

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

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READINESS

SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HIGHER EDUCATION

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSION



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
2nd District, Connecticut  
January 9, 2008

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4877

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 08082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write today to discuss concerns expressed by one of my constituents with Department of Defense policies related to the return of servicemembers from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This constituent is the father of two sons who have served in Iraq with the United States Army. One son, who returned in 2005, appears to be suffering from signs of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The other son, who returned from abroad in December 2007, has had difficulties adjusting to life back home and is already anticipating a return to duty in Iraq. My office is helping direct this family to resources currently available to help. However, the family remains concerned that they could have better helped their sons if they had been provided resources and information from the Army on how to deal with their transition home from a stressful combat zone.

To this end, I would appreciate your assistance in learning more about resources, if any, that are currently made available to families of servicemembers returning from combat zones. Prior to a servicemembers return, are families provided any information from the Department of Defense on how to ease their return from combat to their life at home, warning signs to look for on post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or TBI, or other helpful information to assist families during this often difficult transition? Does the Department of Defense engage in any post-combat follow up in the months after a servicemember's return to assess their transition and identify potential problems they may be experiencing with their transition?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I appreciate your commitment to caring for those who wear our nation's uniform and look forward to continuing to work with you to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

OSD 00799-08



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**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**

2nd District, Connecticut

January 3, 2008

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2874

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-8011  
F (860) 741-8036

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the "Submarine Capitol of the World," eastern Connecticut is the proud home to the legacy of countless veterans of the silent service who have protected our nation since the early days of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the day the USS Holland was first placed in the water to both World Wars, the Cold War and the modern War on Terror, the submarine force has been a critical part of keeping our nation secure.

The Submarine force played a particularly crucial role in our nation's victory in World War II. In very dangerous conditions and with high casualty rates, submariners sank an estimated 6 million tons of enemy merchant ships and sank nearly one-third of the Japanese Navy's warships. In addition to their combat utility, submarines and their crews played key roles in surveillance of enemy territory, recovering downed pilots and frustrating the enemy's combat supply chain. The cost of their efforts were high; fifty-two submarines and over 3,600 men, at a rate of nearly one in four, were lost in the war.

I have been contacted by a group of submarine veterans who have asked for help in honoring WWII-era submarine veterans. Specifically, they are requesting that submariners who received the Submarine Combat Pin also be awarded with the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for their service and sacrifice in the war. According to information provided to me, while Army combat troops who were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) also received the Bronze Star with Combat "V," submariners were not offered a similar opportunity to receive the star.

Included with my letter is a copy of the proposal from submarine veterans in my district. I would appreciate the appropriate office within the Department of Defense examining the proposal and evaluating the merits of pursuing such an honor for WWII-era submarine veterans. My Military Legislative Assistant, Neil McKiernan, can be contacted at (202) 225-2076 for additional information about this request.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



OSD 00801-08

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COMMITTEES

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Joe Courtney

Congress of the United States

2nd District, Connecticut

February 27, 2008

WASHINGTON OFFICE

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 858-6139  
F (860) 858-2874

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06022  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write today to request the opportunity to observe the testing of body armor currently ongoing at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

As you know, significant concerns were raised last year about the adequacy of the body armor being issued to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Like you, the protection the forces we put into harms way is my top concern. To this end, I urged the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct testing on the Interceptor Body Armor and other commercially available armor systems to judge these concerns.

I am pleased to learn that Army testing of a range of commercially available body armor systems, with assistance and oversight of the Department of Operational Testing and Evaluation (DOT&E) and the GAO, is currently underway at Aberdeen. I strongly believe that robust and transparent testing and evaluation of these armor systems will provide greater confidence to our troops, their families and the American people in the process by which we protect troops in harms way.

To this end, I respectfully request your assistance in arranging a visit to Aberdeen to observe a portion of the testing and see first hand the steps being taken to ensure a full, complete and transparent evaluation of these body armor systems. My Senior Legislative Assistant Neil McKiernan can be contacted at (202) 225-2076 to arrange the details of such a visit.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and your strong support for the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



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**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-8011  
F (860) 741-6036

July 2, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing today on behalf of a company in my district, Affinimark Technologies in Ellington, Connecticut, that has developed products that they believe can directly benefit our Armed Forces.

Affinimark has asked for my assistance in establishing a dialogue with the Department of Defense to explore the military's potential use of two of their products: Cerebrostrip, which would be used to detect cerebrospinal fluid leaks and help indicate the seriousness of head injury in combat and accident situations, and Prosalent, which is being developed to provide more accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer.

I have attached a copy of their letter to me describing their products and desire to engage the Department of Defense on possible use of their two products. I would appreciate any assistance you can provide me or the company on the best way to pursue this and who they may contact. Please contact my Senior Legislative Assistance Neil McKiernan at (202) 225-2076 if your staff has any questions about this request.

Thank you for your assistance and your continued dedication to our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

OSD 09018-08



# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to respectfully request that the Department of Defense (DoD) reconsider an administrative policy regarding the definition of "combat-related" for the purpose of qualifying separating personnel for the concurrent receipt of both DoD disability severance and disability benefits administered through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

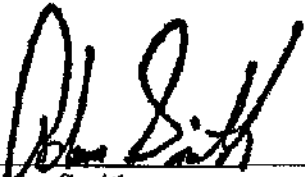
As you may know, section 1646 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 (PL110-181) helped to enhance the disability severance pay provided to members of the armed forces. Specifically, this section included a provision that exempted military personnel, who receive disability severance pay for a disability incurred in a combat zone or during performance of duty in combat-related operations, from being required to repay any portion of their severance pay prior to receiving disability benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

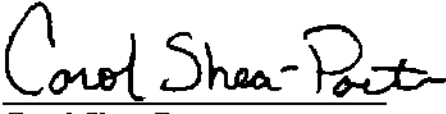
On March 13, 2008, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued a memorandum that restricted the definition that the Department of Defense uses to define "combat-related" injuries. Prior to this memorandum, an injury was deemed "combat-related" if it was attributed to an injury that was awarded the purple heart, incurred as a direct result of armed conflict, while engaged in hazardous service, in the performance of duty under conditions simulating war, or through an instrumentality of war. However, the March 13<sup>th</sup> memorandum scaled the definition of "combat-related" back to include only those injuries that were sustained directly through armed conflict.

This change in policy has cost numerous veterans thousands of dollars in lost benefits as they have had their injuries discounted as not being "combat-related." While legislation has been introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress to revert to the prior, broader definition, we would respectfully ask that you review this policy internally and initiate the necessary changes administratively so our combat-disabled veterans will get relief as quickly as possible.

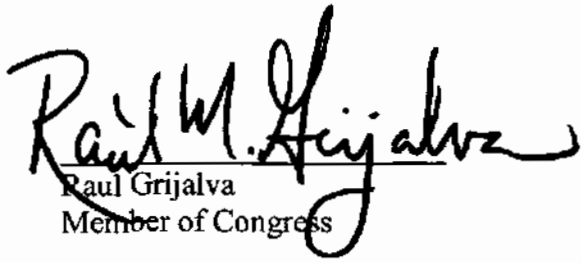
We greatly appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you on this issue.

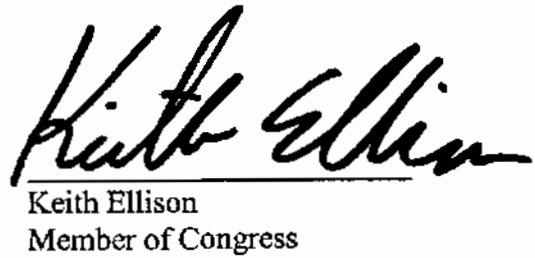
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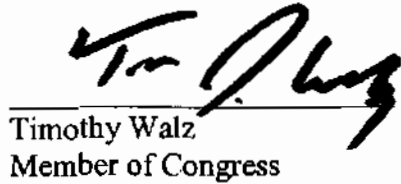
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

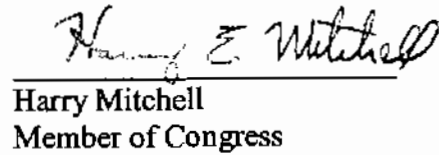
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

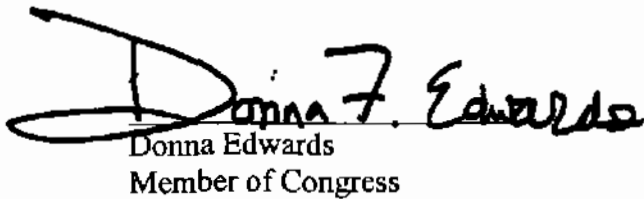


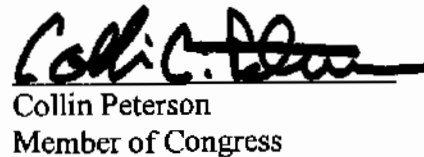
  
Paul Grijalva  
Member of Congress

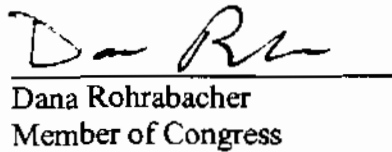
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

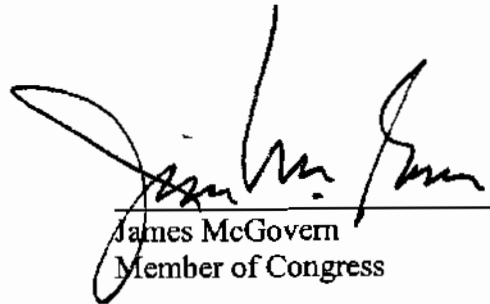
  
Timothy Walz  
Member of Congress

  
Harry Mitchell  
Member of Congress

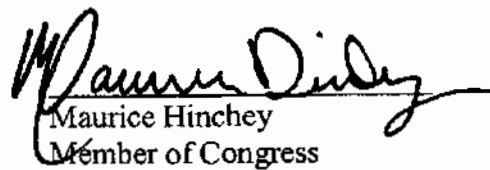
  
Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress

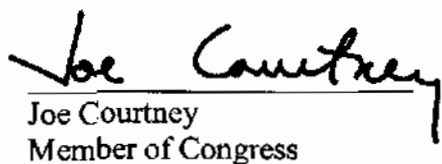
  
Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress

  
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

  
James McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

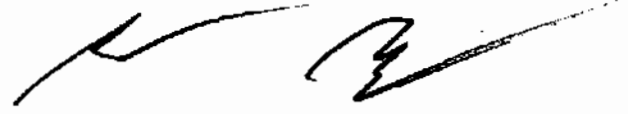
  
Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

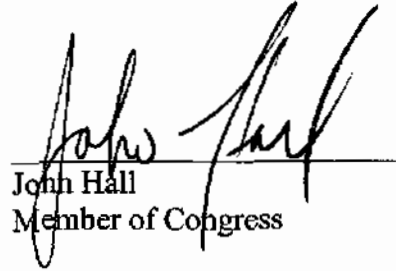
  
Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress



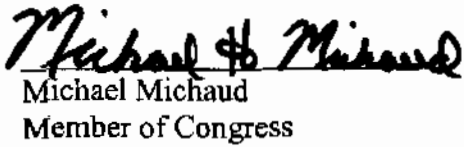
Glenn Nye  
Member of Congress



John Hall  
Member of Congress



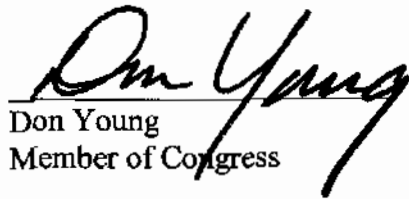
Steve Kagen  
Member of Congress



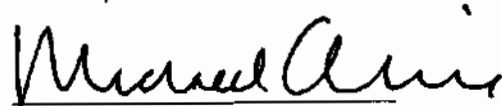
Michael Michaud  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Michael Arcuri  
Member of Congress

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

July 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates: •

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of our men and women in uniform. As Members of Congress, we take very seriously our responsibility to work with you to assure that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have the resources they need to safely carry out their mission.

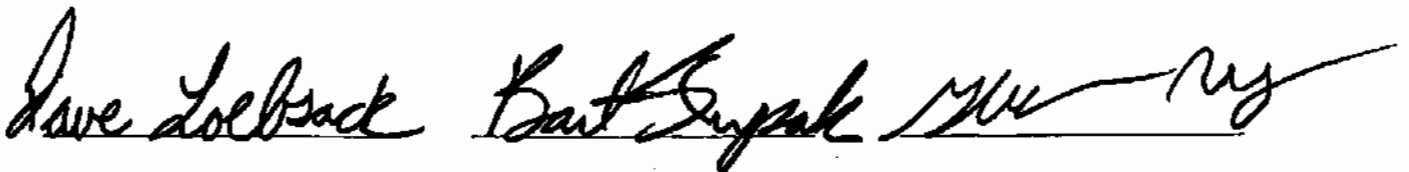
This is why we are deeply troubled by recent accounts reported in *The Washington Post* on July 16, 2009 ("Marines Waiting on Basic Supplies") that our Marines in Afghanistan "are short of basic equipment and supplies ranging from radios and vehicles to uniforms." Instead, our Marines are depending on outside sources to provide the items that they need to carry out the mission of the United States.

We understand certain logistical challenges exist in equipping our servicemembers in a hostile, rugged and largely-underdeveloped region like Afghanistan. However, after more than seven years of operations in Afghanistan, we expect that these challenges would have been foreseen, and that DOD would have a plan in place to coordinate and schedule the delivery of essential materials to our warfighters. It is unacceptable for United States servicemembers to deploy without proper support.

We therefore respectfully request that you direct an immediate review of DOD's supply delivery efforts in Afghanistan and take appropriate action to ensure adequate supplies are reaching our troops in the field. The men and women who put their lives on the line for our country deserve the very best support we can provide.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure our service members have all the equipment they need to fulfill their mission and return home safely.

Sincerely,







Profilier

Bob Duff

Tommy Baldwin

John Smith

Carolyn McManis Alice L. Hastings

David Price

Chad E. Under

Ray Anderson

Bob Ogles

Be Country

Carlson

Don

John

Chris Long

Shelley Berley

John M. Fran

Tim Zi

John M. Lowery

Jim Hunter

Henry Teague

A Kirkpatrick

Ely C. Cota

Hank Johnson

Ed. J.

John H. Brain

Carol Shea-Power

Don Thoffer

Michael N. Michael

David F. J.

Betty Sutton

John Tash

Robert Guffert

Mike Dingley

\_\_\_\_\_

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/S/

Rep. Dave Loebsack  
Rep. Glenn Nye  
Rep. Bart Stupak  
Rep. Dale Kildee  
Rep. Adam Schiff  
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy  
Rep. Bob Filner  
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick  
Rep. Parker Griffith  
Rep. Dan Lipinski  
Rep. Gary Peters  
Rep. Henry Waxman  
Rep. James Oberstar  
Rep. Mike Quigley  
Rep. Timothy Bishop  
Rep. Tammy Baldwin  
Rep. Adam Smith  
Rep. Hank Johnson  
Rep. Carol Shea-Porter  
Rep. Joe Courtney  
Rep. Dan Boren  
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings  
Rep. Shelley Berkley  
Rep. Betty Sutton  
Rep. Bob Inglis  
Rep. David Price  
Rep. Eric Massa  
Rep. Daniel Maffei  
Rep. Jim McGovern  
Rep. Nita Lowey  
Rep. John Boccieri  
Rep. Frank Kratovil  
Rep. Zach Space  
Rep. Steve Driehaus  
Rep. Christopher Carney  
Rep. Mike Michaud  
Rep. Harry Teague

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**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4877

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

January 21, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

The Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (PL 111-84) included a provision, Sec. 335, requiring the development of a plan for "identifying and addressing areas in which the electricity needed to carry out critical military missions on Department of Defense installations is vulnerable to disruption." I write today to request an update on the progress towards implementing this section, and provide important information on this matter as it relates to a key military installation in my district.

As you know, eastern Connecticut is home to a major naval facility, Naval Submarine Base New London (NSBNL), a major defense contractor (General Dynamics Electric Boat), the Port of New London which includes a major east coast fuel depot and deep water shipping and rail facilities. The region is also home to the US Coast Guard Academy, Research Center and a regional Coast Guard operational base, Coast Guard Station New London. The Connecticut Air National Guard maintains helicopter and airplane resources at the Groton Airport.

It is likely that the review required in Sec. 335 will identify many of these facilities as "to carry out critical military missions on Department of Defense installations." I would further anticipate that NSBNL as homeport to the largest concentration of fast attack submarines in our arsenal and as a major training and repair facility would be high on the priority list of facilities for which to address any possible vulnerabilities.

In light of this, I want to bring to your attention efforts made over the past several years by the provider of electric power to NSBNL, Groton Utilities, and its power supplier, the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), who have been engaged independently in power securitization efforts for NSBNL. CMEEC has worked to develop a power generation facility capable of supplying NSBNL with emergency backup power and routine peak power to the New England grid, which would increase the reliability and security of SUBASE New London's power supply, as well as eventually reducing recurring power costs to the Navy.

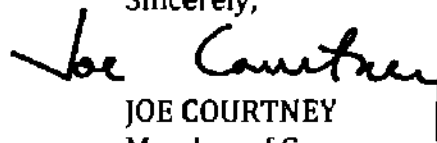
OSD 02094-10



In addition to serving the needs of NSBNL and the larger region, I also believe these concepts may have broad DOD applicability for all defense critical s assets which require improved securitization at the lowest possible costs. **To this end, I respectfully request the status of the department's efforts to implement Sec. 335. In addition, I recommend that the department's staff responsible for the implementation of this section meet with CMEEC and Groton Utilities staff to learn more about their efforts on this critical issue.**

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and stand ready to help facilitate a meeting between your department and these regional experts. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

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

April 20, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to express strong support for continuing the Non-Line of Sight Launch System (NLOS-LS) under a revised development plan and that an associated funding request be transmitted to Congress as soon as possible.

The NLOS-LS is well suited for irregular warfare operations that often call for immediate precision fires with minimal collateral damage. NLOS-LS also has a minimal logistical footprint and all-weather capability, allowing it to provide the required fire support in theater better and more flexibly than current systems. The system provides extraordinarily precise firepower with very broad geographic coverage with a single Container Launch Unit providing fires coverage across an area of 5,000 square kilometers. Moreover, the system is a joint developmental program with the Navy. NLOS-LS will ultimately also provide the integral sea-based support for ground forces from the Littoral Combat Ship's surface warfare package.

Across the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the validated requirement remains for this system. However, we are deeply concerned by the lack of definitive support for the program from Army leadership and spotlight the postponement of the Defense Acquisition Board (DAB) meeting that was scheduled for April 2, 2010.

Without question, the NLOS-LS did not perform as expected or hoped in the most recent Limited User Test (LUT). Of the four missed shots, two known root causes were identified and corrective action applied and on two misses the failure mode was understood and software and corrective action is being implemented. While the test flights prior to LUT did demonstrate success with direct hits in twelve of seventeen shots, and root cause and corrective action applied to all misses, it is clear that additional development is required to mature this system, but that a final mature system is near.

We understand that a plan has been developed by the Army and industry which would lead to an extension of the program for approximately one year with a second set of flight tests in the Spring of 2011. It is also our understanding that the revised test plan provides multiple off-ramps for the Army to continue to evaluate progress on the program. Expedient approval of the path forward will allow the Army, industry partners and Congress to work together to ensure that this capability reaches our warfighters.

We are concerned that the Army may prematurely terminate the NLOS-LS program prior to final approval and funding of the revised plan. Doing so undermines the goal of the test process, which is to evaluate systems and fix errors prior to production. This testing worked as designed. Terminating NLOS-LS at this stage would prevent the Army and Navy from fulfilling an urgent capability gap.

Ultimately, the goal of developing and thoroughly testing major weapons systems should be to put that system into the field, however, increasingly that has been the exception rather than the rule. We believe

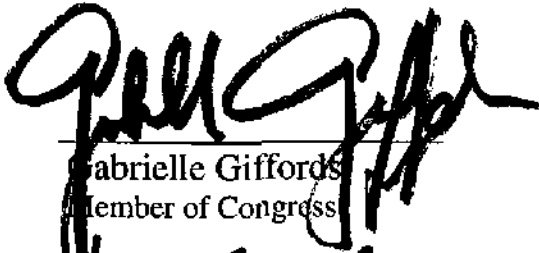


that cancellation of NLOS-LS at this stage would further erode efforts to modernize Army fire support and undermine a major component of the Navy's fire support mission.

We urge the Army to see this program through to fruition, redouble its efforts to complete development of NLOS-LS and field this capability to the warfighter by late 2011. We further ask that you provide us with the details of a revised program and associated funding requirements without delay so that it may be fully considered in the context of this year's Defense authorization and appropriations cycles.

Thank you for your time and continued service. We look forward to your response.

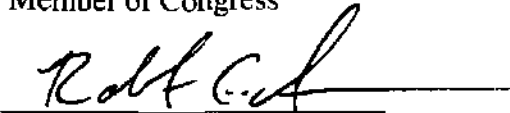
Sincerely,



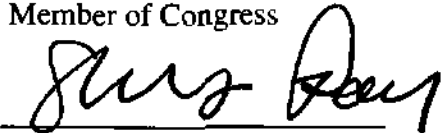
Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



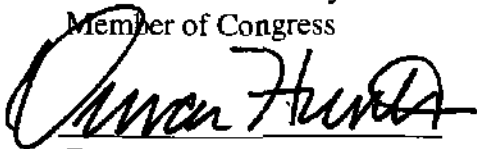
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress




Robert E. Andrews  
Member of Congress



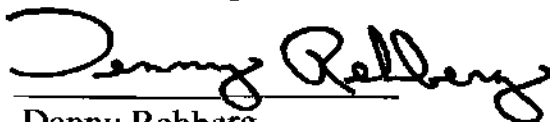
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress



Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress



Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress



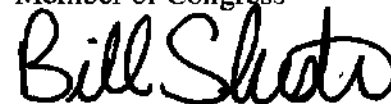
Steven R. Rothman  
Member of Congress



Ander Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES

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READINESS

SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSION



Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

January 7, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates

~~Secretary of Defense~~

U.S. Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I write today to urge the Department of Defense's quick implementation of the Transportation Incentive Program benefit extension. The program provides financial incentives for military members and government employees to use public transportation to get to work.

As you are aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Public Law 111-5) temporarily increased the maximum tax exclusion limit for transit subsidies from \$120 to \$230 per month for the period of March 2009 through December 2010. Under the law, this expanded benefit was set to decrease to pre-March 2009 levels of \$120 per month on January 1, 2011.

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (Public Law No: 111-312), which I voted for and President Obama signed into law on December 17, 2010, extends the \$230 per month transportation exclusion through 2011. This provision will keep more people using public transportation and will help thousands of Americans get to work every day.

I understand the difficulties associated with the logistics of implementing the program, but thousands of military members rely on the monthly exclusion to get to work. The importance of the ancillary benefits of the program: lowering traffic congestion and acting in an environmentally responsible way, cannot be overstated; nor can they afford to be postponed.

I urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure the swift implementation of this program and look forward to hearing about your progress in helping thousands of Americans with their daily commute.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

OSD 00431-11





COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
READINESS

SEAPOW AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HIGHER EDUCATION

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSION



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
2nd District, Connecticut

January 7, 2011

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06002  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write follow up on your announcement yesterday of budget reductions and changes for the Department of Defense and the military branches.

During your announcement yesterday, you highlighted savings in the Navy that included "Disestablishing staffs for submarine-, patrol aircraft-, and a destroyer-squadrons plus one carrier strike group staff." It is my understanding that as part of this recommendation, Submarine Squadron Two, based at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut, would be disestablished. Further, it is my understanding that the disestablishment would impact an estimated 21 personnel currently assigned to the staff, and that these personnel may be reassigned to other duties. Lastly, it is my understanding that the submarines currently assigned to Submarine Squadron Two would be reassigned to other squadrons at the base, and that they would not be reassigned a new homeport as a result of this decision.

I ask for your assistance in confirming the limited impact, as described above, that this proposal would have on SUBASE New London. I look forward to your response and continuing to work with you to support our Armed Forces and ensuring that our military has a realistic and sustainable budget in the years ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

OSD 00451-11



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

July 1, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We write today to congratulate you on your recent appointment to serve as the Secretary of Defense and to express our concerns regarding the inadequate accounting of federal funds for the Department of Defense (DoD). Your distinguished service to our nation, including your work on the House Budget Committee and at the Office of Management and Budget, gives us great hope that you will correct these deficiencies during your term as Secretary.

Our country is in a debt crisis that continues to have negative effects on our economy and, if not properly dealt with, could have devastating consequences. DoD represents nearly 20 percent of our entire federal budget, and their reliance on an outdated and cumbersome system to manage financial records could put at risk future investment in DoD programs. We have an obligation to limit wasteful spending to get our nation's fiscal house in order, and without a clean financial audit of DoD's basic functions, we are unable to assure the American taxpayers that their dollars are being spent wisely.

Over the past two decades, DoD has attempted broad reforms to improve their financial management; however, the Government Accountability Office stated that efforts have not resulted in any resolution to long-standing financial management weaknesses. There continue to be numerous federal programs and operations within DoD that are at a high-risk of vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Currently, more than 60 percent of the financial community at the Pentagon exists outside the auditing, accounting, and financial management job classifications. It is imperative that DoD leadership makes it a priority to ensure that this 60 percent is also integrated into the financial management system to ensure DoD reaches its clean audit goals by 2017.

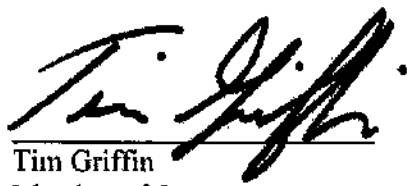
In recent Congressional hearings, members of DoD leadership have testified that they are committed to having fully auditable financial statements by 2017, the deadline established by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010. We worked with our colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to include provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 that require increased oversight and reporting requirements of DoD's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness plan. It is essential DoD continue to adhere to this timeline and prioritize their progress towards obtaining auditable financial statements by 2017.



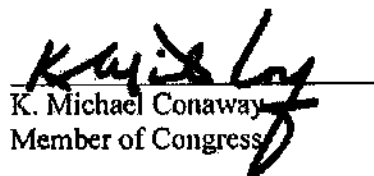
We solicit your thoughts on how you plan to ensure auditable financial statements by this deadline. Our men and women in uniform and the American taxpayers deserve a Department of Defense that exercises fiscal responsibility. We urge you to make financial auditability a top priority within the Pentagon now and for the future.

Congratulations again, and we look forward to your response by July 29, 2011.

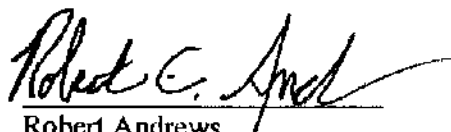
Sincerely,



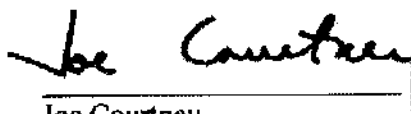
Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress



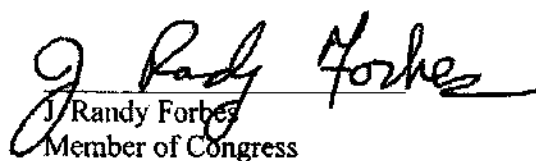
K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Robert Andrews  
Member of Congress



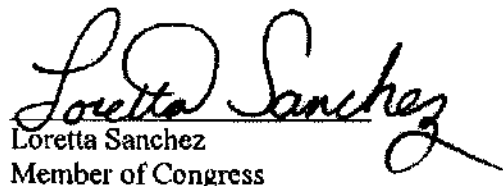
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
READINESS  
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AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

ETHICS



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2078  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06062  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

January 11, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write today to share with you my thoughts about the recent release of the Department of Defense's strategic guidance, particularly as it relates to the future of our undersea platforms and capabilities.

While I realize that many of the details that will shape the implementation of the guidance will not be available until submission of the President's budget next month, I do note that the new strategy includes a significant focus on the development and sustainment of our undersea capabilities. At a time when our submarine force is demonstrating its unique value in intelligence gathering, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike missions, the recognition of the need for these capabilities as part of our nation's security strategy –and continued investment in sustaining and improving them – is welcome.

I believe the strategy rightly emphasizes power projection in an anti-access/area denial environment, with focus on two areas: first, maintaining a cruise missile strike capability and second, "sustaining our undersea capabilities." As you well know, several of our submarines played a crucial role in conducting strike operations against Libya last year, demonstrating the unique contribution that submarines can play in such operations by providing clandestine and flexible strike capabilities in challenging security scenarios.

However, the looming shortfall in attack submarines places significant pressure on the submarine force. While the Navy's stated requirement for attack submarines is 48 boats, under the current shipbuilding plan our nation will fall short of that goal for 23 years between 2024 and 2046. In addition to reducing the number of hulls in the water, this shortfall also will significantly reduce our undersea guided missile strike capability. Without additional investment in capabilities such as the Virginia Payload Module to outfit future submarines with expanded strike capability to mitigate this gap, our nation may face shortfalls in the very capabilities stressed in the strategic guidance. I also believe this capability, along with submarine payload alternatives, strongly supports the strategic guidance direction to "sustain key streams of innovation that may provide significant long term payoffs".



In addition, in your remarks you noted that under the new guidance, "we will protect our investments in special operations forces, new technologies like ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) and unmanned systems." Again, these are areas in which our submarines already play an important and largely unmatched role. And, the guidance notes the importance of "maintaining a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent," underscoring the importance of the replacement of our aging SSBN fleet. Our ballistic submarine strike capabilities remain the most survivable leg of the strategic nuclear triad and a number of reviews, such as the Nuclear Posture Review and the Quadrennial Defense Review, have endorsed the need for, and unmatched value of, the SSBN as the most effective and survivable nuclear deterrent available.

Finally, your comments and the strategic guidance notes the value and importance of our nation's defense industrial base towards achieving the goals outlined in the document. I want to thank you first for taking the time from your busy schedule to visit Electric Boat in November last year. I could tell by your remarks that you have a true appreciation for the capability that resides there. Aside from the thousands of jobs and unique critical skills maintained directly in the shipyards building our submarines and the small and mid-sized businesses that compose the supply chain that supports them, the submarine industrial base is a true national asset that we cannot risk damaging through program delays and alterations. This industry represents approximately 4,800 companies from 50 states. As evident through its achievement of cost and schedule reduction goals largely unmatched in other defense acquisition programs, the submarine industrial base remains highly capable and effective – and will continue to provide our nation with a high-quality and cost-effective platform if effectively supported.

I appreciate the difficult challenges you face in adjusting the department's budget to reflect this new guidance. However, as you continue to engage in discussions in preparation for the submission of the President's budget next month, I urge you to prioritize investment in both our attack submarine procurement and development, as well as research, development and eventual procurement of the new SSBN. Prioritizing these areas would be in line with the department's strategic guidance, and ensure that our undersea forces continue to fulfill the ever-increasing demand for their unique capabilities.

On attack submarines, I believe that sustained procurement of two new submarines a year is crucial to ensure that our undersea forces remain capable of achieving the emphasis placed on their capabilities in the new guidance. That is why it is essential that the upcoming budget continue to fund the final year of the Block III multi-year procurement contract, which calls for acquisition and procurement of two Virginia class submarines in FY13. Beyond that, as the department prepares its proposal for the Block IV contract that will guide submarine procurement between FY14 and FY18, it is critical that submarine procurement remain at this two a year rate. Further, it is my hope that the department will prioritize the development of expanded strike capability in future blocks of the Virginia class.

Sec. Panetta

Pg. 3

On the replacement of the Ohio-class submarine, it is my hope that the budget will continue to invest in the research and development needed to maintain the profile needed to replace these boats in a timely way. There has been speculation that the budget could propose a reduction in the number of submarines to be constructed, or a delay in the construction of the first submarine. With the upcoming retirements of the current Ohio class beginning in 2027, we need to have the first replacement in service by 2029 to ensure that we maintain the continuity of our sea based strategic deterrent. In addition, the fact that these boats will be in service well into the 2080's makes it critical that the development and construction of the new SSBNs stay on its already tight schedule. Further, our coordination with the United Kingdom's Royal Navy on the replacement of their fleet of strategic ballistic missile submarines and the development of a common missile compartment underscores the need to continue a research and development profile that maintains continued progress towards the construction of these vital submarines.

Again, I realize the difficult job you have ahead of you, and look forward to continuing to work with you and Navy leadership to provide our submarine force with the resources and investment it needs. As always, please do not hesitate to let me know how I can be of assistance to you as we move forward. Thank you, as always, for your support and commitment to our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe", written over a horizontal line.

JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
BUSINESS

SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

ETHICS



Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District, Connecticut

March 6, 2012

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 866-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06032  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

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

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write today to express my serious concern about a recent Department of Defense Inspector General report that found significant shortcomings with the Department of Defense's service-disabled veteran owned small business set aside program.

As you know, the Veterans Benefits Act (VBA) of 2003 established the federal contracting set-aside program for service-disabled veteran owned small businesses (SDVOSB). In 2004, an executive order from then-President George W Bush established a goal of awarding three percent of all federal contracting dollars to SDVOSBs. However, the Department of Defense has fallen short of that goal – most recently awarding \$5.3 billion, or 1.8 percent, of its contracting dollars under the set-aside in FY2010. The higher unemployment rate among veterans – something the Administration has tried to address with new veterans hiring tax credits – could also be alleviated with this set-aside, which would give entrepreneurs and veterans an opportunity to grow their businesses.

More alarming is the recent report from the Inspector General that found that in a sample of 27 contracts from FY2010, \$340 million in federal taxpayer dollars were awarded to contractors “who potentially misstated” their company’s eligibility for SDVOSB set-asides. Another six contracts cited in the report, valued at approximately \$1.9 million, were awarded to ineligible contractors. Further, the report states that procedures to verify that recipients were eligible for these set-aside contracts “were not adequate” and that “if the office does not establish adequate procedures, it will continue to convey the message that assisting service-disabled veterans is not a priority.” The report added that “the lack of action compromises the integrity and intention of the program, which is to serve veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.”

I am deeply concerned about this report and the lack of adequate controls in the department’s awarding of set-asides under the law established by Congress to give those individuals who have been wounded in service to their country a fair chance at federal contracting opportunities. I



would note that in 2010, Congress passed the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-275) which, in part, was aimed at ensuring verification of SDVOSBs. Sec. 104 of that law required that businesses seeking to be listed in the VA-maintained database of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans first be verified that (1) the small business is owned and controlled by veterans and (2) if the small business owner claims to be a service-disabled veteran, that such person is a veteran with a service-connected disability.

While this database was specifically established to provide accurate, verified information about the eligibility of businesses for the SDVOSB set-aside, it is my understanding that the VA is the only federal agency or department specifically *required* to limit their award of SDVOSBs to those companies listed in this database. Further, it is my understanding that the Department of Defense, like other agencies and departments, primarily relies on bidders to self-identify as being eligible for an SDVOSB set-aside or uses other databases that could include inaccurate or outdated information. The VA database, however, remains accessible and available to all other departments and agencies for eligibility verification purposes.

To this end, I ask that you provide an explanation of your department's process for verifying the eligibility of those companies seeking SDVOSB set-asides, as well as the steps that the department will take to address the findings of the Inspector General report. Further, I request the department's perspective on expanding its use of the VA-maintained database in such verification, as well as ways in which the department plans to meet its SDVOSB contracting goals.

Thank you, as always, for your unyielding commitment to our men and women in uniform. I look forward to your response and the chance to work with you to ensure that our wounded veterans have a fair shot at defense contracting opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



**MICHAEL R. TURNER**

3RD DISTRICT, OHIO



2454 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6465

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
STRATEGIC FORCES

DISTRICT OFFICES:

120 WEST 3RD STREET  
SUITE 305  
DAYTON, OH 45402  
(937) 225-2843

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

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

61 EAST MAIN STREET  
WILMINGTON, OH 45177  
(937) 383-8931

March 29, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta,

We appreciate your interest stated during the February 15, 2012 House Armed Services Committee (HASC) hearing in protecting child custody rights for our men and women in uniform.

As you know, legislative language addressing this issue has already passed the House of Representatives on six separate occasions. It has passed five times as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, every year from 2008 through 2012. Additionally, in 2008 this language passed the House as a stand-alone bill (HR 6048) by voice vote. Sixty members from both sides of the aisle signed on to HR 6048 as co-sponsors. Most recently, the bill was included in the Managers Package in the FY12 House NDAA and was supported by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Enclosed are letters of support that both Secretary Gates and Secretary Stanley provided for this legislation last year. Also enclosed is the 2010 HASC letter to Secretary Gates. As we move forward with the current legislative session, we look forward to the same level of support from the DoD in addressing this important issue and ensuring that our men and women in uniform have their parental rights protected.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

Robert Andrews  
Member of Congress



OSD004197-12

Military Child Custody - Panetta Letter

Susan D Davis  
CA-53

Betty Sutton  
OH-13

Joelle Sauchy  
CA-47

Niki Brynes  
MA-05

Hank Johnson  
GA-04

[Signature]  
NM-01

Tracy Myer  
OH-17

Chelle Pynoos  
ME  
MA-2

Paul Brady  
PA-1

Steve Shank  
IA-02

C. A. [Signature]

[Signature]  
HI-01

Lay Kiser  
NC-08

[Signature]  
TN-5

Trick McKen  
CA-25

Joe Cowbrey  
CT-02

[Signature]  
TX-16

Kathy Hochel  
NY-26

Austi Scott  
GA-08

Rick Zarsen

Jim Sanger  
RI-02

N. Callie  
MO-02

Joyang

[Signature]  
MS-59

Military Child Custody - Panetta Letter

Bob [unclear] UT-1

Walter [unclear] 3/HC

John Flory LP-04

John [unclear] V-04

Mike [unclear] AL

Max [unclear] TX

Gene [unclear] AT-2 CPT NY-20

John [unclear] MW-2

12-28 TX-11

Doug [unclear] CO-5

Allen [unclear] FL-22

Bill [unclear] PA-9

McBrooks AL-5

[unclear] CA-52

James [unclear] FL-16

[unclear] MO-4

[unclear] WV-03

John [unclear] NS-2

Mike [unclear] CO-6

Bob [unclear] VA-01

[unclear] AR-2

[unclear] MD-6

Tom [unclear] SC-02

Military Child Custody - Panetta Letter

Jim Hill FL-01 John McNeil Flycatcher  
IL-17

Frank Burt  
PA-19

Mike McIntyre  
NC-7

J. King

Scott Rice VA-2 Carl Smith WA-9

Madeleine J. Boudallo

John Ramsey Al NY 23

Jodi Spier

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COMMITTEES:

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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
READINESS

SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

ETHICS



Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District, Connecticut

March 29, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write today to express my serious concerns with suggestions that your department will conduct major base closures and realignments outside of a congressionally-approved BRAC round.

As you know, existing law gives the DOD limited authority to close or realign military installations and elements outside of Congressional oversight or the BRAC process. Specifically, 10 USC 2687 requires the Secretary of Defense to give Congress 60 days to review certain proposals outside of BRAC when the following thresholds are met: the proposed closure of an installation at which at least 300 civilian personnel are authorized or a realignment involving a reduction by more than 1,000, or by more than 50 percent, in the number of civilians authorized at the installation.

As a former member of the House of Representatives, you know how important it is for Congress and the Defense Department to work together to find the right approach to the DOD's challenges in funding and operating our bases. That is why I was deeply concerned about comments suggesting that the department would move ahead with its own closures and realignment outside of the BRAC process should Congress not approve a new round. On March 8, 2012, Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, told the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, of which I am a member, that absent Congressional approval of a new BRAC process the DOD "will be forced to use its existing authorities" to close or realign bases.

These comments have been met with serious concern both in Congress and the communities across the country that are closely monitoring this process. The suggestion that DOD would move forward with a BRAC-like effort, with or without the approval of Congress, raises serious questions about the department's approach to this issue. **It is my hope that you can clarify whether the Department plans to engage in the closure or realignment of major installations outside of a Congressionally-approved BRAC process. Such a clarification**

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
101 WATER STREET, SUITE 301  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, SUITE J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-8011  
F (860) 741-8036



OSD004336-12


**would help Congress and defense communities around the country better understand the Department's approach in this matter.**

Like so many of my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee, I have significant concerns about pursuing a new BRAC round. At this time, I am not convinced that DOD has appropriately reviewed the 2005 round for its own lessons learned about the data collection, evaluation and scoring to ensure the process lives up to its intent to be fair and transparent. Absent this work, I, as well as many of my colleagues and those communities that are on alert for the possibility of a new round, remain very concerned about what a new BRAC round could look like, if Congress approves one.

While I remain opposed to approval of a new BRAC, I do believe that there are many ways that the Congress and Defense Department can work together to achieve increased savings in operating and maintaining its military installations and forge new partnerships between defense installations and the communities that support them. Connecticut is an example of such a new approach, where our state is directly supporting new infrastructure improvements at Submarine Base New London that will improve training facilities, reduce energy costs and ensure that the base is ready to achieve its most important mission: the support of our submarine force. I look forward to continue to work with you on this important goal.

Thank you, as always, for your leadership on behalf of our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

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

July 26, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Thank you for your continued service to the nation. We are writing to you about section 2866 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-81) which required the Department of Defense to submit to Congress, by June 30, 2012, a report on the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP). To date, this report has not been submitted to Congress.

As you know, the current Department of Defense HAP provides mortgage and foreclosure assistance to service members who receive permanent change of station (PCS) orders between February 1, 2006 and September 30, 2010, and have purchased, or signed a contract to purchase, their homes prior to July 1, 2006. However, the real estate markets in many military communities began declining after this date. Service members purchasing homes in these communities after the statutory date who subsequently receive orders to PCS are left with few options. They can sell their homes at a considerable loss, maintain multiple residences at a substantial cost, or they become delinquent on their mortgage and are forced to foreclose on their home.

This situation has a significant impact on the readiness of our military as service members are distracted by personal and financial issues, rather than focusing on their mission. Furthermore, negative credit reports resulting from mortgage delinquency and foreclosure can have a detrimental impact on a service member's ability to obtain or maintain a security clearance. Therefore it is important for Congress to understand the magnitude of this problem and to work in conjunction with the Department of Defense to address this issue.

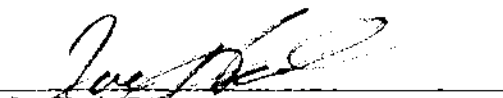
Section 2866 directed the Department of Defense to provide a cost estimate for expanding eligibility of the HAP to PCS applicants who purchased homes between July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2008, and received reassignment orders after the September 30, 2010 deadline for program eligibility. Further, section 2866 required an estimate on the number of service members who received permanent change of station orders after the program eligibility deadline and had suffered a decline of at least a 10 percent in home value.

With this understanding, we respectfully request a status update on this requirement, and urge the Department of Defense to transmit this report to Congress without delay. We owe it to our service members to find a solution to this problem, but cannot make informed decisions without

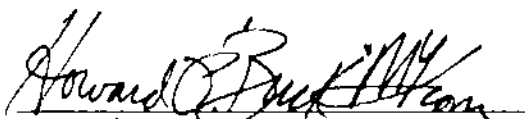


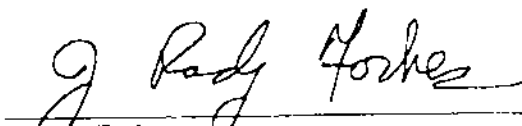
this information. We look forward to your response and to working with you to identify options for addressing this issue.

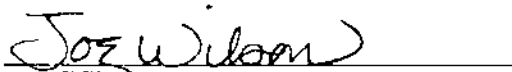
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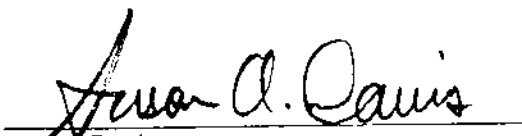
  
Joe Heck, D.O.  
Member of Congress


  
Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress


  
Howard "Buck" McKeon  
Member of Congress

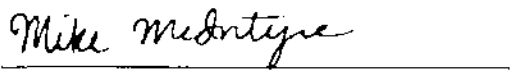
  
Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress


  
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Turner  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress

  
Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress

  
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



*Walter B. Jones*

Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

*Robert Brady*

Robert Brady  
Member of Congress

*Tim Ryan*

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

*William Owens*

William Owens  
Member of Congress

*Joe Courtney*

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

*Larry Kissel*

Larry Kissel  
Member of Congress

*Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.*

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

*Tim Griffin*

Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress

*Niki Tsongas*

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

*Chellie Pingree*


Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

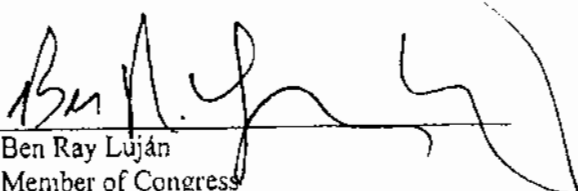
*Eleanor H. Norton*

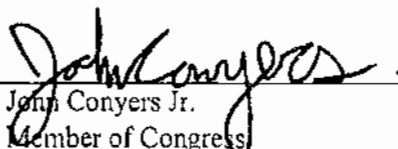
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

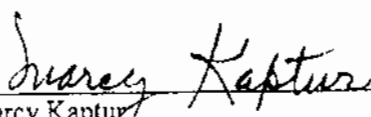
*Bill Huizenga*


Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

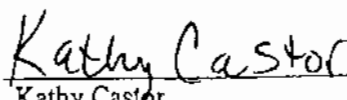
  
Michael K. Simpson  
Member of Congress


  
Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress


  
John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

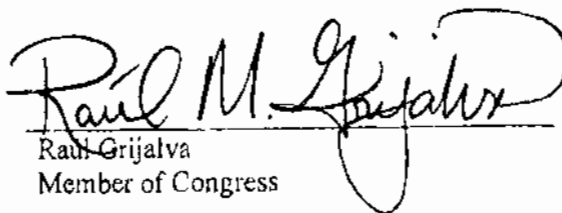
  
Bob Filner  
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

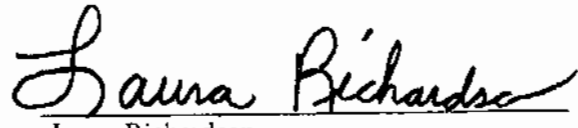
  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress


  
Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress

  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

  
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

  
Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress



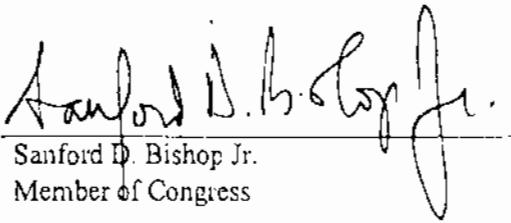
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John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



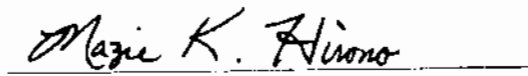
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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Mazie K. Hirono  
Member of Congress

JOE WILSON  
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
...  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP  
...  
COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHIEFMAN, RESERVE AND SUPPORT FORCES  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY

COLLIER  
AIRS  
BARWELL  
LEWIS  
ORANGEBOURNE  
RICHMOND  
THOMAS

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

1 March 2013

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

Dear Secretary Hagel,

As you step into your new role, you face new challenges. We would like to call your attention to a recent decision that has created substantial controversy.

We have recently learned that the Department of Defense has created the Distinguished Warfare Medal (DWM) to recognize extraordinary service that directly impacts combat operations. While we applaud the intent of the medal, we do not agree with placing the DWM above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in the order of precedence.

The Purple Heart is awarded to service members who are wounded or killed in an action against an enemy of the United States. The Bronze Star may be awarded to a service member for valor or for meritorious service. It is a requirement that the service member be serving in an area designated by the Department as an imminent danger area in order to receive a Bronze Star. No such requirement exists for the DWM. The DWM is intended to recognize extraordinary service that directly impacts combat operations without regard to geographic location. We are supportive of recognizing and rewarding such extraordinary service but in the absence of the service member exposing him or herself to imminent mortal danger, we cannot support the DWM taking precedence above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

The current order of precedence for the DWM is a disservice to Purple Heart recipients who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country or were wounded while serving in combat. The imminent danger area requirement of the Bronze Star historically means that a service member has been deployed overseas for a military operation involving conflict with an opposing armed force. Our service members who are deployed in support of such military operations are separated from their families for extended periods of time and face the possibility of death or grievous bodily harm. Without any such requirement for the DWM, we also feel it is a disservice to our service members and veterans who have, or who currently are, serving overseas in hostile and austere conditions. We respectfully request that you lower the precedence of the DWM to an appropriate level below the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

We thank you for your consideration on this matter and look forward to an open and positive relationship moving forward.

Member, District  
1740 SURGEY BLDG., 2ND FLOOR, S.W. Bldg. 1  
WASH. DC 20515-4002  
PHONE: (202) 225-2452  
FAX: (202) 225-2455  
WWW.JOEWILSON.HOUSE.GOV

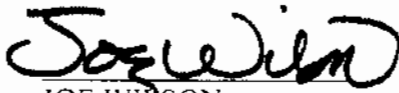
2229 BAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4002  
(202) 225-2452  
Fax: (202) 225-2455  
www.joewilson.house.gov

ASST. CLERK  
RFP Bldg. 1000, 10th Floor, West  
Room 300  
ANAP, DC 20501  
PH: 202-647-6416  
FAX: 202-647-6413

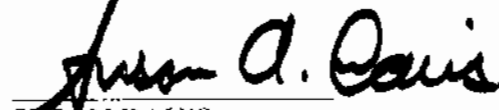


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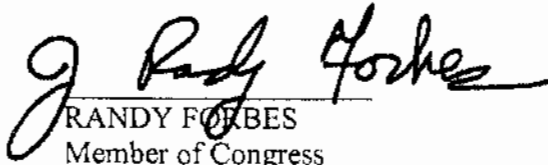
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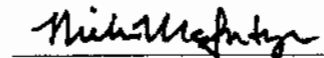
JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress



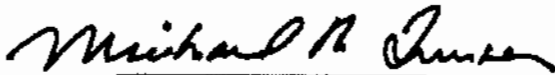
SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



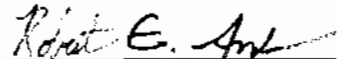
RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE  
Member of Congress



MIKE TURNER  
Member of Congress



ROB ANDREWS  
Member of Congress



ROB WITTMAN  
Member of Congress



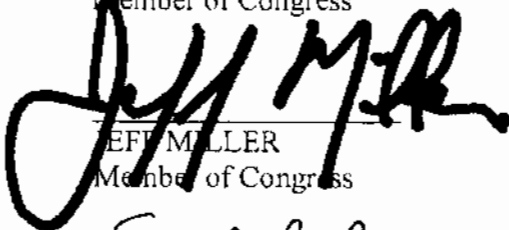
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



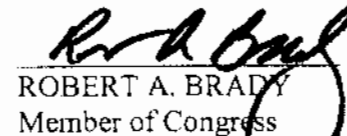
MARTHA ROBY  
Member of Congress



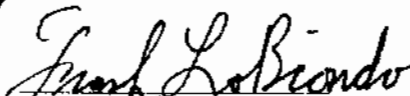
MADELEINE BORDALLO  
Member of Congress



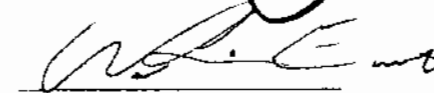
JEFF MILLER  
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY  
Member of Congress



FRANK LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress



BILL ENYART  
Member of Congress

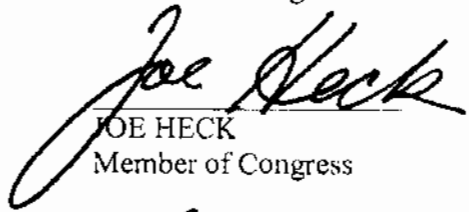


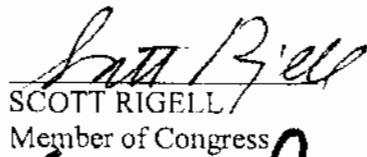
TRENT FRANKS  
Member of Congress

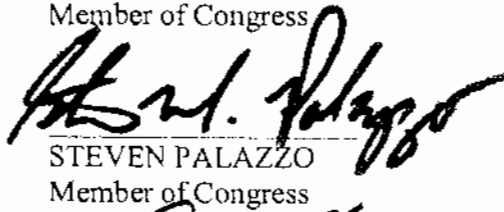


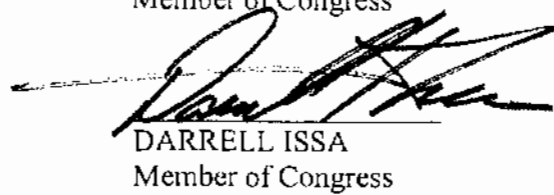
TAMMY DUCKWORTH  
Member of Congress

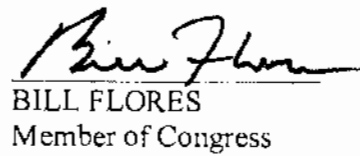
  
MIKE CONAWAY  
Member of Congress

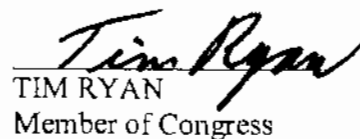
  
JOE HECK  
Member of Congress

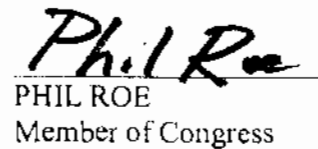
  
SCOTT RIGELL  
Member of Congress

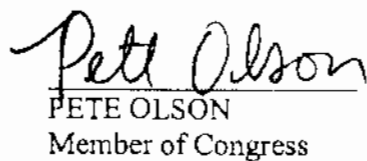
  
STEVEN PALAZZO  
Member of Congress

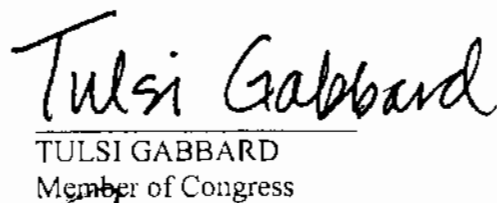
  
DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress

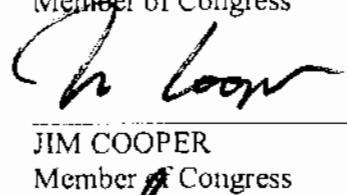
  
BILL FLORES  
Member of Congress

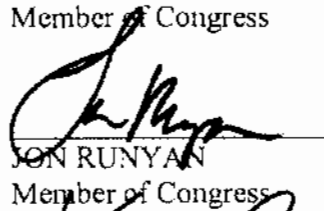
  
TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress

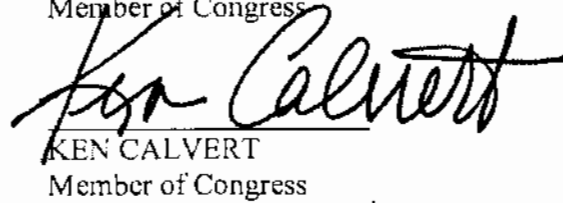
  
PHIL ROE  
Member of Congress

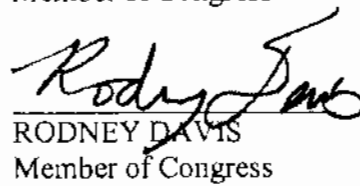
  
PETE OLSON  
Member of Congress

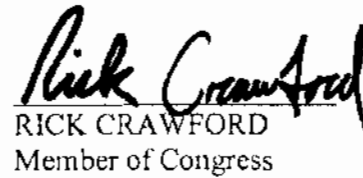
  
TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress

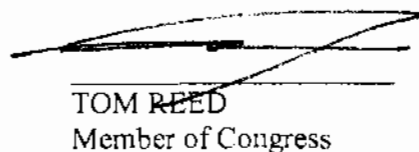
  
JIM COOPER  
Member of Congress

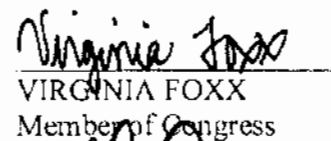
  
JON RUNYAN  
Member of Congress

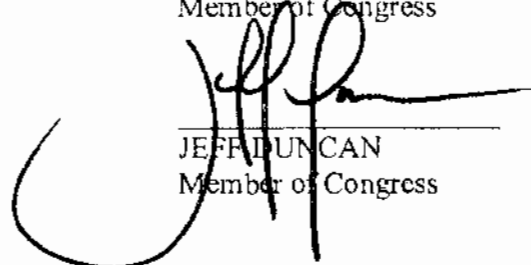
  
KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress


  
RODNEY DAVIS  
Member of Congress


  
RICK CRAWFORD  
Member of Congress

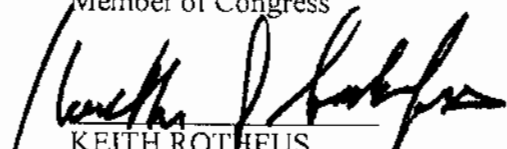
  
TOM REED  
Member of Congress


  
VIRGINIA FOXX  
Member of Congress

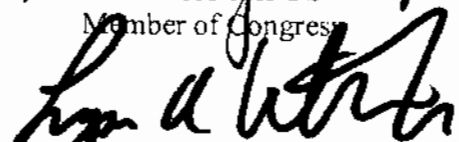
  
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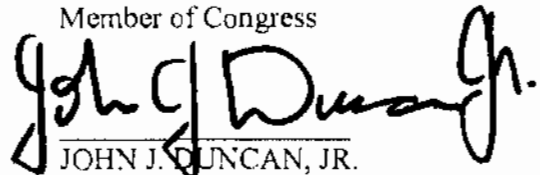
  
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JIM BRIDENSTINE  
Member of Congress

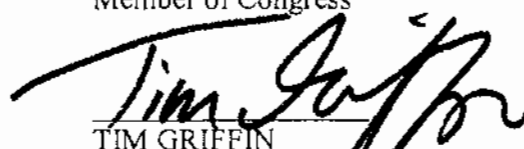
  
KEITH ROTHFUS  
Member of Congress


  
ALAN NUNNELEE  
Member of Congress


  
LYNN WESTMORELAND  
Member of Congress

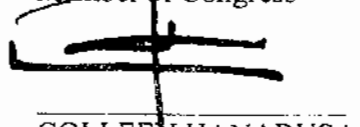
  
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Member of Congress

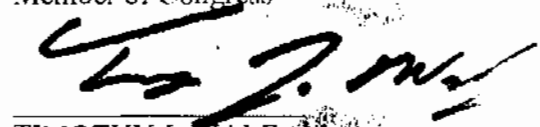
  
CHRIS SMITH  
Member of Congress

  
TIM GRIFFIN  
Member of Congress

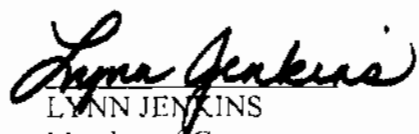
  
MICK MULVANEY  
Member of Congress

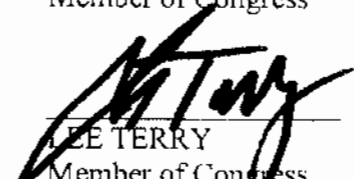
  
JOHN FLEMING  
Member of Congress

  
COLLEEN HANABUSA  
Member of Congress

  
TIMOTHY J. WALZ  
Member of Congress

  
RON BARBER  
Member of Congress

  
LYNN JENKINS  
Member of Congress

  
LEE TERRY  
Member of Congress

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

March 7, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of Defense and thank you for your continued service to our nation. As the first enlisted veteran to serve as Secretary of Defense, you have accomplished something special. We were encouraged by your recent comments about working "closely with Congress to ensure that we maintain the strongest military in the world and continue to protect our great nation."

Efforts by the Department of Defense (DoD) to reform its financial management and achieve auditability have come to a pivotal intersection. Given the current fiscal constraints, eliminating waste and promoting prudent spending is imperative to using the Department's finite resources wisely.

The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 requires all federal agencies to produce auditable financial statements. However, the Department of Defense is one of only two federal agencies that has not complied with this and subsequent laws, and continually fails to produce annual auditable financial statements. In 1995, the Government Accountability Office listed the Department on its "High Risk" list for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and it has remained on that list ever since.

In 2011, the House Armed Services Committee formed the Panel on Defense Financial Management and Auditability Reform. The panel held eight hearings and met with dozens of witnesses during its six month review, examining the progress and impediments to reaching the goal of auditable financial statements by 2017. In the report, the panel's findings noted that while positive steps have been taken, the Department had missed milestones and had yet to effectively implement its strategy and methodology in order to reach the congressional mandates.

While the Department is still reliant on cumbersome, antiquated financial management systems, it is moving in a positive direction. One key component in its recent success, as identified by the most recent semiannual Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan Status Report and the GAO High-Risk Series report, was leadership within the Department.

Secretary Panetta placed greater emphasis on the audit effort, helping to change the culture within the Department. For instance, then-Secretary Panetta moved up the deadline for the Statement of Budgetary Resources from 2017 to 2014, stressing the importance of the effort and declaring financial reform a "Department-wide priority." His guidance has helped the Department make progress toward achieving auditability, and we appreciate his recognition of the importance of such an audit.





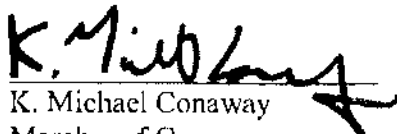
The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
March 7, 2013  
Page 2 of 2

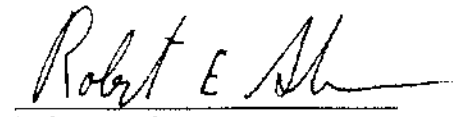
As Secretary of Defense, your leadership will be pivotal in maintaining the existing momentum and moving auditability forward. Your efforts will help ensure the Department meets the Statement of Budgetary Resources deadline by 2014 and the overall DoD auditable financial statements deadline by 2017. In a time of financial uncertainty, our men and women in uniform and the taxpayers deserve to know how DoD spends its funds.

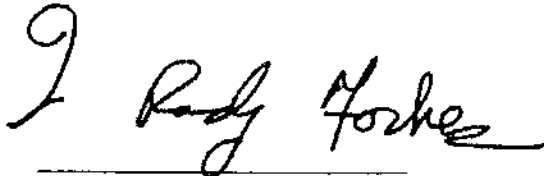
We urge you to make financial management a priority within the Department now and in the future. We request your views on how the DoD will achieve auditability under your leadership by March 22, 2013.

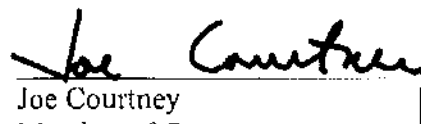
Again, congratulations, and we look forward to your response by March 22, 2013.


Sincerely,


  
K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress


  
Robert Andrews  
Member of Congress

  
Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress

  
Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Rigell  
Member of Congress

cc:

Hon. Howard "Buck" McKeon, Chairman House Armed Services Committee  
Hon. Adam Smith, Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee

JOE WILSON  
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
-----  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP  
-----  
COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY

COUNTIES  
AIKEN  
BARNWELL  
LYNNSTON  
ORANGEBURG  
RICHLAND  
(PARTS OF)

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

1 March 2013

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

Dear Secretary Hagel,

As you step into your new role, you face new challenges. We would like to call your attention to a recent decision that has created substantial controversy.

We have recently learned that the Department of Defense has created the Distinguished Warfare Medal (DWM) to recognize extraordinary service that directly impacts combat operations. While we applaud the intent of the medal, we do not agree with placing the DWM above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in the order of precedence.

The Purple Heart is awarded to service members who are wounded or killed in an action against an enemy of the United States. The Bronze Star may be awarded to a service member for valor or for meritorious service. It is a requirement that the service member be serving in an area designated by the Department as an imminent danger area in order to receive a Bronze Star. No such requirement exists for the DWM. The DWM is intended to recognize extraordinary service that directly impacts combat operations without regard to geographic location. We are supportive of recognizing and rewarding such extraordinary service but in the absence of the service member exposing him or herself to imminent mortal danger, we cannot support the DWM taking precedence above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

The current order of precedence for the DWM is a disservice to Purple Heart recipients who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country or were wounded while serving in combat. The imminent danger area requirement of the Bronze Star historically means that a service member has been deployed overseas for a military operation involving conflict with an opposing armed force. Our service members who are deployed in support of such military operations are separated from their families for extended periods of time and face the possibility of death or grievous bodily harm. Without any such requirement for the DWM, we also feel it is a disservice to our service members and veterans who have, or who currently are, serving overseas in hostile and austere conditions. We respectfully request that you lower the precedence of the DWM to an appropriate level below the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

We thank you for your consideration on this matter and look forward to an open and positive relationship moving forward.

MEMPHIS OFFICE  
1700 SUNSHINE BLVD, SUITE 3781, STATE 1  
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38118  
953-909-0041  
FAX: 903-910-0078

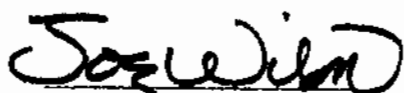
2229 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4002  
(202) 225-2452  
FAX: (202) 225-2455  
[www.joewilson.house.gov](http://www.joewilson.house.gov)

AIKEN OFFICE  
108 RICHMOND AVENUE WEST  
SUITE 300  
AIKEN, SC 29801  
(803) 642-6416  
FAX: (803) 642-6413




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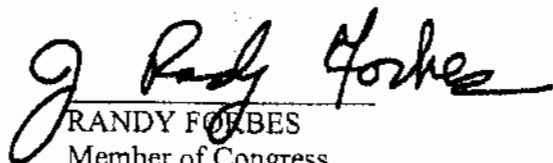
Sincerely,



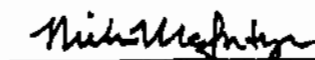
JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



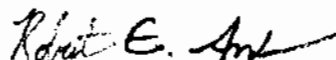
RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



MIKE TURNER  
Member of Congress



ROB ANDREWS  
Member of Congress



ROB WITTMAN  
Member of Congress



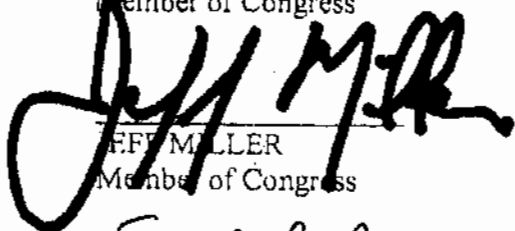
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



MARTHA ROBY  
Member of Congress



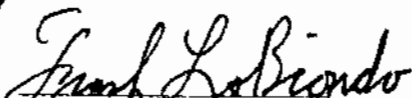
MADELEINE BORDALLO  
Member of Congress



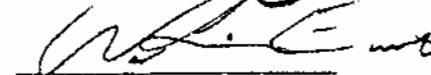
JEFF MILLER  
Member of Congress



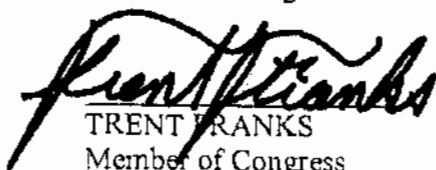
ROBERT A. BRADY  
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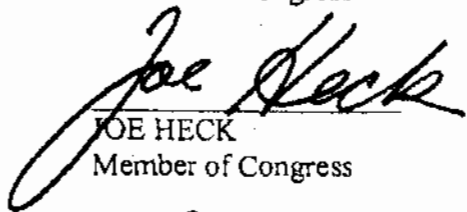


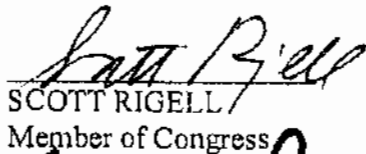
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Member of Congress

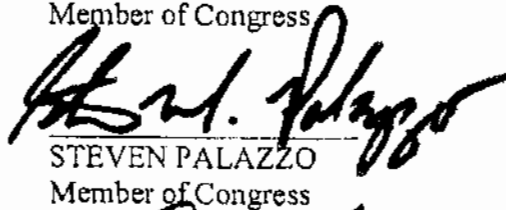


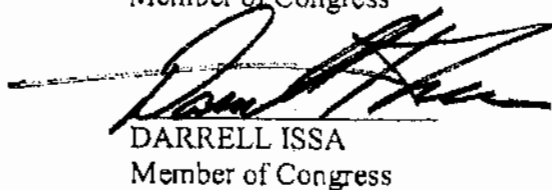
TAMMY DUCKWORTH  
Member of Congress

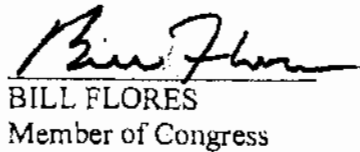
  
MIKE CONAWAY  
Member of Congress

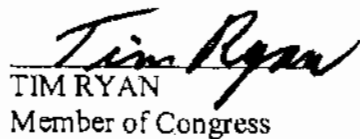
  
JOE HECK  
Member of Congress

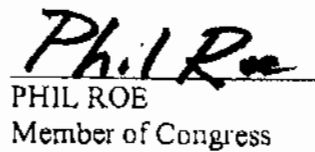
  
SCOTT RIGELL  
Member of Congress

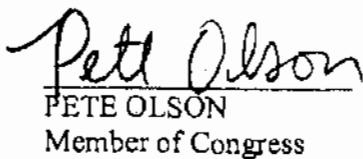
  
STEVEN PALAZZO  
Member of Congress

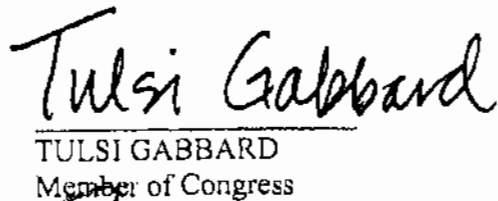
  
DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress

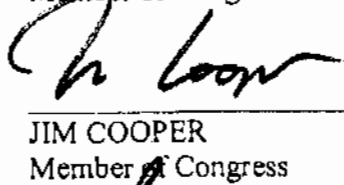
  
BILL FLORES  
Member of Congress

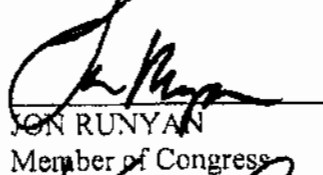
  
TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress

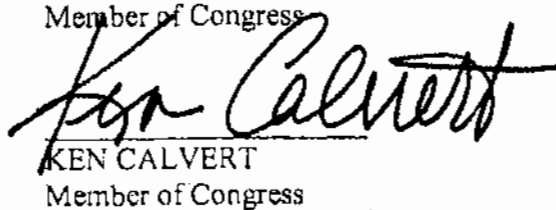
  
PHIL ROE  
Member of Congress

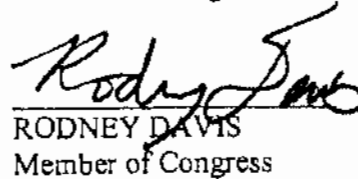
  
PETE OLSON  
Member of Congress

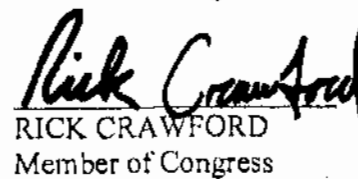
  
TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress

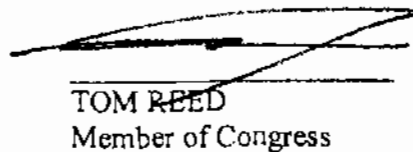
  
JIM COOPER  
Member of Congress

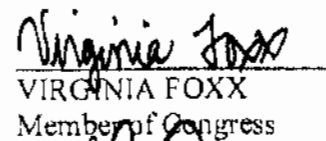
  
JON RUNYAN  
Member of Congress

  
KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress

  
RODNEY DAVIS  
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RICK CRAWFORD  
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TOM REED  
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Member of Congress

  
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*Paul Cook*  
PAUL COOK  
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*Jim Bridenstine*  
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*Keith Rothfus*  
KEITH ROTHFUS  
Member of Congress

*Alan Nunnelee*  
ALAN NUNNELEE  
Member of Congress

*Lynn Westmoreland*  
LYNN WESTMORELAND  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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CHRIS SMITH  
Member of Congress

*Tim Griffin*  
TIM GRIFFIN  
Member of Congress

*Mick Mulvaney*  
MICK MULVANEY  
Member of Congress

*John Fleming*  
JOHN FLEMING  
Member of Congress

*Colleen Hanabusa*  
COLLEEN HANABUSA  
Member of Congress

*Timothy J. Walz*  
TIMOTHY J. WALZ  
Member of Congress

*Ron Barber*  
RON BARBER  
Member of Congress

*Lynn Jenkins*  
LYNN JENKINS  
Member of Congress

*Lee Terry*  
LEE TERRY  
Member of Congress

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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

**AGRICULTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CREDIT



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
2nd District, Connecticut

March 25, 2013

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2348 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICE:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

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

Dear Secretary Hagel:

I am writing to thank you for the swift decision by your office to delay furlough notices to all Department of Defense employees following House passage of the continuing resolution preventing a March 27<sup>th</sup> government shutdown. Your decision correctly recognized that the enactment of this measure, which provided for a full 2013 defense funding bill, gives the Department both additional flexibility to handle the sequestration spending reductions as well as some "anomalies" in the 2013 spending plan that eased the unworkable gaps created by continuing to fund defense operations at 2012 spending. While those gaps did create the environment in which furloughs were inevitable if left unaddressed, it appears clear that the CR, which is expected to be signed into law shortly, considerably narrowed those gaps in resources needed to sustain 2013 operations.

As you and your staff evaluate the net impact of the CR on the announced furlough policy for the civilian workforce, I urge you to give their status the highest of priority. The Second Congressional district of Connecticut is home to thousands of such hard working employees who every day perform essential tasks such as fire protection, aircraft and engine maintenance, medical care, and support for critical national security operations. They have had their pay frozen for three consecutive years, and, as such, have already contributed significantly to lowering the spending side of our nation's public finances. From the standpoint of both military readiness and fairness, the Department would be completely justified exercising its flexibility under the CR in favor of reducing or eliminating unpaid furloughs for the rest of the year.

Please know that I write this letter knowing full well that the Congress ultimately is responsible for stopping the implementation of sequester. Over the past year and a half, I have called for a comprehensive balanced solution to this indiscriminate form of deficit reduction. As Sen. Phil Gramm, one of the co-authors of the 1985 deficit reduction law that created the process of sequestration, shared in testimony before Congress in 2011, "It was never the objective of Gramm-Rudman [the 1985 law] to trigger the sequester; the objective of Gramm-Rudman was to




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have the threat of the sequester force compromise and action." Like you, I believe the compromise and action that sequestration was meant to trigger is long overdue, and I will continue to support a balanced and bipartisan approach to ending sequestration.

I realize the difficult task ahead of you as you lead the Department at such a critical and challenging time in our nation's history. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, and for your service to our country.

Very truly yours,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

VICE RANKING MEMBER - SEAPOWER AND PROTECTION FORCES READINESS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER - WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE:

LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY



Joe Courtney

Congress of the United States

2nd District, Connecticut

July 10, 2013

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2348 BAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20615 P (202) 225-2076 F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250 NORWICH, CT 06360 P (860) 886-0139 F (860) 886-2574

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J ENFIELD, CT 06082 P (860) 741-6011 F (860) 741-6030

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

Dear Secretary Hagel:

As you know all too well, this week marks the start of unpaid furloughs for more than 650,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense (DOD). As I am sure you have heard, as well as I, these furloughs will unquestionably have a significant impact to the family budgets of those hard-working Americans subject to furlough and to our national and state economies. The 20 percent cut in worker pay checks will make it harder for DOD employees to pay their bills, which will have a negative ripple effect on our nation's recovery.

I am writing to share with you the input I received at a town hall meeting at Naval Submarine Base New London on July 3, 2013, which focused on both the employee hardship and the harmful impact on military readiness. For example, at the New London SUBASE, an estimated 750 dedicated civil servants will be subject to furlough. The workers involved cover a wide range of activities, from fire protection and training of submariners, to the operation of cranes that help supply our submarines. While I am confident that these hard-working professionals will continue to do all they can to fulfill their important mission, there is no doubt that furloughs will have a host of impacts on the base's primary mission: the support of our submariners and our submarines. One of the more notable known impacts is the loss of crane shifts each month – under current estimates, the base expects to conduct 190 fewer crane lifts each month, a 17 percent reduction in the operations that support and supply our submarines. Across the operations at the base – from pier side support to training, to fire inspections and day to day conduct of the base's mission – furloughs will have a clear and measurable impact on the installation.

Beyond the SUBASE, some 600 Connecticut National Guard personnel will be furloughed starting this week. As military technicians, these individuals are both civilians employees and uniformed members of the National Guard that perform critical functions for our Army and Air national Guard missions. For example, for the Air Guard, furloughs will force maintenance shifts to be cut in half, daily flying hours will be cut by 40% from ten hours to six, and nearly 70% of their full time force will be impacted. For the Army Guard, 54% of the fulltime force will be



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furloughed, with significant reductions in a wide range of areas critical to military readiness, most particularly in the area of aircraft and equipment maintenance and sustainment.

You and your leadership team have been very clear in your appearances before Congress on the impact of sequestration to our defense priorities, our civilian workforce and our military readiness. I share your frustration with the lack of Congressional action to resolve this self-included wound to our military's readiness and a range of other priorities for our country, including Head Start for children, Meals on Wheels for seniors, innovative scientific and technical research, and reductions in reimbursements for medical care, among the countless examples of sequestration's indiscriminate impact. I continue to support balanced and bipartisan action to resolve sequestration and enact a long term budget plan that provides the certainty and predictability needed. In the absence of any deal to prevent sequestration from going into place, I appreciate the steps that you and the department have already taken to reduce furloughs from 22 to 11 days.

However, even as Congress continues to debate a long term solution to sequestration and our budget challenges, I firmly believe that the department can and must do more to further reduce, and ideally eliminate, these furloughs. As you know all too well, the impact to the readiness of our military will only grow the longer that these furlough are allowed to stay in place. To this end, I urge you to continue to do all you can under your existing authority and budgetary resources to reduce or eliminate as many furloughs as possible. For example, I believe that the individual military services and agencies can be provided with greater flexibility to pay down or eliminate furloughs under their purview. Additionally, I believe that further consideration must be given to the status of military technicians – who are unique in serving both as civilian employees and uniformed servicemembers as a condition of their employment – under the furlough policy.

I appreciate the monumental task before you in managing the Department of Defense in this chaotic and uncertain budget environment. As you move forward, I urge you to continue to do all you can to reduce or eliminate the furloughs of our defense civilian workforce – the backbone of our nation's ability to maintain a ready and responsive military force.

Thank you, as always, for your consideration and for your service to our country in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

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

January 14, 2014

The Honorable Christine Fox  
Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense  
1010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Secretary Fox,

As you finalize the Department of Defense's Fiscal Year 2015 budget submission, we urge you to maintain the Department's strong commitment to the Department of the Navy's shipbuilding program. As you know, the Navy's Shipbuilding and Conversion and related Research and Development accounts include necessary funding to design, build and recapitalize our naval forces. In our view, these funds are absolutely critical to meet the future needs of our national security strategy and the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region.

Given the inter-connected nature of U.S. military shipbuilding, delays or cancellations in any individual program can have cascading effects in efficiency throughout the shipbuilding industry, both in construction shipyards and throughout the thousands of vendors in the supporting supply base. While we appreciate the difficult fiscal choices the department faces, the fact remains that the shipbuilding choices we make today will have repercussions for decades – and we continue to believe that a robust shipbuilding strategy is needed.

At a minimum, as you finalize the 2015 budget and future years defense plan, we urge you to maintain funding for the shipbuilding plan as set forth in the most recent *Report on the Long Range Plan for the Construction of Naval Vessels for FY2014*, which was delivered to the Congress with the 2014 budget request. Looking beyond the 2015 budget, we remain committed to working with you and our colleagues in Congress in a bipartisan manner to build upon the shipbuilding plan to increase both the size and capability of our naval forces in a fiscally responsible way – particularly as the shipbuilding account faces significant fiscal pressure from major recapitalization initiatives for critical programs.

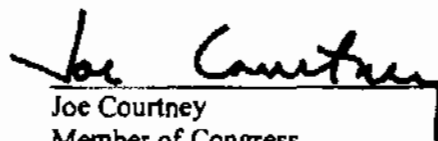
The naval force requires a balanced mix of vessels and capabilities. We believe in a highly capable and modern Navy that employs several key elements, including: the tremendous power of the aircraft carrier and the ships of its strike group, our surface combatants operating around the globe, the unique capabilities of the submarine service, the expeditionary power projection capability of the amphibious assault force, and the support of a highly capable auxiliary force. These forces are necessary for our national security and we must procure them in the most cost effective manner possible. Change and delay are impediments to efficiency and optimized construction.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in maintaining, rebuilding, and modernizing our nation's naval fleet, and we will appreciate your personal response to this letter.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2014

Mr. David S. Ferriero  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20408

313

Dear Mr. Ferriero:

We are appalled to learn that two employees of the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO, destroyed or misfiled more than 1,800 sensitive personnel records of U.S. veterans.

As you know, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans from all service branches during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It stores medical treatment records of military retirees, as well as records for dependent and other individuals treated at Naval medical facilities. These records are vital to assessing benefits claims and our veterans trust that they can depend on our government to keep accurate records so as to process their claims in a timely manner.

This incident is a breach of that trust.

The actions of the two employees who disposed of these records in the woods, abandoned the files in the center, and threw away more records at home are inexcusable. We are shocked that over 1,800 documents were destroyed or purposely misfiled. These actions will severely delay or possibly prohibit veterans who desperately need the benefits and care that they have earned.

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We urge you to work with the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and do everything in your power to identify the missing records to ensure that our veterans receive the benefits that they have earned. We request that you update us as soon as possible on the steps being taken at the National Archives and Records Administration and, specifically, at NPRC, to recover and rebuild these records. We also request information on the specific number of documents destroyed and misfiled, and the numbers of veterans, dependents, and other individuals affected, and if their benefits have been denied or delayed.

What is particularly horrifying is that the individuals who perpetrated this act had among the highest error rates in dealing with veterans' claims, and that these individuals were allowed to resign, rather than be terminated. We request a review of the events leading up



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to it this incident, including the employee auditing process, and an explanation of why these employees were not disciplined.

Additionally, it has also come to our attention that some employees seeking to earn an incentive bonus were intentionally misfiling, or "stashing," records to finish more quickly. We urge you to review these practices and provide us a plan for how you will prevent such actions in the future.


Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure that this does not occur again.


Sincerely,

  
MICHAEL M. HONDA  
Member of Congress

  
MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

  
DOUG LAMALFA  
Member of Congress

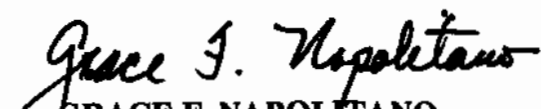
  
RAUL GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

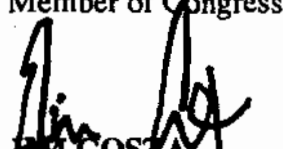
  
JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress

  
JACK KINGSTON  
Member of Congress

  
SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress

  
MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress

  
JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

  
DORIS MATSUI  
Member of Congress



**ERIC SWALWELL**  
Member of Congress



**BARBARA LEE**  
Member of Congress



**RENEE ELLMERS**  
Member of Congress



**ADAM B. SCHIFF**  
Member of Congress



**BILL JOHNSON**  
Member of Congress



**SCOTT E. RIGELL**  
Member of Congress



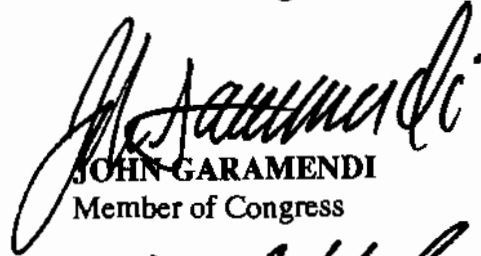
**PAUL GOSAR**  
Member of Congress



**GRACE MENG**  
Member of Congress



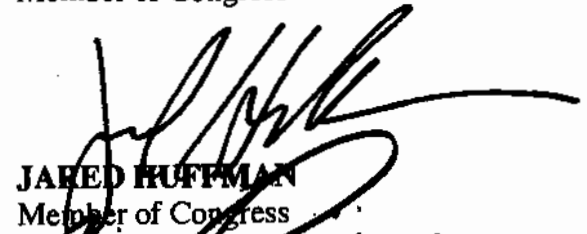
**CHRIS COLLINS**  
Member of Congress



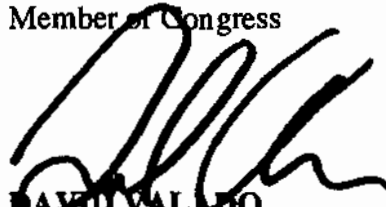
**JOHN GARAMENDI**  
Member of Congress



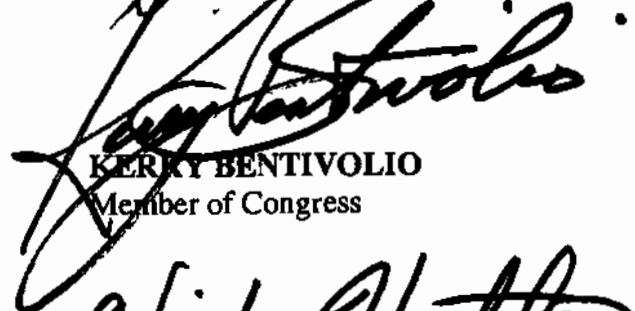
**ALAN LOWENTHAL**  
Member of Congress



**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Member of Congress



**DAVID VALADEO**  
Member of Congress



**KERRY BENTIVOLIO**  
Member of Congress




**HOWARD COBLE**  
Member of Congress



**VICKY HARTZLER**  
Member of Congress


  
ROBERT ADERHOLT  
Member of Congress


  
CYNTHIA LUMMIS  
Member of Congress


  
ANN KIRKPATRICK  
Member of Congress

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

  
MIKE SIMPSON  
Member of Congress

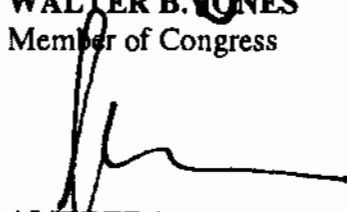
  
AL GREEN  
Member of Congress


  
CAROL SHEA-PORTER  
Member of Congress

  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO  
Member of Congress


  
WALTER B. JONES  
Member of Congress

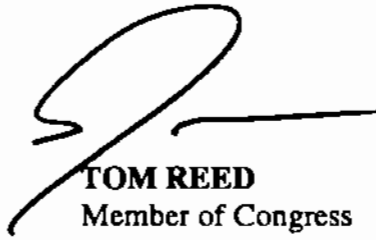
  
JEFF DENHAM  
Member of Congress

  
AMIBERA  
Member of Congress

  
HANK JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

  
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

  
JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress



**TOM REED**  
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki