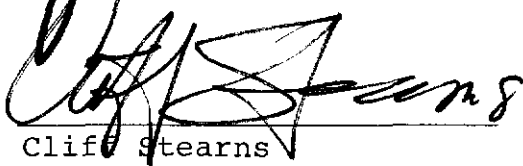

Lane Evans

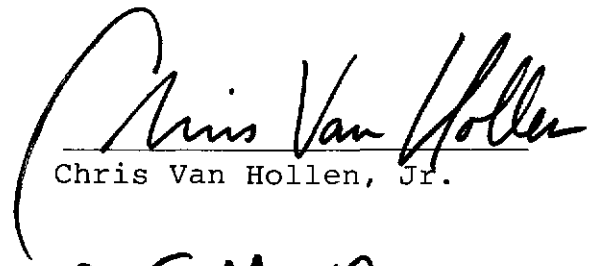

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon


Patrick McHenry

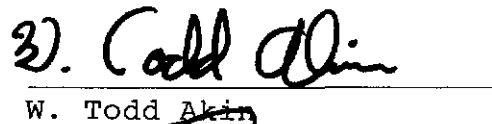

John E. Sweeney

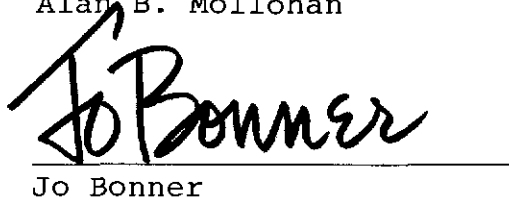

Bennie G. Thompson


Cliff Stearns


Chris Van Hollen, Jr.

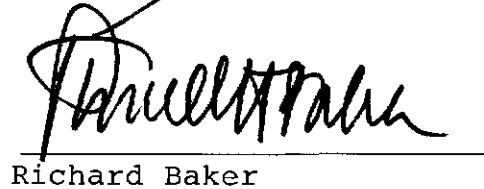

Alan B. Mollohan


W. Todd Akin


Jo Bonner


Roscoe G. Bartlett


Jim McCrery


Richard Baker

Tom Feeney
Tom C. Feeney I/I

Henry I Brown
Henry Brown

Robert C. Scott
Robert C. Scott

J. D. Hayworth
J. D. Hayworth

Chip Pickering
Charles W. "Chip" Pickering

Wally Herger
Wally Herger

Todd Tiahrt
Todd Tiahrt

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 14, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We would like to solicit your help in gaining a better understanding of the Department of Defense's plans for future acquisition of the C/KC-130J aircraft. The C/KC-130J is the crown jewel in today's tactical air mobility fleet. It is being flown by our Air Force and Marines, as well as by our Allies, and is providing exceptional service in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

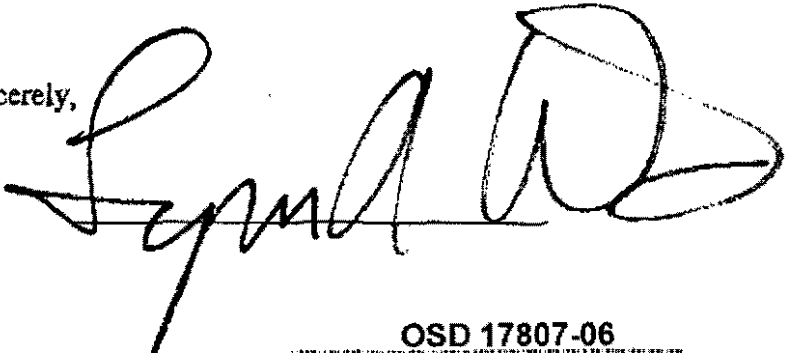
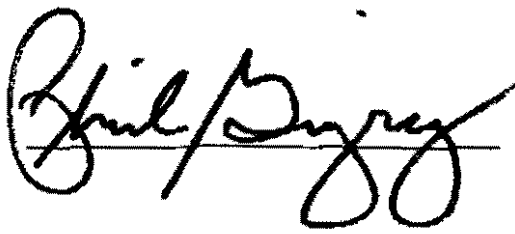
We are concerned that the current Department of Defense C/KC-130J multi-year procurement plan expires in FY 2008. As you are aware, more than half of the combat delivery C-130s are 30 years old or older, with some of the fleet now hampered by significant operational restrictions. Although their longevity is clearly a testament to the value of these critical aircraft, we are very concerned that the existing fleet continues to age at an alarming rate without an apparent long-term solution. The Department has clearly articulated the need for recapitalization, yet we see no indication of an integrated plan to bridge the existing C/KC-130J multi-year procurement to emerging requirements of the future.

We understand that the USMC and USAF have requirements for C/KC-130J replacement beyond those currently being met by the multi-year. We would like to hear from you regarding the Department's efforts to ensure our tactical airlift and tanker fleets in the USAF and USMC remain viable for the future.

Our airmen and marines clearly deserve the best equipment that we can offer them. The C/KC-130J is the right solution for these emerging tactical air mobility requirements.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



OSD 17807-06



11/15/2006 6:28:25 AM

Martin Baum

Mike McIntyre

Charlie Howard

Jack Kingston

Nathan Deal

Don Benton

W. G. ...

Tom ...

Randy ...

Jim ...

Jan Scott

John Lewis

Mik ...

Chip Picking

PATRICK J. KENNEDY
1st DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

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(202) 225-4011
FAX: (202) 225-3290
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(800) 302-8772
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www.patrickkennedy.house.gov



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

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21ST CENTURY HEALTH CARE CAUCUS
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS

October 30, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On August 24, 2007, you received a memo from John Young, Director of Defense Research and Engineering. We support the views expressed by Mr. Young in his memo and urge you to take those views into account when considering your budget request for Fiscal Year 2009.

As Mr. Young notes, investments in Department of Defense (DoD) Science & Technology (S&T) programs, and particularly in foundational or basic science programs, are most often the investments that lead to groundbreaking advancements in our warfighting capabilities. DoD support for these programs is also vital to training U.S. students in science and engineering fields critical to our future national defense. Despite its importance, the DoD S&T budget has increased at a far slower rate than the DoD RDT&E budget. Furthermore, foundational science has been reduced to less than 15 percent of the total S&T budget in recent years, a level which historically exceeded 20 percent of the S&T budget.

The concerns described by Mr. Young echo the concerns laid out by yourself and other members of the Augustine Commission in the 2005 report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. In his memo, Mr. Young states that "The last decade of growth in acquisition and advanced research and development has drawn upon a reservoir of knowledge and technology developed by S&T investment - analogous to draining a pool. In the rest of the world, there has been a resurgence of S&T investment." Accelerated investments in S&T programs in other countries require us to redouble our own efforts in this area.

We agree with Mr. Young's conclusion that "some increase in the Defense Department's early phase S&T program is merited by the combination of technology opportunities, the diversification of the threat, and the decline in corporate research investment." Although we recognize that the specific program funding levels suggested

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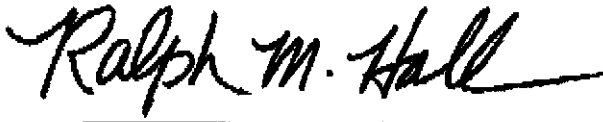
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
October 30, 2007
Page 2

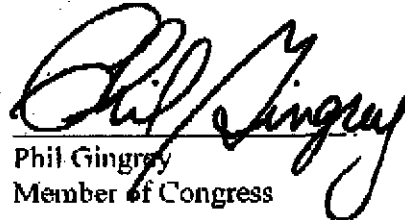
by Mr. Young in his memo are meant to serve only as a discussion point for your internal deliberations, we strongly encourage you to give serious consideration both to the specific funding levels and the overall theme of Mr. Young's memo as you prepare your Fiscal Year 2009 budget request.


Sincerely,

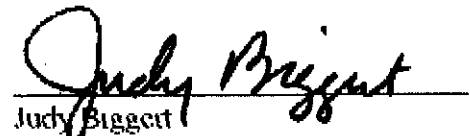

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress


Bart Gordon
Member of Congress


Ralph Hall
Member of Congress


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress


Jim Cooper
Member of Congress


Judy Biggett
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We understand that the Department of Defense is considering ceasing production of the F-22A Raptor following completion of the current multi-year procurement contract. We believe such a decision would be ill-advised and premature, given the recapitalization shortfalls facing our US Air Force and the rapidly emerging airborne and surface-to-air threats facing our nation's military.

The F-22A Raptor is exceeding all expectations in operational performance as well as production schedule and quality. The USAF urgently needs to replace approximately 500 1970-80's vintage F-15A-D Eagles. Despite the AF's oft-stated minimum requirement for 381, we note that DoD's program of record 183 total is not supported by any rigorous campaign-based analysis assessing the most stressing scenarios and rapidly growing threats. Rather, it has been reported that at least three independent studies commissioned by DoD recommended procuring significantly more than 220 Raptors because of its singularly unique capability to overwhelm all air and surface-to-air threats.

Meanwhile, it has recently been reported that three near-peer potential adversaries are busy co-developing two different stealth, twin-engine, high-altitude, Raptor-like fighters. Terminating the Raptor program at such a crucial and uncertain time only further encourages our potential adversaries to continue down this path. It also risks abandoning our AF's unique ability to deter aggressive actions and when called upon, dominate the airspace over our global allies, interests and deployed troops.

Furthermore, the F-22A Raptor is the world's only 5th Generation Fighter line currently in full-rate production. Over 25,000 Americans working for 1000 suppliers in 44 states manufacture this unique national asset. These are highly technical jobs that represent the leading edge of our nation's aerospace industry. Additionally, it is estimated another 70,000+ Americans owe their jobs indirectly to this program.

We urge you to continue procurement of the F-22A Raptor by including sufficient funds in the FY09 budget request to procure long-lead items for an additional lot of planes, beyond the current multi-year contract. We believe any decision to terminate production of this aircraft at such an early stage is more appropriately deferred until completion of the 2009 Quadrennial Defense Review which will assess current and future threats and recommend the necessary procurement strategies to fully support our national security requirements.

Sincerely,

OSD 19381-07



12/12/2007 3:45:07 PM





Tim Scott

Connie Mack

Rob Doff

Paul T. McCaul

Sam Cole

Wiley Degen

Patrick Pittman

Carlton

Joe Courtney

John Baerow

Joey Wilson

Bill Shuster

C. M.

Jacqueline P. Fields

Jim Marshall

Thomas Price

Rhodes

John P. Loh

Eric Cantor

Debi Nunez

John B. Rann

Kenny Thurt

John Kincaid

Jean Keller

John Singer 23

Allen Boyd

Bobby Satt

Shelma Drake

Sam Johnson

Lynn A. Drake

Hilda L. Aulis

Ronald R. Brouce

Carol Shea-Poore

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
(TX-02)

Cl. Dutch Ruppaskey

Paul C. Brown

Joe Boston

Ben Young

Norman Deal

Ronald A. Thompson

Elijah E. Cummings

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Rosa L. Delamuro

Jack Kingston

Samuel D. Blyden Jr.

Norm Hicks

Jay Miller

Franklin D. Johnson

Harold P. "Bud" DeLoach

John Edgar Hoover

Art Edwards

Elmo Smith

Ralph M. Hall

John A. Sobush

Walt Rife

J. Edgar Hoover

John Sessions

Frank Johnson

Jim W. Brown

Dalene Hooley

San Fran

Reg. Walder

Richard E. Neal

Joanna B. Ortiz

Reg. Lamber

Bee Young

Cc: The Honorable Jim Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Joshua Bolten, White House Chief of Staff

David Scott
Georgia, 13th

Connie Mack
Florida, 14th

Rob Bishop
Utah, 1st

Mike McCaul
Texas, 10th

Tom Cole
Oklahoma, 4th

Mike Rogers
Michigan, 8th

Patrick McHenry
North Carolina, 10th

Dan Boren
Oklahoma, 2nd

Joe Courtney
Connecticut, 2nd

John Barrow
Georgia, 12th

Joe Wilson
South Carolina, 2nd

Bill Shuster
Pennsylvania, 9th

Chris Murphy
Connecticut, 5th

Gabrielle Giffords
Arizona, 8th

Jim Marshall
Georgia, 8th

Tom Price
Georgia, 6th

Paul Hodes
New Hampshire, 2nd

John P. Sarbanes
Maryland, 3rd

Eric Cantor
Virginia, 7th

Devin Nunes
California, 21st

John Larson
Connecticut, 1st

Kenny Marchant
Texas, 24th

John Linder
Georgia, 7th

Dean Heller
Nevada, 2nd

Kay Granger
Texas, 12th

Allen Boyd
Florida, 2nd

Robert "Bobby" Scott
Virginia, 3rd

Thelma Drake
Virginia, 2nd

Sam Johnson
Texas, 3rd

Lynn Westmoreland
Georgia, 3rd

Hilda Solis
California, 32nd

Leonard Boswell
Iowa, 3rd

Carol Shea-Porter
New Hampshire, 1st

Ted Poe
Texas, 2nd

Dutch Ruppersberger
Maryland, 2nd

Paul Brown
Georgia, 10th

Joe Barton
Texas 6th

Don Young
Alaska, At-Large

Nathan Deal
Georgia, 9th

Donald Manzullo
Illinois, 16th

Elijah Cummings
Maryland, 7th

Chet Edwards
Texas, 17th

Wayne Gilchrest
Maryland, 1st

Chris Smith
New Jersey, 4th

Rosa DeLauro
Connecticut, 3rd

Ralph M. Hall
Texas, 4th

Jack Kingston
Georgia, 1st

Frank LoBiondo
New Jersey, 2nd

Sanford Bishop
Georgia, 2nd

Silvestre Reyes
Texas 16th

Norm Dicks
Washington, 6th

Jim Saxton
New Jersey, 3rd

Jeff Miller
Florida, 1st

Pete Sessions
Texas, 32nd

Trent Franks
Arizona, 2nd

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
Georgia, 4th

Howard P. "Buck" Mckeon
California, 25th

James McGovern
Massachusetts, 3rd

John Carter
Texas, 31st

Darlene Hooley
Oregon, 5th

Sam Graves
Missouri, 6th

Greg Walden
Oregon, 2nd

Richard Neal
Massachusetts, 2nd

Solomon P. Ortiz
Texas 27th

Doug Lamborn
Colorado, 5th

Bill C.W. Young
Florida, 10th

PAUL C. BROUN, M.D.
10th District, Georgia

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2104 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-4101
FAX: (202) 225-0776

WEB: BROUN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1010

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable James B. Peake
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretaries Gates and Peake,

We are writing to urge your consideration of a partnership between the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) School of Nursing to create a new national training site for Recovery Coordinators. Wounded Warriors returning from overseas with combat-related illnesses and injuries have a tremendous need for expert, continuing, and coordinated health care and timely delivery of benefits. In spite of the tremendous efforts by the DoD and VA to care for wounded warriors and their families, the *President's Commission on the Care for Returning Wounded Warriors (2007)* reported that the services need transformation to serve, support, and simplify the delivery of health care and other benefits. Recovery planning and coordination across services are critically needed to prevent serious gaps in care. The Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing is in a unique position to be able to take a leading role in this effort.

The MCG School of Nursing, Augusta VA Medical Center, and Eisenhower Medical Center (EAMC) have a history of collaboration in educating MCG BSN, MSN, and PhD nursing students, including Army Nurse Corps officers stationed at Fort Gordon. We believe that collaboration among these institutions to enhance efficient and effective health care to our injured and ill service members is an approach that warrants consideration, particularly for wounded warriors in the region. This history is particularly important because Eisenhower Army Medical Center is second only to Walter Reed AMC in receiving and treating wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan.

We believe that the need for this collaboration is clear and immediate, and we therefore respectfully request that you consider MCG's proposal as soon as possible. Enclosed, we have included a copy of the proposal, "Wounded Warriors and their Families: A Collaborative Proposal."

TOCCOA
560 FALLS ROAD
TOCCOA, GA 30577
PHONE: (706) 886-1008
FAX: (706) 886-1009

AUGUSTA
P.O. Box 211661
Augusta, GA 30617
4245 WASHINGTON ROAD
SUITE 6
EVANS, GA 30609
PHONE: (706) 647-3857
FAX: (706) 886-8758

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ATHENS
3708 ATLANTA HIGHWAY
SUITE 3B
ATHENS, GA 30606
PHONE: (706) 549-9588
FAX: (706) 549-9590


OSD 03110-08




3/7/2008 12:01:32 PM

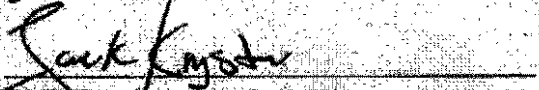
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


U.S. Congressman Paul C. Brown, M.D.


U.S. Congressman John Barrow


U.S. Congressman Nathan Deal


U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston



U.S. Congressman Lynn A. Westmoreland



U.S. Congressman Jim Marshall



U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey



U.S. Congressman David Scott


U.S. Congressman Tom Price


U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop Jr.



U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson


U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson


U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss


U.S. Congressman Gresham Barrett


U.S. Congressman John Linder


U.S. Congressman John Lewis

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

September 27, 2008

Hon. Robert S. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary,

For many of our men and women serving overseas, time is quickly running out for them to register to vote and to request, complete, and submit their ballots in the 2008 General Election. Regrettably, our men and women in uniform have been disenfranchised in the past because our system for overseas and absentee ballots is too cumbersome and inefficient to support them.

We urge you to employ electronic transaction technology that will allow men and women anywhere in the world to request, receive, complete, and where possible, submit their votes from their deployed locations. We also urge you to make provisions for the collection, transportation, and tracking of the absentee ballots of military voters, using express mail providers to the extent practicable.

Our men and women in uniform serve in the far corners of the globe in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy as American citizens. We owe it to every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine to ensure that they and their families are afforded the ability to vote like every other American of appropriate qualification, and that their vote counts in the General Election.

Sincerely,


Brent Franks
RM, Subcommittee on the Constitution


Kevin McCarthy
RM, Subcommittee on Election

SECDEF	DEPSEC	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CABLE CH	FILE

LAZ

OSD 12551-08



Candy Kuhl

Judy Foster

Tim Johnson

Joe Wilson

Dean Heller

W. Casari

Doug Lamborn

Phil Ingrey

Jo Bonner

Chris Fortis

Mike Ryan (MC)

Raymond

Rodney Alexander

Tony Swatt

Lamar Smith

Howard & Buck McKee

Bob Witt

John Kline

Mary Fallin

Jeff Miller

Paul Lambert

AMM

Eric

J. Jordan

Bill Sali

Ray Blunt
C. S. & S. S.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you are well aware, the Department of Defense is considering several locations in the continental United States as headquarters for Africa Command (AFRICOM). Should the determination be made to relocate the headquarters from Stuttgart, Germany, we believe that Marietta, Georgia offers unparalleled advantages and is therefore the most strategic east coast location to house AFRICOM.

The base in Marietta has a substantial runway network, as well as rail infrastructure that connects it with the Port of Savannah — already a point of shipment for a significant amount of cargo bound for Africa. Further, given that the facilities in Marietta are presently shared by Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Naval Air Station Atlanta, the Georgia National Guard, and Lockheed Martin, they have long been a model for joint-ness within the Department of Defense, an important and unique characteristic given that AFRICOM will be a joint command and require coordination with many international partners and across numerous government agencies. With 52 acres of available property adjoining the base, any needed expansion of the facilities would also be possible.

Moreover, the facility is located in a major metropolitan community, just north of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. As the world's busiest airport, this offers frequent and direct access to the continent of Africa. With one of the nation's highest concentrations of Fortune 500 companies and Non-Governmental Organizations, coupled with a very low cost of doing business, Atlanta and the Cobb County communities are uniquely qualified to accommodate additional consulates and businesses, as establishing such an important command may necessitate.

It is also worth pointing out that the Cobb County community is proudly patriotic: having actively and ardently supported Dobbins and NAS Atlanta for decades, the community would welcome the addition of AFRICOM. We therefore believe that the critical infrastructure advantages the facility offers, combined with the unique advantages of Cobb County, make this location the most qualified site for the headquarters in the United States.

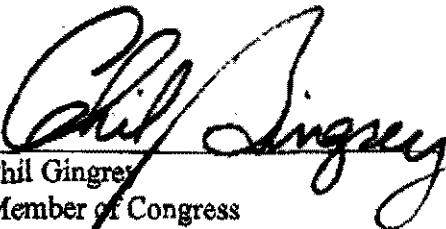
Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your leadership of the Department of Defense. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you at any time. Please know that we share your commitment to ensuring

OSD 13843-08




the success of our brave men and women in uniform, as well as the safety and security of the American people.

Sincerely,



Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



Tom Price
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you are well aware, the Department of Defense is considering several locations in the Continental United States (CONUS) as headquarters for Africa Command (AFRICOM). The Governor and members of the Georgia Delegation have previously written you regarding the potential use of Forts McPherson and Gillem for the AFRICOM Headquarters. While we understand that these installations are still under consideration, we also understand that Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta is also being considered. In addition to the reasons previously stated for locating AFRICOM at either Fort McPherson or Fort Gillem, we would like to take this opportunity to explain why Dobbins would also be an attractive location.

Dobbins has a substantial runway network as well as rail infrastructure that connects it with the Port of Savannah — already a point of shipment for a significant amount of cargo bound for Africa. Further, given that the facilities in Marietta are presently shared by Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Naval Air Station Atlanta, the Georgia National Guard, and Lockheed Martin, they have long been a model for joint-ness within the Department of Defense, an important and unique characteristic given that AFRICOM will be a joint command and require coordination with many international partners and across numerous government agencies. With 52 acres of available property adjoining the base, any needed expansion of existing or construction of new facilities would also be unencumbered.

Whether you choose Dobbins, Fort McPherson or Fort Gillem, Georgia provides a compelling location for the AFRICOM facility. Each is in close proximity to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Being the world's busiest airport there is frequent and direct access to the African continent. With one of the nation's highest concentrations of Fortune 500 companies and Non-Governmental Organizations, coupled with a very low cost of doing business, the greater Atlanta area is uniquely qualified to accommodate additional consulates and businesses that may be necessary if such an important command is established.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your leadership of the Department of Defense. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you at any time. Please know that we share your commitment to ensuring

OSD 13967-08



the success of our brave men and women in uniform, as well as the safety and security of the American people.

Very truly yours,

Saylor Chamberlain Lomy Perdue
 Bill Gray Stan Doo Tom Scott
 Jim Marshall John Lick Hank Johnson
 Lynn [unclear] Sanford [unclear] Noel Deal
 Zack Kingston Carl Brown

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
The Office of Secretary of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Room 3D921
Washington, DC 20301

We are writing to convey our support for the Army plan to assign an additional Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia. We share your expressed concern for the great hardship endured by the soldiers and their families and agree with your guiding principle to prevent the under-manning of units for combat while changing the policy on stop-loss. We believe the plan to bring the 5th BCT to Fort Stewart is in concert with the guiding principle of your statement on April 6th and will continue the progress made in revitalizing our armed forces.

Unquestionably, Fort Stewart is, for numerous strategic reasons, an ideal location for the Army to grow. But just as important it is imperative that the Army and the Department of Defense not lose sight of the issue of reliance—that state and local governments and the civic and business leaders relied on the request of the Army and the Department to be ready to accommodate these soldiers and their families. Accordingly, they have already invested about \$450 million dollars in anticipation of the arrival of the BCT.

While we recognize the extensive military analysis and fiscal constraints required in determining the location of a BCT, we firmly believe that it is in the best interest of the Department of Defense to take into full account the investment at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field made by local communities long ago. The communities made these decisions by taking to heart the clear assurance from Department leaders that the BCT was coming. They responded to the Department's requests to provide the essential private sector support in advance of the arrival of the Brigade. In deciding this issue, we believe the Army and the Department must consider the extensive, good faith reliance of its partner community. The Department must live up to its commitments. It must not break its word.

The City of Hinesville, the surrounding communities, and the State of Georgia have demonstrated unwavering support for soldiers and families over many years. The area now is clearly recognized as one of the most Army-friendly installation in the U.S. Community



leaders have faithfully and diligently worked with the Department and the private sector to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure is ready to receive the additional brigade. To date the community's investment of about \$450 million in preparation for the expected growth to include \$72 million in public school projects and other public sector infrastructure investment. The State of Georgia has again expanded its acclaimed HOPE Scholarship program to further extend the access to military families for full tuition, room and board to any Georgia public college or university for students who graduate from high school with a B average.

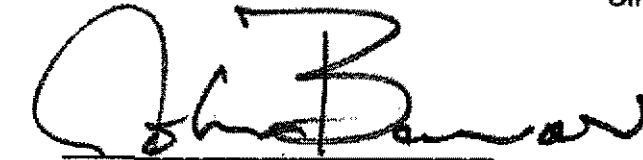
We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence of the BCTs at Fort Stewart, the Army has an exceptional home base in the state of Georgia to meet all mission challenges for our nation's defense. Resources are already either in place or pending final construction to swiftly accommodate the arrival of the new Brigade and their families. No other U.S installation can so effectively and quickly meet these needs. Commanders would have an Army unit with maximum adaptability and capability to meet combat requirements. Soldiers would be able to focus on their training, knowing that their families are settling into an installation and community that continues to welcome and accommodate them.

Fort Stewart's strategic location in southeast Georgia makes it easily accessible by road, rail and sea. Hunter Army Air Field provides a strategic Airborne Point of Entry for unit deployment. Movement to ports takes place in hours vice days and weeks. At 280,000 acres, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. The Army has invested some \$670 million at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field in the past three years making it one of the most modern and efficient installations in the nation with additional construction pending for increased capacity. Training is efficient and cost effective due to the installation's digital multipurpose range training complex and other facilities located within minutes of the cantonment areas. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field also has no significant environmental impact or encroachment issues. Just this month Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field won its fourth Army Community of Excellence installation award.


Accordingly, it is our request that the Department continue as originally planned to expand growth at Fort Stewart through the assignment of the additional BCT without adversely affecting the alignment of the current forces stationed at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning. We urge you to meet with Fort Stewart community leaders in the near future and permit them the opportunity to directly share their views and additional information on this issue.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

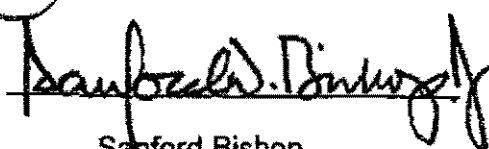
Sincerely,




 John Barrow



 Jack Kingston



 Sanford Bishop



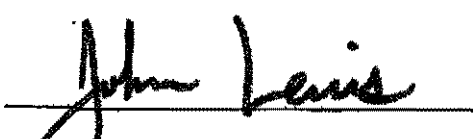
 Paul Broun




 Hank Johnson



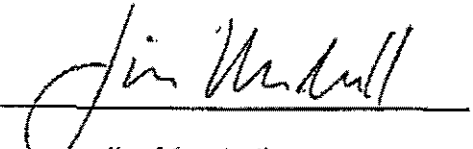
 Nathan Deal



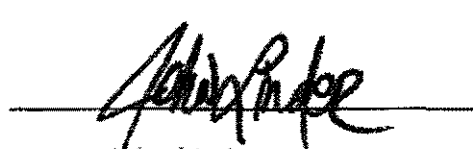
 John Lewis



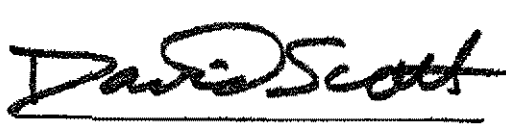
 Phil Gingrey



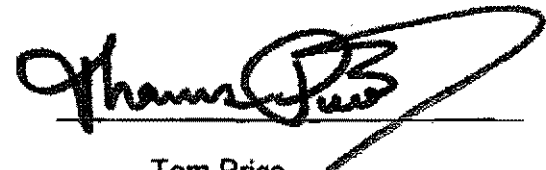
 Jim Marshall



 John Linder



 David Scott



 Tom Price



 Lynn Westmoreland

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you review the Department of Defense's continued application of congressionally authorized exceptions to the Berry Amendment relating to the procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources. The materials are used in the manufacture of body armor and fire-resistant uniforms, respectively.

The Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference in procurements to domestically produced, manufactured, or home-grown products—notably food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. We believe that exceptions to this amendment allowing DOD purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources are no longer warranted owing to the availability of suitable materials in today's U.S. marketplace. The recent use of these exceptions is having an adverse impact on U.S. manufacturers and has undercut our policy of maintaining a strong and viable defense industrial base.

In 1998, partially due to limited domestic competition and a reliance on sole-source contracts, a statutory exception was created to the Berry Amendment to allow for purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns from foreign sources. The statutory exception is only applicable when the Department makes a determination that procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns from domestic sources will result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts. As a result of the exemption, the Department's purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns have become increasingly dependent on foreign suppliers over the last decade. The marketplace has changed significantly in the last decade, however, and a variety of suitable materials now exist domestically.

Similarly, in 2008 a statutory exception was created for fire-resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms. This exception allowed the Department to procure fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms from foreign suppliers if a determination was made that either fire-resistant rayon fiber was not available domestically, or procuring such fiber domestically would result in sole-source contracts.

In the short period during which this provision has been in effect, foreign suppliers have dramatically increased their market share. Currently, 90 percent of the fielded Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniforms are constructed of imported fiber.



While environmental and other concerns have caused domestic sources to forego production of fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms, there are a variety of other fire-resistant fibers in today's domestic marketplace—some of which have out-performed rayon in evaluations for Army uniforms. As a result, the "rayon" exception is not relevant and should not apply to future procurements.

Congress has given the Secretary of Defense discretion to determine whether either exception should be used. However, current law mandates an annual review by the Secretary of Defense. We believe that a departmental review will clearly document why these exceptions to the Berry amendment should no longer be applied for defense-related procurements. It is our strongly held view that the para-aramid fibers and yarns exception is no longer valid, and that the fire-resistant rayon fiber exception is no longer useful. For the reasons noted above, we urge you not to apply either Berry amendment exception to future procurements involving these items.

We look forward to working with you to advance a more balanced policy that both promotes competition and preserves our ability to maintain and grow our domestic defense capabilities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

<u>J. Rudy Forbes</u>	<u>Gene Taylor</u>
<u>Carl King</u>	<u>John P. [Signature]</u>
<u>Robert A. Wittman</u>	<u>Ben Rayburn</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Shirley Rooney</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Tom Wilson</u>
<u>Doug Lankford</u>	<u>Phil King</u>
<u>Rob Grady</u>	<u>Mike [Signature]</u>
	<u>_____</u>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

17 December 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Defense has invited Louay Safi, a top official at the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), to give lectures on Islam to our troops at Fort Hood. If this is indeed true, we respectfully request that you end this practice.


According to the Justice Department, ISNA is a prominent member of the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization with a network of known and suspected Islamic terrorist organizations spread throughout the world. The Brotherhood and its partner organizations regularly espouse violent jihad and anti-Semitism.

More specifically, ISNA was identified by the Justice Department at the successful Holy Land Foundation terrorism financing conspiracy trial as an unindicted co-conspirator. Literature distributed by ISNA at its annual convention in Washington in July featured books and pamphlets portraying prosecution of terrorist and terror-supporters as "anti-Muslim bigotry"; revisionist history that denied Arab and Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel; and anti-Semitic tracts.

Safi himself has been connected to an entity called the "Safa Group." Search warrants executed in 2002 were supported by an affidavit alleging its involvement in moving large sums of money to terrorist fronts. He was also caught on a 1995 FBI wiretap of Sami al-Arian. Safi was concerned that an executive order, issued by President Clinton prohibiting financial transactions with terrorist organizations, would negatively effect al-Arian. In April 2006, al-Arian pled guilty to a charge of conspiring to provide services to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad – a specially designated terrorist organization.

The Muslim Brotherhood is dedicated in its own words to "a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house by their hands." What better way to carry out its plans to "sabotage" our efforts than to have one of its own invited to lecture on Islam to the very troops called to defend this country against those the Brotherhood supports. We ask that you immediately stop any lecturing by Louay Safi or ISNA affiliated speakers.

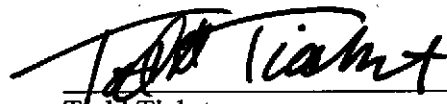
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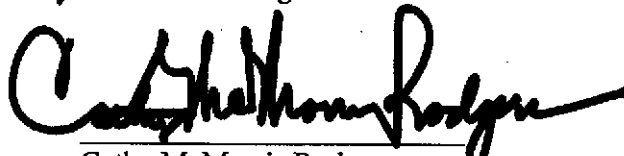

W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress

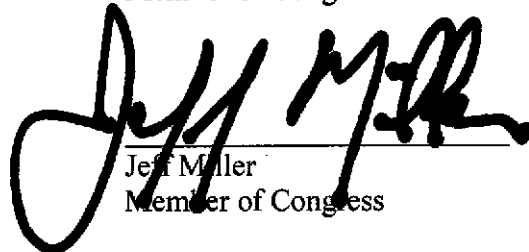

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

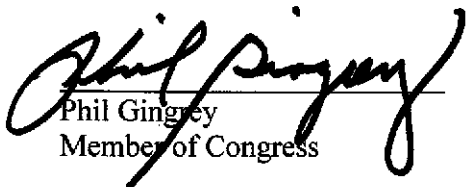




Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress


Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

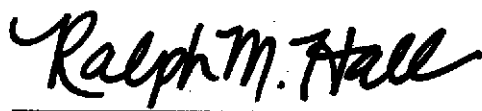

Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress


Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress


Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress


John B. Shadegg
Member of Congress


Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2010

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

Admiral Michael G. Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

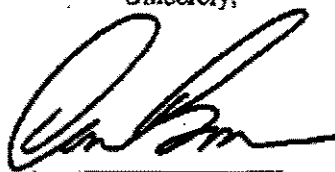
Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen,

We write you today concerned about the recent decision to rescind the invitation to Tony Perkins to attend the National Prayer Luncheon at Andrews Air Force Base. This action sends a dangerous message and could have an unfortunate effect on military chaplains.

We are concerned that this type of censorship suggests further pressure within the military to stifle religious services, forcing chaplains to adhere to "approved politically correct messages" and not preach the gospel as presented in the Bible. Limiting religious discussion on military installations has the basic effect of telling chaplains which parts of the Bible are acceptable and which parts are not.

We ask that your office ensure the right of religious freedom for members of the Air Force. We request your office provide us with the details of how religious views will be protected, especially during the coming months as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is being debated, as well as any other issue in which the Air Force feels that the Bible and national policy clash. Finally, as a show of good faith, we request that the Air Force invite Mr. Perkins to another event which would show other chaplains that you have reexamined your position.

Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Michael B. Donley
General Norton A. Schwartz



Jim Kelly NV-2

Bob Wilson, SC-02

Paul Davis Ca.

Paul G. Ryan CA-8

AMM TX 2

Al King TX 26
Bob Work KS-4

Bob Dwyer SC

Ally Hodge AZ

Robert H. G. ... CA-52

Butt Roth KY-2

Robert A. Anderson AL4

Edna ... CA-24

Tim ... TX-3

Michael Bachmann

John ... TX-5

John ... TX-2

Andie ... FL-4

Devin ... Ca

Pat ... TX-32

Supriya ... NC

Jim ... OH

Steve ... IA-5

Lee ... TX-9

... HI

K. ... TX-11

Step ... LA-1

Conway ... TX-19

Virginia ... NC-5

... MD-09

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Carter Va.

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James ... FL-6

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Bill ... Pa

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Paul ... GA-10

Ralph ... TX-4

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Pete ...

... CA-4

Ing R. H. PA-16

Joe Barton

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Dold UT

Phil King

Chris Smith

Wally Herger

Tommy L. Latham

Craig Harper

95 Mead TX-28

Bob

Orin G. Hatch

John Flanagan LA-04

Robert E. Latta

Bonnie J. Thompson

Bill Jay FL-15

John Boozman

Harold Rogers

Jim Culberson

Jim Cooper

Lamar Smith

Jeff Miller IL-19

Mike Rogers

Robert J. Witt

Clayton L. Kopp CO-5

Lynn A. Westcott

JO Bonner

Frank Rosten AZ-2

Thomas H. Luken

Mark Souder

Barrett MD-6

Mike Halpern

Don Young

Jay Byrnes WY

Bill Cundy LA-6

K. Y. X-2

Paul Wolf

Gann Emerson

Denny Rehberger

Dan Burton

Dwight AL-7

Victor NC-2

W. K. Collins CO-6

Mosler IL-6

Anthony (MI-11)

Paul Jordan TX-7

Ray R

Strom OHIO-14

Spill MI-6

John Klein MI-2

Jim Sall OR-7

Paul OHIO-12

Kent CA-5

Mark TX-13
Harley TENN

Vernon J. Ehlers MI

E. Whitfield KY

Anthony (SD 02)

T. J. (IL-15)

Aderholt, Robert
Alexander, Rodney
Bachmann, Michele
Bachus, Spencer
Bartlett, Rosco
Barton, Joe
Bilbray, Brian P.
Bishop, Rob
Blackburn, Marsha
Bonner, Joe
Boozman, John
Boren, Dan
Boustany, Charles
Brady, Kevin
Broun, Paul C.
Brown, Henry
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess, Michael
Burton, Dan
Campbell, John
Cantor, Eric
Carter, John
Cassidy, Bill
Chaffetz, Jason
Coffman, Mike
Conaway, Michael
Crenshaw, Ander
Cuellar, Henry
Culberson, John
Davis, Artur
Dreier, David
Ehlers, Vernon
Emerson, Jo Ann
Fallin, Mary
Fleming, John
Fortenberry, Jeff
Foxx, Virginia
Franks, Trent 2
Gallegly, Elton
Gingrey, Phil
Gohmert, Louis
Goodlatte, Bob
Griffith, Parker
Guthrie, Brett
Hall, Ralph M.
Harper, Gregg
Heller, Dean

Hensarling, Jeb
Herger, Wally
Hoekstra, Peter
Hunter, Duncan
Inglis, Bob
Jenkins, Lynn
Johnson, Tim
Jones, Walter B.
Jordan, Jim
King, Peter
King, Steve
Kingston, Jack
Kline, John
Lamborn, Doug
LaTourette, Steven
Latta, Robert
Linder, John
Luetkemeyer, Blaine
Lummis, Cynthia
Lungren, Dan
Manzullo, Donald A.
Marchant, Kenny
McClintock, Tom
McCotter, Thaddeus
Myrick, Sue
Neugebauer, Randy
Nunes, Devin
Olson, Pete
Pitts, Joseph
Posey, Bill
Price, Tom
Rehberg, Danny
Reichert, Dave
Rodgers, Mike
Roe, Phil
Rogers, Hal
Rooney, Tom
Roskam, Peter
Scalise, Steve
Schmidt, Jean
Sesenbrenner, James
Sessions, Pete
Shadegg, John
Shimkus, John
Shuster, Bill
Simpson, Mike

Smith, Christopher
Smith, Lamar
Souder, Mark
Stearns, Cliff
Sullivan, John
Taylor, Gene
Terry, Lee
Thornberry, William
Tiahart, Todd
Tiberi, Patrick
Wamp, Zach
Westmoreland, Lynn
Whitfield, Ed
Wilson, Joe
Wittman, Robert
Wolf, Frank

TRENT FRANKS
ARIZONA

1237 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4576



7121 W. BELL ROAD, SUITE 200
GLENDALE, AZ 85308
(623) 776-7911

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
BANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC

www.house.gov/franks

May 5, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to express our great concern over the decision made by Army Secretary John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. to rescind an invitation to Reverend Franklin Graham to speak at the National Day of Prayer on May 6th, 2010, due to complaints raised and publicized by two special interest groups that object to his Christian beliefs and his criticisms of the Islamic faith. We find this decision misguided for several reasons.

Army spokesman Col. Tom Collins is quoted as saying that Secretary McHugh and General Casey decided "it would be inappropriate for [Reverend Graham] to participate in this inclusive event" because of Graham's comments about Islam.

From its founding, America has possessed a rich heritage of affirming religious expression in the lives of the men and women serving in the armed forces. Indeed, America's founders and a long line of national and military leaders have realized that the strength of America's military lies in the depth of its faith. Commander-in-Chief George Washington regularly issued orders for military troops to attend and participate in religious gatherings. Declaration signer John Witherspoon, a member of the Board of War that oversaw military operations throughout the Revolution, reminded soldiers: "[T]here is no soldier so undaunted as the pious man, no army so formidable as those who are superior to the fear of death."

It is thus intensely troubling that Pentagon officials have now taken it upon themselves to deign what type of Christian belief and expression is "appropriate," and then to censor a patriotic minister, whose own son is serving his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan, simply because of the objection of an organization that has made it its mission to eradicate open expressions of religious faith from the military. It is highly ironic that it is in the name of religious freedom and "inclusiveness," peaceful religious expression is actually being stifled.

Reverend Graham is one of America's most respected religious leaders, and is beloved by millions of Americans. We understand that not everyone shares Reverend Graham's beliefs about Islam, but the essence of religious liberty is having the right to one's own religious convictions as well as the right to express them. We would like to know for the future by what standard the U.S. military is going to judge what are appropriate religious convictions? Our Founding Fathers understood that religious pluralism did not mean we didn't have disagreements about religion, but that we would disagree peaceably, something Franklin Graham has always done. But now, the U.S. military is putting itself in the position of judging what acceptable belief is. Might the Secretary explain to the Congress just how it will do this?

OSD 05754-10



We do not believe that Reverend Graham's views of Islam should exclude him from this event. If our concept of religious freedom today is based primarily on the desire to placate or avoid criticism offered by suspect organizations, then our constitutional right of freedom of religion is devoid of both meaning and principle.

We ask that you reconsider the decision to revoke Reverend Graham's invitation, and extend to him the opportunity to preach his welcome message to the men and women of our armed forces, and indeed to the Nation at the National Day of Prayer event at the Pentagon.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

cc: President Barack Obama
John M. McHugh - Secretary of the Army
Ray Mabus - Secretary of the Navy
Michael B. Donley - Secretary of the Air Force
Admiral Michael Mullen - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General James E. Cartwright - Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General George W. Casey, Jr. - Chief of Staff of the United States Army
Admiral Gary Roughead - Chief of Naval Operations
General Norton A. Schwartz - Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force
General James T. Conway - Commandant of the Marine Corps

Robert Tranks
Eric Schmitt

Paul G
Ralph M Hall

Mr Madegz
Carl H

Jan Justice
Chris Smith

Phil Sengler GA-11

Jack Kingston

John Hilly

Ray Miller

John Schmitt OH-2

Ben Baker

John Kerin VA-04

Carol Mangel

R. E. Jan OH-5

Ken Cabout

Lamar Smith

Lee M. Bilinski

Will Underwood

Steve King

Richard Bachman

Caray Newman

W. Todd Akin MO-2

Mike Pence

Jo Jordan OH-4

Robert B. Aderholt

Doug Lamborn CO-5

John Boozman

Wally Huger

Lu Woy

J. M. Bennett

David P. Rose

John Olin

Sam Gold

Robert Aderholt (AL-04)
Todd Akin (MO-02)
Michele Bachmann (MN-06)
Spencer Bachus (AL-06)
Gresham Barrett (SC-03)
Gus Bilirakis (FL-09)
John Boozman (AR-03)
Michael Burgess (TX-26)
Dan Burton (IN-05)
Ken Calvert (CA-44)
John Fleming (LA-04)
Phil Gingrey (GA-11)
Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Ralph Hall (TX-04)
Wally Herger (CA-02)
Darrell Issa (CA-49)
Jim Jordan (OH-04)
Steve King (IA-05)
John Kline (MN-02)
Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
Bob Latta (OH-05)
Jack Kingston (GA-01)
Don Manzullo (IL-16)
Gary Miller (CA-42)
Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)
Pete Olson (TX-22)
Mike Pence (IN-06)
Joe Pitts (PA-16)
Phil Roe (TN-01)
Chris Smith (NJ-04)
Lamar Smith (TX-21)
Jean Schmidt (OH-02)
Aaron Schock (IL-18)
John Shadegg (AZ-03)
Todd Tiahrt (KS-04)
and Frank Wolf (VA-10)



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We would like to express our appreciation for the diligent work and support you continue to provide our troops. In particular, we applaud your support for the men and women of the 116th Air Control Wing who accomplish the mission of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS). JSTARS is providing unparalleled, wide-area surveillance Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) and Dismount MTI (DMTI) data to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq who are fighting the global war on terrorism.

We are, however, concerned with the pace in which the Air Force is advancing the JSTARS re-engining program. Last year, Under Secretary Ashton Carter issued an Acquisition Decision Memorandum directing the Air Force to "continue the JSTARS re-engining System Design and Development phase, including the development, flight-testing, and production of the initial increment of re-engining shipsets. The Air Force should immediately identify and obligate RDT&E and procurement funding necessary to execute this direction." It is our understanding that the intent of this direction to the Air Force was to utilize funds that had originally been appropriated for JSTARS re-engining, but were diverted to other uses.

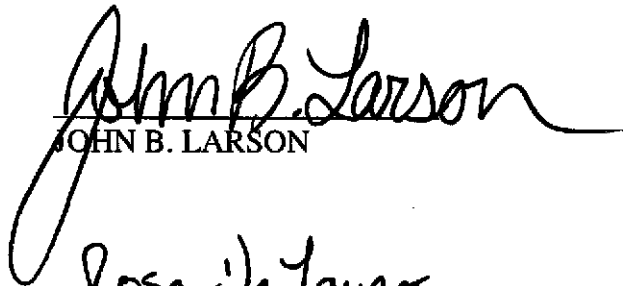
Additionally, the FY10 Defense Appropriations Conference Report contained the following language: "The Department of Defense decision to proceed with the JSTARS re-engining program is supported in the recommendation. It is noted that the JSTARS program has been used as a source of funds for reprogramming in the past. The Air Force is encouraged to restore those prior year funds if additional resources are needed. The recommendation provides, \$115,900,000, an increase of \$46,000,000, in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation funding and provides \$54,000,000 in the Aircraft Procurement, Air Force appropriation." Clearly, the Congressional intent was to support procurement of additional JSTARS engines.

Despite Under Secretary Carter's and the Congress' directive, we see no evidence that the Air Force intends to use designated funds for their intended purpose. As a result, we would request your personal attention in ensuring this important program is put back on track.

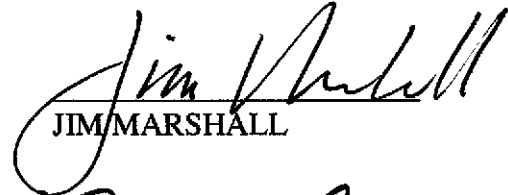


As always, thank you for your attention to this matter and for the exemplary leadership that you provide our nation's armed forces.

Sincerely,



JOHN B. LARSON



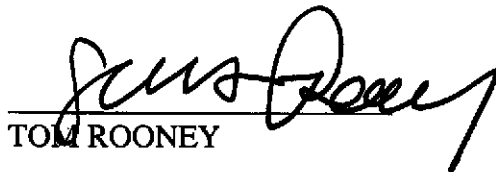
JIM MARSHALL



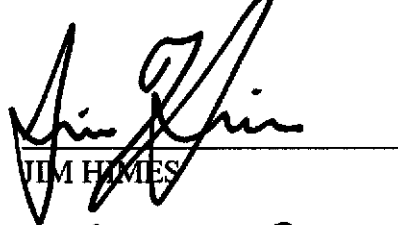
ROSA DELAURO



CORRINE BROWN



TOM ROONEY



JIM HIMES



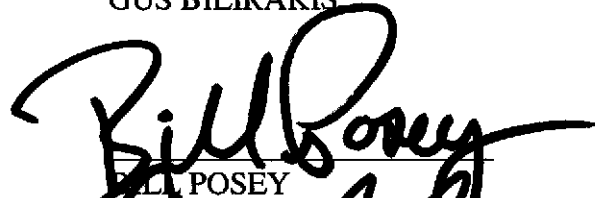
JOE COURTNEY



GUS BILIRAKIS



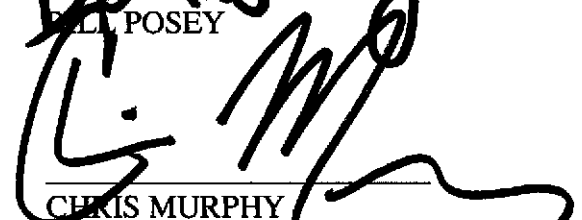
DOUG LAMBORN



BILL POSEY



LYNN WESTMORELAND



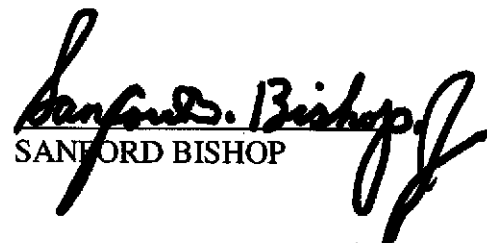
CHRIS MURPHY



ANDER CRENSHAW



SUZANNE KOSMAS




SANFORD BISHOP




LARRY KISSELL


ALAN MOLLOHAN


JOHN L. MICA

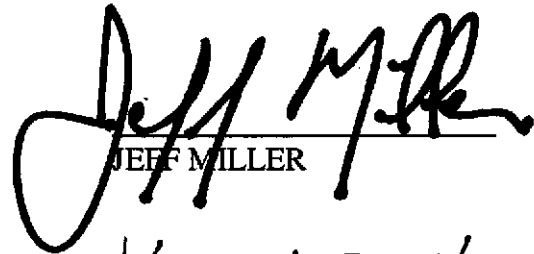

MARK S. CRITZ


LEONARD BOSWELL


PHIL GINGREY


WALTER JONES


MIKE MCINTYRE


JEFF MILLER


PAUL BROUN


KENDRICK MEEK


MICHAEL ARCURI


ELIOT ENGEL

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2010

Mr. Robert Carey
Director
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1777 North Kent Street
Suite #14003
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Director Carey,

The men and women of the United States Military make great sacrifices each and every day to protect the cherished freedoms that we enjoy as Americans. One of our most sacred rights is the ability to vote. While the greatness of our society is based upon the right of every eligible citizen to vote, it is absolutely critical that members of the Armed Forces who are serving our nation overseas are able to cast a ballot.

Unfortunately, reports of disenfranchised military personnel have often tarnished election results. The men and women who put their life on the line deserve unequivocal participation in the democracy they protect. That is why Congress passed the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) in October, 2009. The MOVE Act requires states to mail unmarked absentee ballots to military and overseas voters at least 45 days prior to an election. The bill does allow for states to apply for a waiver from the 45-day requirement, but only if at least one of three specific situations arise that renders the state "unable" to comply with that timeline.

It is critical that the MOVE Act, which amends the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), is enforced. However, we write to you today with concerns regarding the implementation of this law. According to the minutes of the 2010 winter meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), there appears to be confusion between the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Justice (DOJ) about waiver requirements. We are concerned that DOJ does not intend to aggressively pursue the execution of this vital 45-day requirement.

As the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, you are responsible for administering UOCAVA on behalf of the Secretary of Defense, which includes approving the MOVE Act waiver applications. The MOVE Act's text is clear. A secretary of state may be granted a waiver only if the state is "unable" to comply with the law – meaning that the state must literally not be able to comply. We urge you to maximize the transparency of this process. That way it is absolutely evident that the only reason a state seeks a waiver results from one of the three cases specified in the law: (i) The state's primary election date prohibits the state from

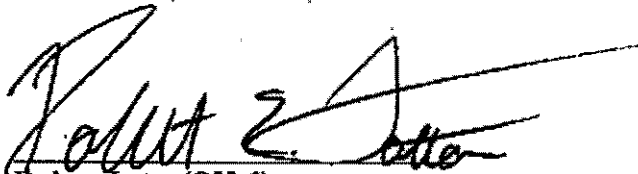


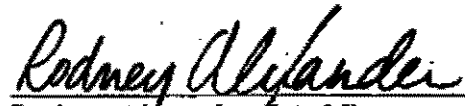
complying; (ii) The state has suffered a delay in generating ballots due to a legal contest; or (iii) The state Constitution prohibits the state from complying.

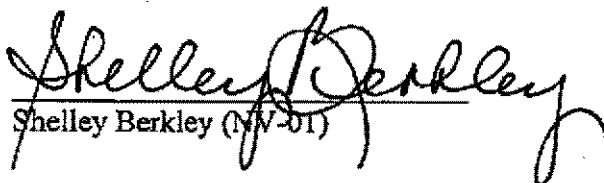
The MOVE Act does not create any discretion for the Executive Branch to decide whether or not to enforce its legal requirements. Should these waivers be posted online, it will be clear that the letter of the law is being pursued by the states. Furthermore, we encourage you to clarify your understanding of the waiver provisions in the statute with the DOJ so that the very clear intent of the law is followed.

Without the brave men and women of the U.S. Military actively protecting American freedom, each of us would not be able to participate in our great democracy. It should be without question that our government makes every effort to protect the ability of our defenders to vote. The MOVE Act makes this possible. We urge you to make the waiver applications transparent, so that it is absolutely clear if the civil rights of members of the Armed Forces are enforced.


Sincerely,

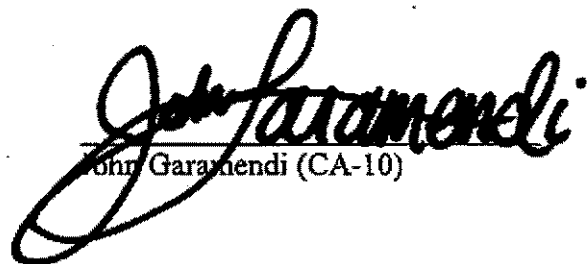

Robert Latta (OH-5)

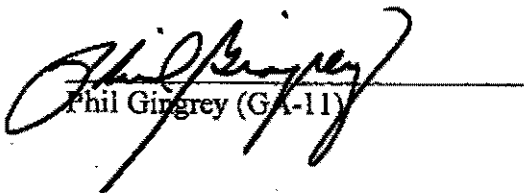

Rodney Alexander (LA-05)


Shelley Berkley (NV-01)

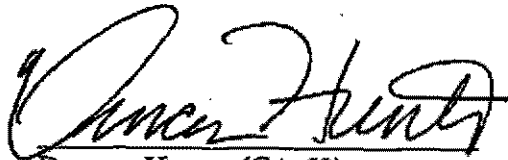

Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)

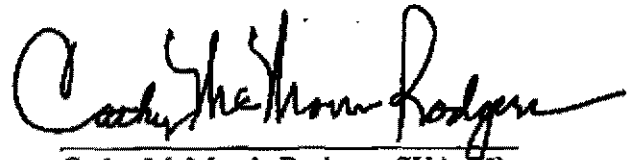

John Boozman (AR-03)



John Garabandi (CA-10)

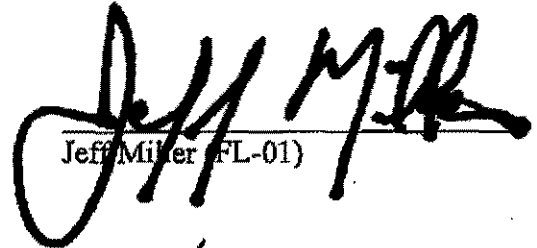

Phil Gingrey (GA-11)



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (SD-AL)



Duncan Hunter (CA-52)

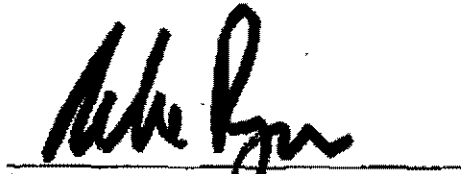

Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)

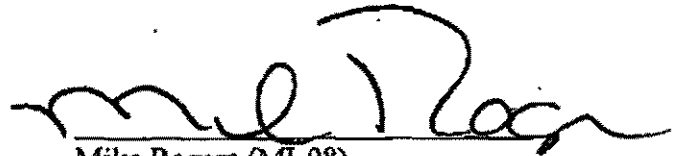

Candice Miller (MI-10)


Jeff Miller (FL-01)


Pete Olson (TX-22)


Harold Rogers (KY-05)


Mike Rogers (AL-03)


Mike Rogers (MI-08)


Mike Turner (OH-03)

Cc: The Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Eric Holder, Attorney General

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus (CTC) and long-time friends and supporters of Taiwan, we write to you today to thank you for continuing the long-standing partnership between the United States and our democratic ally, Taiwan.

As you know, our relationship with Taiwan is governed by the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979, which directs both Congress and the President to make defense articles available to Taiwan, based solely on the "judgment of the needs of Taiwan." Another cornerstone of U.S. policy toward Taiwan is the "Six Assurances" that President Reagan conveyed to Taiwan President Chiang Ching-kuo on July 14, 1982. At the time, President Reagan made clear that the United States:

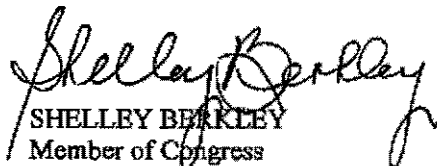
- (1) has not agreed to set a date for ending arms sales to Taiwan;
- (2) has not agreed to hold prior consultations with the People's Republic of China on arms sales to Taiwan;
- (3) will not play any mediation role between Taipei and Beijing;
- (4) has not agreed to revise the Taiwan Relations Act;
- (5) has not altered its position regarding sovereignty over Taiwan; and
- (6) will not exert pressure on Taiwan to negotiate with the People's Republic of China.

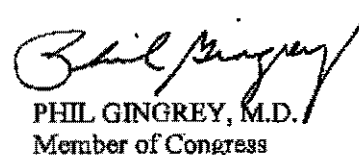
Along with the TRA, these Six Assurances form the basis of the overall policy approach that the United States has taken toward Taiwan for over 30 years. It is a policy that has successfully maintained peace in the Taiwan Strait while providing for Taiwan's economic prosperity and political transformation, both of which are to the enormous benefit of the United States.

We noted that, during your recent trip to Asia, you commented on China's reaction to the September 2011 U.S. arms sale to Taiwan. While expressing appreciation for Beijing's "professional and diplomatic" reaction, you stated that the Obama Administration had "given the Chinese a heads up as to what was going to take place." While notifying the Chinese of decisions regarding U.S. arms sales to Taiwan does not explicitly violate the Six Assurances, we hope that such notification has not and will not lead to any consultations with the Chinese government prior to a decision to sell arms to Taiwan.

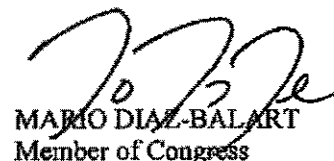
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we strengthen the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan, based on the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances.

Sincerely,


SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress


PHIL GINGREY, M.D.
Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress


MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 13544-11



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2012

Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

Religious freedom is an integral component of America's greatness and has been a vital pillar of our nation from the very beginning. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that the United States Air Force (USAF) has taken a series of steps signaling hostility towards religious freedom. We ask that you investigate this matter and issue clear guidance in writing to formally assure active duty servicemembers and those considering future service that they need not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve.

In recent months, the USAF has made various changes regarding the religious freedom of individuals bravely serving in the military. Most of these changes occurred following a September 1, 2011 memorandum issued by General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the USAF, imposing a stringent policy with regards to religion. The memo stated that Gen. Schwartz expected "chaplains, not commanders, to notify Airmen of Chaplain Corps programs," suggesting that the mere mention of these programs is impermissible. We believe this statement exemplifies the troubling "complete separation" approach that is creating a chilling effect down the chain of command as airmen attempt to comply.

While we agree that leaders should not use their positions to impose their religious beliefs or to extend preferential treatment to those who share their beliefs, the decisions that have been made in reliance upon this policy go beyond what is required by the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of religion; however, the mere discussion of religion or reference to God certainly does not rise to that level. Censorship is not required for compliance with the Constitution, and should not be required for compliance with military directives.

The USAF repeatedly has succumbed to demands from organizations that seek to remove all references to God and faith in our military. Recent USAF capitulations in this area include:

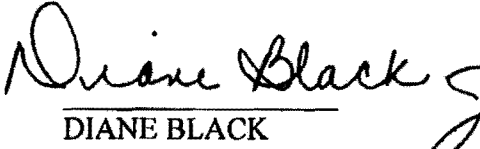
- Suspending an ethics briefing for nuclear missile officers, due to its discussion of Bible references and St. Augustine's "Just War" theory;
- Removing a Latin reference to "God" from the Rapid Capabilities Office motto;
- Removing an article from a Squadron Officer School distance-learning curriculum because it referenced chapel attendance;
- Removing Bibles from Air Force Inn checklists; and
- Modifying the presentation of the Air Force Academy's involvement with the charity "Operation Christmas Child."



These modifications go beyond the requirements of the Constitution, and appear to have been influenced by the more stringent guidance issued by Gen. Schwartz in September 2011. The changes lend credence to the notion that the Air Force will remove any reference to God or faith that an outside organization brings to its attention.


Mr. Secretary, the combination of events mentioned above raises concerns that the Air Force is developing a culture that is hostile towards religion. We request that you investigate what may have led to this series of incidents and issue clear Department of Defense policy guidance, consistent with our Constitution, to preserve the place of religious expression in the military at large. We trust that you will ensure that all analysis of these sensitive issues is being conducted in a deliberative and thoughtful manner, with special respect given to our military's legacy of honoring the place of faith among its members. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,

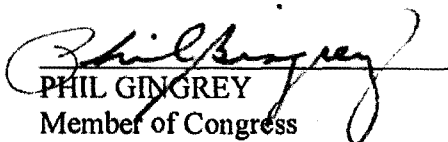

DIANE BLACK
Member of Congress

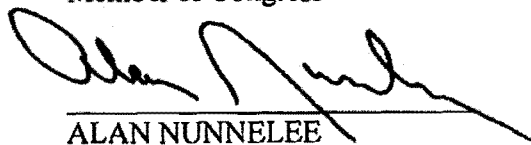

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress


W. TODD AKIN
Member of Congress


TIM GRIFFIN
Member of Congress



DENNIS ROSS
Member of Congress

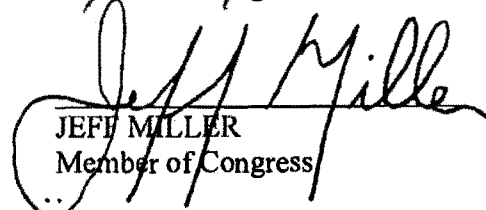

PHIL GINGREY
Member of Congress


ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress


STEVE SCALISE
Member of Congress


JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress


GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress

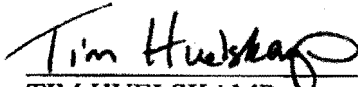

JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress



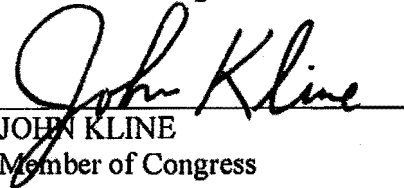
STEVAN PEARCE
Member of Congress



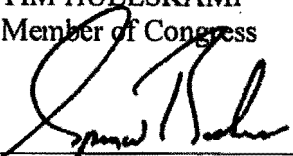
LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



TIM HUELSKAMP
Member of Congress



JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress



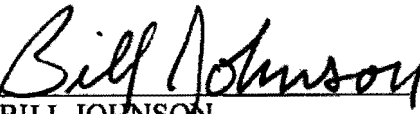
SPENCER BACHUS
Member of Congress



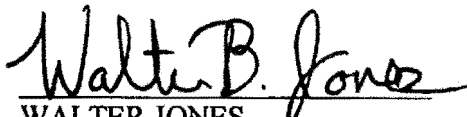
ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress



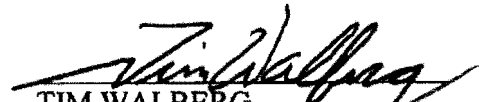
JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress



WALTER JONES
Member of Congress



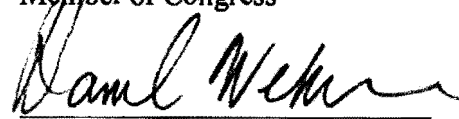
TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress



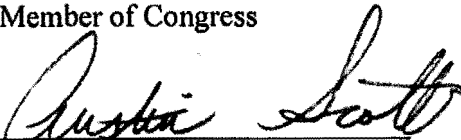
ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



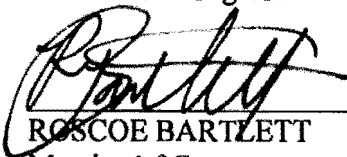
SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



DANIEL WEBSTER
Member of Congress



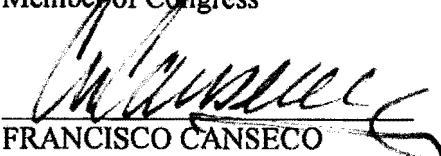
AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



ROSCOE BARTLETT
Member of Congress



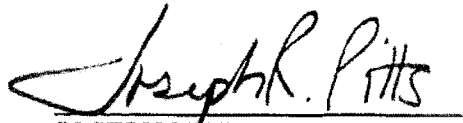
RENEE ELLMERS
Member of Congress



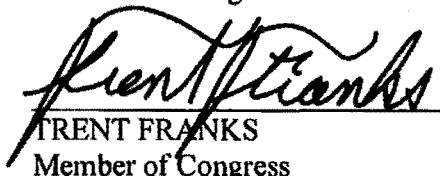
FRANCISCO CANSECO
Member of Congress



MIKE TURNER
Member of Congress



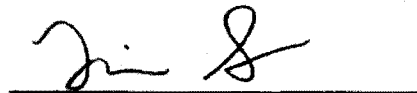
JOSEPH PITTS
Member of Congress



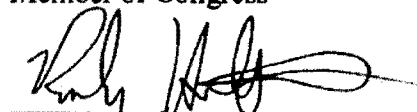
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



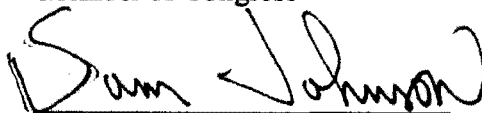
TIM SCOTT
Member of Congress



RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress



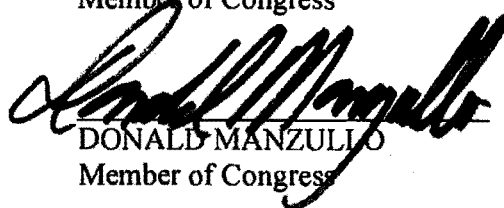
ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress



SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



DONALD MANZULLO
Member of Congress



RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



JOHN FLEMING
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress



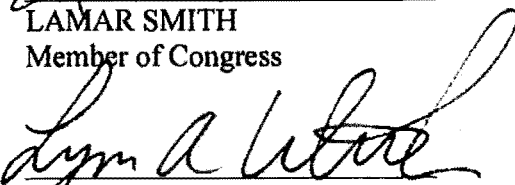
ROBERT WITTMAN
Member of Congress



FRANK WOLF
Member of Congress



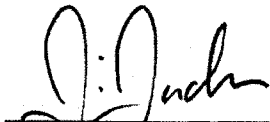
LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress




LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress




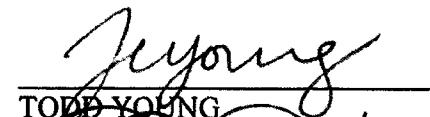
MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress

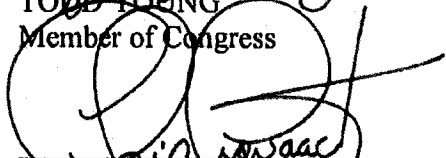

JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress



PHIL ROE
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

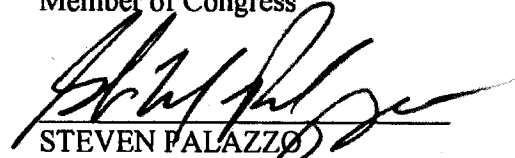

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

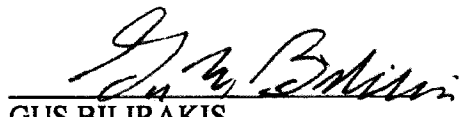

TODD YOUNG
Member of Congress

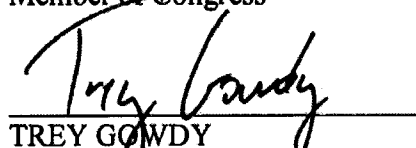

CHIP CRAVAAK
Member of Congress

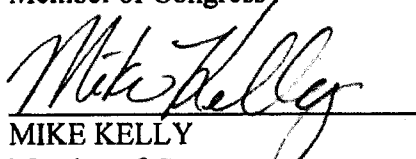

JEFF LANDRY
Member of Congress


ANDY HARRIS
Member of Congress

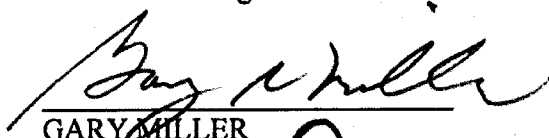

STEVEN PALAZZO
Member of Congress

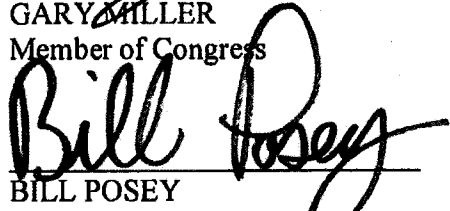

GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

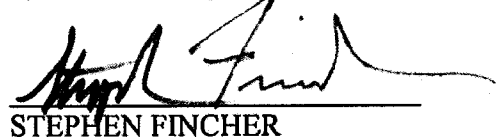

TREY GOWDY
Member of Congress

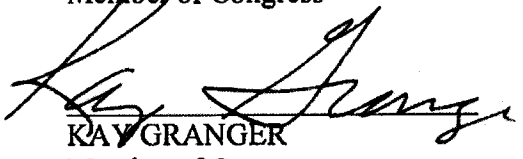

MIKE KELLY
Member of Congress



CLIFF STEARNS
Member of Congress


GARY MILLER
Member of Congress


BILL POSEY
Member of Congress


STEPHEN FINCHER
Member of Congress


KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress


LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress



KEVIN YODER
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2012

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

Secretary Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20520-0099

Dear Secretaries,

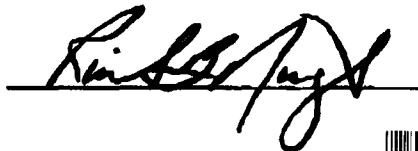
As the events of the last twenty-four hours in Yemen have shown, our embassies throughout the Middle East are vulnerable and they are under threat. It is clear that our security posture depends heavily on the willingness and ability of local security forces to control the crowds surrounding our embassies. In our view, that dependence – on what is clearly an unreliable and uncommitted protective force – leaves our American diplomatic and military personnel vulnerable.

Our concern is for the dutiful civil servants who represent our nation overseas. We must protect these men and women as their safety is our primary concern during these extraordinary and unpredictable times. To that end, we would like to know specifically what has been done in the last twenty-four hours to increase security at our embassies throughout the region. We also want to know precisely what the rules of engagement are for our military personnel when angry mobs, with violent extremists among them, attempt to breach the walls of our facilities overseas.

As you both well know, our embassies legally represent the sovereign territory of the United States of America. It is our belief that when individuals are allowed to breach the walls, enter our sovereign territory, and remove the flag of the United States with impunity, we send a dangerous message to extremists throughout the region that our embassies are an open and easy target.

All of these things, in our opinion, are dangerous and unacceptable. In the event that this situation continues to escalate, our people in the region need to know what the plan is – or at least that we have one.

Sincerely,



Bob Casey FL-15 Jaime Herrera Beutler WA-03

Tom Jordan FL-13 Don Young AK-3

Andre Carter F-4 Bob Perry GA-11

Jim Gill FL-01 Allen Bunsen FL-22

Mark R. Miller FL-02 Pat Woodell GA-7

Bill Miller FL-09 Joe Walsh IL-8

Bob Latta FL-21 Scott Riggs VA-2

Steve King IA-5 Bill Johnson OH-6

Jason Smith AL-2 Eric Lipton

Tommy Davis CO-3 Andy Adams FL-24

Paul Sutton 5th Ind go to Hancock TN-2

Bill Young John Roney

Alan Nunales MD-1 Jim Jeffords

Lynne Jenkins Chip Pearce MN-08

Michael A. Heiman

Smil B. MTe

Marsha Blackburn

Frank P. Tanks

R. G. Miller

Robert B. Adelman

Ken Calvert

Mike McIntyre

Bob Gibbs

Allyson

Ryan A. Tubert

Shirley

John

John Culberson

Tom Salmon

Howard Coble

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2013

Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, signed into law on January 2, 2013, provided specific religious freedom protections for servicemembers generally and chaplains specifically. The provisions require the Armed Forces to accommodate servicemembers' moral and religious convictions, as long as they do not "threaten good order and discipline." The language also prohibits the military from using an individual's beliefs as the basis for adverse personnel action and ensures that chaplains will not be forced "to perform any rite, ritual, or ceremony that is contrary to [their] conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs."

When President Obama signed the NDAA into law he contemporaneously issued a statement criticizing several provisions of the bill, including the religious freedom protections. The President called the protections "unnecessary and ill-advised" and said "The Secretary of Defense will ensure that the implementing regulations do not permit or condone discriminatory actions that compromise good order and discipline or otherwise violate military codes of conduct. My Administration remains fully committed to continuing the successful implementation of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and to protecting the rights of gay and lesbian service members; Section 533 will not alter that."

It is offensive for the President to suggest that protecting the free exercise of religion safeguarded by the Constitution will result in discriminatory actions that compromise good order and discipline. Labeling servicemembers of faith as discriminatory does a disservice to the countless individuals who bravely serve alongside people of diverse political, religious, and cultural backgrounds. Despite the President's insinuation to the contrary, we are confident that the implementation of the religious freedom protections will not hamper the respect and professionalism displayed by men and women in uniform.

Our primary concern lies with the regulations the Department of Defense (DoD) will issue to implement the NDAA religious freedom protections. The constitutional separation of powers requires that DoD issue implementing regulations that exemplify congressional intent, not the President's personal opinion on the merit of the measure. DoD is responsible for executing the law as written.

Congress included religious freedom protections in the NDAA to ensure that servicemembers of faith are not singled out for intimidation and adverse personnel action because of their religious beliefs; and that chaplains are not forced to participate in actions that violate their consciences. Our request is simply that DoD employ safeguards to ensure that it does not trample these



constitutionally protected religious freedoms in its pursuit of other objectives. We call on DoD to enthusiastically accommodate servicemembers' moral and religious convictions and refrain from using servicemembers' beliefs as the basis for adverse personnel action.

Amidst the aggressive changes made by the Administration, servicemembers of faith must not be demeaned or overlooked. These individuals do not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve. We remain committed to ensuring that they are never forced to do so.

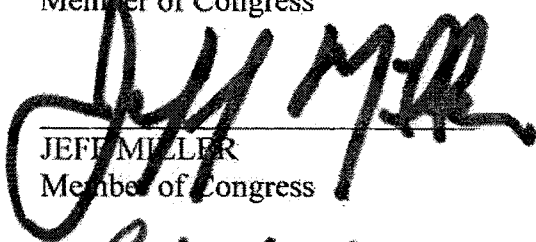
Sincerely,



J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress



JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress



ROB WITTMAN
Member of Congress



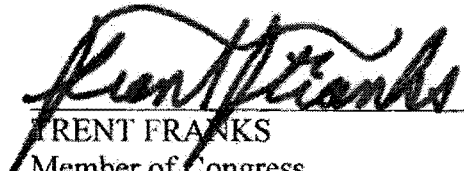
JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress



WALTER JONES
Member of Congress



ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress



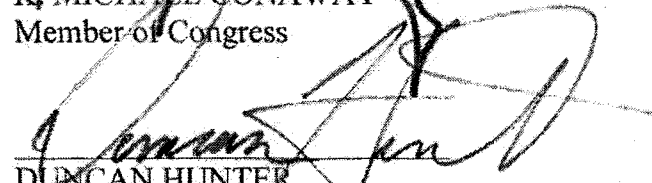
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress



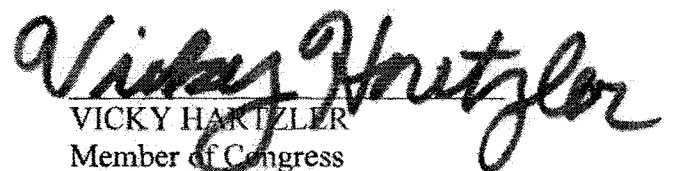
DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress




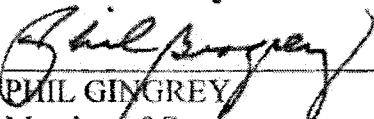
JOHN FLEMING
Member of Congress




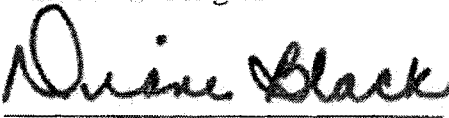
VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress

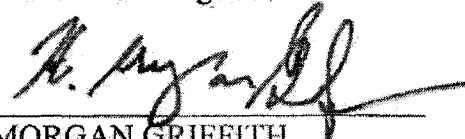

SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



STEVE SOUTHERLAND
Member of Congress


PHIL GINGREY
Member of Congress



RENEE ELLMERS
Member of Congress

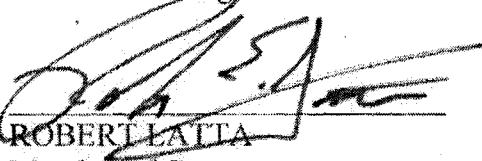

DIANE BLACK
Member of Congress



MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

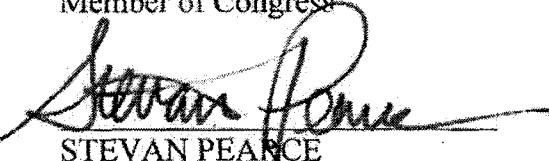

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

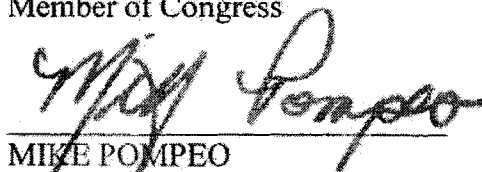

MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress

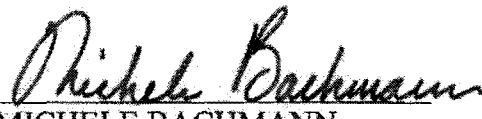

RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress



ROBERT LATTA
Member of Congress

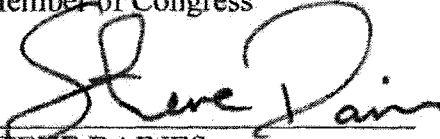

ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress

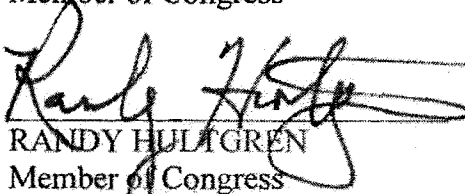

STEVAN PEARCE
Member of Congress

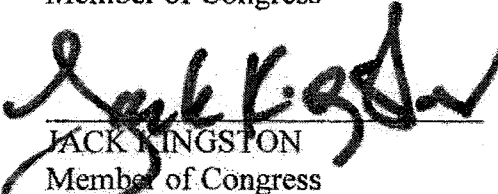

MIKE POMPEO
Member of Congress


MICHELE BACHMANN
Member of Congress


PAUL BROUN
Member of Congress


STEVE DAINES
Member of Congress


RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress


JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress

Austin Scott

AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

Steve Palazzo

STEVE PALAZZO
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem

KRISTI NOEM
Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine

JIM BRIDENSTINE
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan

JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling

JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte

BOB GOODLATTE
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz

JASON CHAFFETZ
Member of Congress

Joe Pitts

JOE PITTS
Member of Congress

James Lankford

JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis

GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

Chris Smith

CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress

Bill Flores

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt

ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp

TIM HUELSKAMP
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson

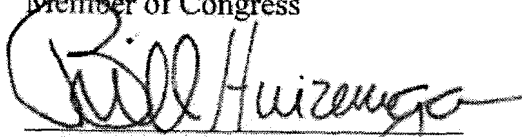
SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress

Frank Wolf

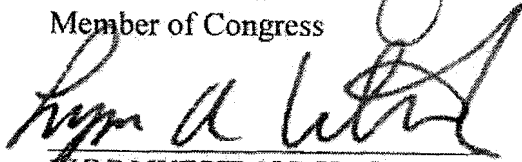
FRANK WOLF
Member of Congress



RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



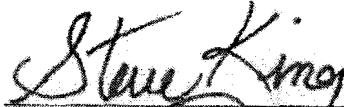
ROBERT PITTENGER
Member of Congress



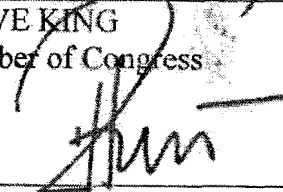
DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



STEVE KING
Member of Congress



ROBERT HURT
Member of Congress



MARKWAYNE MULLIN
Member of Congress