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OFFICE OF THE
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ASSISTANT TO THE MINORITY LEADER

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AND EDUCATION

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3B DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

January 5, 2001

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Department of Defense
Office of the Secretary
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Cohen:

I am writing in strong support of Strategic Environmental Solutions' (S.E.S.) proposal to design, build, and evaluate a lightweight hand-operable and portable waterless decontamination system for military personnel and small equipment items (CBD01-400 TITLE: Hand-Portable Waterless Decontamination System) under the Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research Program (DoD-SBIR).

This innovative proposal will utilize a chemically inert powdered composition, entitled Toxabsorb™, to decontaminate hazards in field situations. This environmentally safe, user-friendly powder composition is highly effective in the absorption, solidification, and deodorization of medical biohazards including all bodily fluids. Under its proposal, S.E.S. would adapt Toxabsorb™ for DoD in order to utilize the composition in a hand-portable waterless decontamination system, providing a functional means to decontaminate in field-expedient situations.

Strategic Environmental Solutions has extensive experience and training in environmental project management, ranging from hazardous waste operations to public and government relations. The firms proposal offers a competitive, competent and uniquely tailored service specifically designed to meet the changing needs and threats that confront Department of Defense personnel.

I urge your support of Strategic Environmental Solutions' proposal. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress

RLD/jpf
cc: Dr. Kenneth A. Bannister

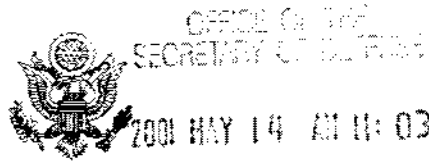
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ASSISTANT TO THE MINORITY LEADER

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO

3rd DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

April 20, 2001

Ms. Amy Blagg
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
Pentagon
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Ms. Blagg:

Recently several of my constituents from Connecticut's Third Congressional District contacted me regarding the United State's relations with Taiwan.

Under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the United States is required to assist Taiwan in maintaining a self-defense capability. This policy takes into consideration the best interests of Taiwan as well as those of the U.S.

This year, Taiwan has requested that the U.S. sell it the current version of the Arleigh Burke (DDG-51) Aegis destroyers. As you know a review by the Department of Defense indicates that the Aegis system is a priority item for Taiwan's maritime defense requirements. My constituents have expressed their support for this arms sale to Taiwan because it is consistent with the TRA.

I urge you to consider my constituents' request during decisions about arms sales to Taiwan this year. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

RLD/am

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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3rd DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

January 13, 2003

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary
Department of Defense, Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington DC, 20301



Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I am writing to share with you my concerns regarding the apparent lack of competition in the Department of Defense's (DoD) commercial satellite procurement practices.

DoD leases commercial satellite bandwidth to increase the capacity of DoD owned and operated satellite services, and that historically, DoD has relied upon Intelsat as the single commercial source for international satellite services. As you know, Intelsat was originally set up in the depths of the Cold War in 1964 as a multi-governmental organization, seven years after the first satellite, the Russian Sputnik, was propelled into orbit.

In 2000, Congress enacted the Open-Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act (ORBIT Act) to transform Intelsat from a quasi-governmental company to a private company and to promote a fully competitive global market for satellite communications services. Despite this Congressional mandate, Intelsat is still DoD's main provider of satellite communications services, supplying approximately sixty-six percent of DoD's commercial satellite capacity.

In this regard, I would appreciate answers to the following questions: What steps are taken by DoD to ensure fair and open competition among satellite services providers? How are proposals evaluated and which factors are given priority when choosing providers? When old contracts expire, does DoD reevaluate the capacity of the satellite market in a way that does not favor Intelsat? What types of satellite services contracts does DoD offer to private companies? How much does DoD spend on satellite services and what is the percentage that is contracted out to private companies? What advantages, if any, does Intelsat offer to DoD that justifies the fact that it receives most of the satellite services' business?

Secretary Rumsfeld, I would certainly appreciate you looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your kind consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROSA L. DELAURO
THIRD DISTRICT
CONNECTICUT

April 28, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
Room 4E880
The Pentagon, 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your prompt reply to the letter sent by members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation regarding the delay in awarding the Presidential helicopter (VXX) contract. Secretary England and Assistant Secretary Young met with us last week. They provided frank and thoughtful commentary on this issue, and I appreciate the speed with which the meeting was arranged.

As I stated in the meeting, I strongly believe that Sikorsky, which has made the President's helicopter since 1958, should continue to make Marine One.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

March 28, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates,
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates,

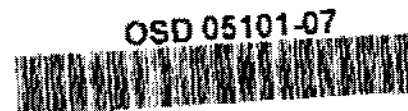
I am writing to urge you to take immediate steps to ensure our returning veterans are fully informed about the benefits they have earned and deserve.

A constituent recently informed me that National Guard and Reservists completing their war duties are being misinformed that they will lose their military education benefits if they stop drilling with their units upon returning home. I understand this is a problem across the country and I am greatly concerned that thousands of brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have either not been paid if they attended school or, worse yet, did not attend school because they were told they do not have access to these educational benefits.

As you know, federal law enacted in 2005 makes National Guard and Reservists returning home from a war zone eligible for GI Bill educational benefits similar to those afforded to active duty troops. Specifically, upon discharge from their drilling duties, these individuals can revert back to the original Reserve GI Bill to receive educational entitlements from that law for the time they were deployed plus an additional four months.

Unfortunately, the Department of Defense seems to be inadequately implementing the law, failing to educate military unit leaders and school veterans' counselors about the legal rights of these returning National Guard and Reservists. I am deeply troubled by your department's failure to effectively inform these returning veterans of the benefits they are due.

Following these revelations, the Department of Veterans Affairs took corrective action by including accurate information on its website informing National Guard and Reservists of their eligibility. Your department, however, has thus far failed to take any action to rectify this situation.



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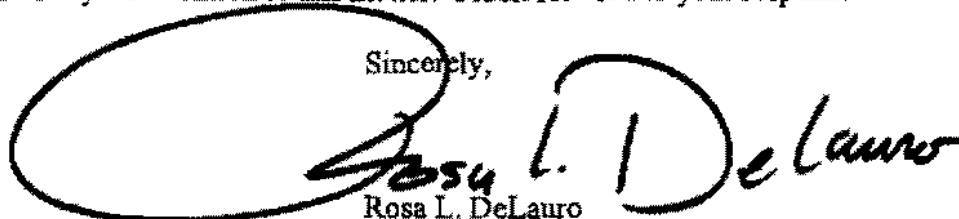
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The status quo is simply not acceptable. I strongly encourage you to take steps above and beyond those already taken by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Most importantly, I believe the Department of Defense ought to ensure that National Guard and Reserve educational counselors across our nation are notified of these veterans' legal entitlements.

In addition, I would also like to know the current number of eligible National Guard and Reservists who have taken advantage of this benefit and how you plan to notify those who were potentially discharged with incorrect information.

I know that we share the common goal of ensuring that our nation's service members and their families receive the educational services they need and deserve. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosa L. DeLauro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop for the letter "R".

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO
3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
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EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am highly disappointed with your office's failure to respond to my letter of March 28, 2007 with regard to your Department's inability to properly inform our National Guard and Reservists about their educational benefit entitlements. Frankly, in light of your previous position as President of Texas A&M and your stated "solemn commitment" to our forces' welfare, I anticipated both an immediate response and immediate action once this issue was brought to your attention.

As I explained in my previous letter, your Department has either misinformed or worse yet purposely mislead war deployed National Guard and Reservists by telling them that they will lose their GI educational benefits if they leave paid drill status after their deployment. Under federal law enacted in 1991, upon discharge from their drilling duties formerly deployed National Guard and Reservists can revert back to their original Reserve GI Bill (Chapter 1606) for the number of months they were deployed plus an additional four months. So, when your Department employees tell them otherwise, they are breaking the law.

Of course, I find this deeply troubling and that is why I asked you to take immediate steps to rectify the situation. Specifically, I asked you to ensure educational counselors are made aware of these veterans' legal entitlements, provide me with the number of eligible Guard and Reservists who have taken advantage of this benefit and advise me of your plan to notify those who were discharged with the incorrect information.

Although you did not respond to my letter, you did update your Reserve Affairs website for your field officers, albeit three-and-a-half weeks later and most likely in response to the more public press conference I held with other concerned officials and a student who inexplicably had to fight for his educational entitlements. This small step is appreciated, but you still have not gone nearly as far as you need to in order to resolve this situation.

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

In light of your failure to give me the courtesy of a response, I am now asking you to notify in writing all National Guard and Reservists deployed to a war zone since January 2001 who have left paid drill status that they are eligible to use their Chapter 1606 GI Bill. In addition, I believe you should notify these individuals that because of the Department of Defense's error in implementing the law, they will be eligible for these benefits beginning on the date they receive the letter rather than the date they were discharged.

I trust that you and I share a belief in both the importance of education and the need to honor our brave service-members by fulfilling the promises we make to them. Anything less is simply unacceptable. As a Member of Congress it is my job to make certain that the Executive Branch is properly executing the law as intended by Congress. I strongly encourage you to take immediate steps to address this critical issue and expect to hear an immediate response.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

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

March 13, 2008

The Honorable Robert M. Gates,
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to express our serious concern over recent reports that Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) has avoided paying hundreds of millions of dollars in federal Medicare and Social Security taxes by hiring U.S. workers through shell companies based in the Cayman Islands. Moreover, we are deeply troubled by your Department's failure to act, despite allegedly knowing that the contractor was avoiding paying payroll taxes since at least 2004, and strongly urge you to take immediate action. It is unacceptable for the Department of Defense to pay for this war by continuing to do business with a company that is siphoning money from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

As you know, KBR has billions of dollars in contracts and is the largest U.S. contractor operating in Iraq. It is our understanding that of the approximately 54,000 people working on KBR projects in Iraq, more than 21,000, including approximately 10,500 Americans, are listed as employees of two Cayman Islands' shell companies, Service Employers International and Overseas Administrative Services, more than twice as many workers than those hired directly by the firm. This practice allows KBR to avoid Social Security and Medicare taxes, as well as avoid paying unemployment taxes, which could deny benefits to workers who lose their jobs.

In our view, this tax evasion scheme clearly puts KBR at an advantage vis-à-vis loyal American companies and contractors the firm is competing against in Iraq that do pay Social Security and Medicare taxes for their American workers. This unfair advantage comes in addition to the already highly scrutinized and criticized no-bid contract KBR received to rebuild Iraq's oil infrastructure and reported gasoline overcharges associated with that agreement, as well as the multibillion dollar contract it received to provide logistical support services to our military in Iraq.

Of course, the costs of these actions rest squarely on the American taxpayer. Experts have estimated that the total loss to the Treasury from offshore tax evasion approaches \$100 billion per year, including \$30 billion from corporations alone. It appears that KBR is a part of the problem leading to a significant loss of revenue to the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. While the Administration may support this as a backdoor way to privatize Social Security and cut the Medicare program, we view it as damaging to seniors who expect these benefits. Additionally, these U.S. employees hired



through KBR's foreign subsidiary are being denied the opportunity to earn their Social Security benefits and may receive lower benefit amounts than they would if they were paid through a U.S. employer.

It has long-been evident that the Department of Defense is failing to provide sufficient oversight of KBR contracts, costing the American taxpayer millions of dollars. When your auditors reportedly uncovered KBR's practices, no complaint was filed because they viewed the resulting tax savings as "passed on" to the Pentagon. Yet, such an assessment clearly does not take into account the effect this practice has *overall* on government revenues and the resulting burden it places on other taxpayers. Any military cost savings using Social Security and Medicare money is clearly inappropriate.

The lack of oversight conducted by your Department raises serious questions to which we seek your prompt response:

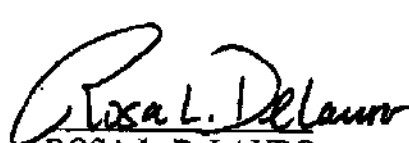
1. On what date did the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) first become aware that KBR was not paying Social Security and Medicare taxes for thousands of its employees, and when was the issue brought to your attention?
2. On what dates did the DCAA conduct audits of KBR and were the findings ever reported to the relevant entities involved in contract management, including but not limited to the Joint Contracting Command - Iraq/Afghanistan and the Defense Contract Management Agency in Iraq and Kuwait? Please provide to us all audit reports of KBR and related documents since 2000, including the reported 2004 audit of KBR's two Cayman Islands' subsidiaries.
3. Did the DCAA ever recommend to the contracting officers that KBR should not receive U.S. government contracts from the Department of Defense? If so, when and why were these recommendations made? If not, then please specify the reasons for the negative recommendation?
4. How many contracts have been awarded or renewed to KBR since you or the DCAA first became aware that KBR was not paying Social Security and Medicare taxes for many of its employees who are U.S. citizens?
5. What justification does the DCAA have for not sharing the results of the audit with the appropriate enforcement agency, such as the Department of Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of Justice?
6. *The Boston Globe* reported on March 7, "The Pentagon has known of the KBR loophole, but has not complained about it, on the grounds that the savings are passed on to the military." Do you believe that the avoidance of Social Security and Medicare taxes are acceptable cost-savings to the military? How much has the military saved?

- 7. Is KBR the only U.S. contractor in Iraq that has established foreign subsidiaries in a tax haven country? Please list any other contractors in Iraq who have used this practice for tax avoidance.

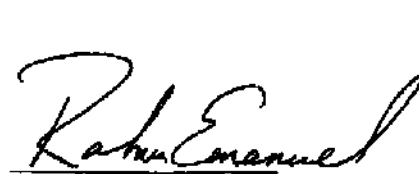
In light of the massive waste of taxpayer dollars associated with Iraq-related contracts, effective work by your Department is an absolute necessity. We believe that KBR's use of subsidiaries in a tax haven country is unacceptable and should have been dealt with immediately. We thank you in advance for your prompt responses to our questions and for taking the necessary action to address this critical issue.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation.

Sincerely,


 ROSA L. DeLAURO
 Member of Congress


 LLOYD DOGGETT
 Member of Congress


 RAHM EMANUEL
 Member of Congress


 RICHARD NEAL
 Member of Congress

- Cc: The Honorable Tina W. Jonas
- Cc: The Honorable William H. Reed
- Cc: The Honorable Henry M. Paulson, Jr.
- Cc: The Honorable Linda E. Stiff

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta,

We write to express our deep concern over the Department of Defense's reported decision to purchase ten additional Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Security Forces from the Russian state-owned arms dealer Rosoboronexport, a firm that is enabling mass atrocities in Syria. We find this practice completely unacceptable and strongly urge you to reconsider your department's dealings with the firm.

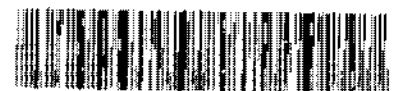
For more than a year now Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has responded to peaceful demonstrations by his own people with a brutal crackdown, which has resulted in gross human rights violations, the use of force against civilians, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment. According to U.N. estimates, at least 10,000 people in Syria have been killed since the violence began in March 2011, with some estimating as many as 15,000 have been killed. In the past several weeks the murder of civilians in Syria has sharply escalated, including the massacre of more than 108 people in Houla and at least 78 in Qubair, most of them women and children.

Last year alone, Syria's top arms supplier, Russia, reportedly sold Damascus \$1 billion in weapons thereby greatly enabling the Assad regime's murder of innocent men, women and children. On June 12, 2012, Secretary of State Clinton expressed concern that Russia is sending attack helicopters to Syria.

Yet, your department at the same time has procured 21 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Security Forces through a no-bid contract with Rosoboronexport and is now reportedly planning on purchasing ten more helicopters from the firm this year. This has created an untenable situation in which the U.S. Government is criticizing Russia for selling helicopters to Syria while at the same time purchasing helicopters from Russia.

As you know, the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act recently passed by the House includes a provision that would prohibit the Defense Department from awarding a future contract to supply helicopters to the Afghan Security Forces, directly or indirectly, to any entity controlled, directed or influenced by a state that has supplied weapons to Syria or a state-sponsor of terrorism. It would also require any such contract to be competitively bid.

Members of Congress have raised concerns over the Department of Defense's purchase of Mi-17 helicopters for a number of years and the consistent response from your department is



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that the Mi-17s are the only helicopters Afghan pilots know how to fly, are the ones they want and are the only helicopters capable of meeting mission requirements. We find this position completely unacceptable, particularly in the current environment.


The Department of Defense has not pursued a requirements-based competition to supply helicopters to the Afghan Security Forces. Instead, it has always been dictated that the Mi-17 was the only solution for the mission. We firmly believe there should be an open competition, particularly when there are other available American-made aircraft that have the capability to operate in Afghanistan. The use of such U.S. helicopters would increase interoperability with both U.S. and NATO forces in the region. Moreover, it is our understanding that the Department of Defense recently purchased U.S. made helicopters as new pilot training vehicles and that Afghan pilots are learning to fly and maintain U.S. made helicopters.


We firmly believe that the Department of Defense should not engage in contracts with companies arming the Assad regime in Syria and enabling his mass atrocities against his own people. Moreover, if we are going to spend U.S. taxpayer dollars to provide helicopters to the Afghan Security Forces, U.S. manufacturers should be able to compete for the opportunity to provide such helicopters. We therefore strongly urge you to ban any future contracts with Rosoboronexport, reconsider any future purchase of Mi-17s for Afghanistan or any country, and hold an open competition for the procurement of helicopters based upon valid requirements whereby U.S. manufacturers can compete.


We appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to working with you on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress

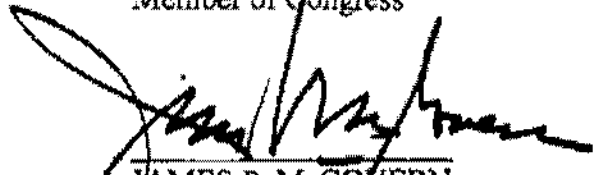

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress


CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress


FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress


WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Hagel:

We write to urge the immediate reinstatement of all suspended Department of Defense tuition assistance programs. Earlier this month, the Army, Marines, and Air Force suspended all tuition assistance programs as a cost-savings measure due to sequestration. While we understand the Department of Defense must make tough choices in the face of sequestration and current budget cuts, we wholly disagree with the decisions to suspend this critical program.

As you know, tuition assistance programs provide service members the opportunity to better themselves personally and professionally. Service members can use tuition assistance programs to earn a diploma, gain college credit, and even earn a college degree. Not only do these programs benefit the individual service member, but they also benefit the armed forces as a whole. Tuition assistance programs enable soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to directly contribute to the professionalization of their individual service component. As a voluntary program, we applaud every participant who has striven to better themselves, their organization, and their country through education.

The tuition assistance program must be allowed to continue unhindered. Our service members have come to rely on support from the Department and Congress for this needed program. In the Army alone, over 201,000 soldiers participated in Fiscal Year 2012. The number of Army participants shows the value of the program and the commitment to personal and professional growth.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to allow the services to suspend tuition assistance and provide our service members with the education assistance they have earned.

Thank you for your efforts and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ron Barber

John F. ...



Rush Holt

Rail M. Hajebra

Mark Jackson

Dave Leland

Carol Shea-Potter

Juan Vargas

Niki Bangas

Betty McLonnan

Edward J. Markey

Beto O'Rourke

Pat King

Steve H. Hart

Stephanie Waters

Jim Matheson

Bob

Bob

Denny Heck

Pete P. Halligo

Jim MacPoon

Erin Gurdeneal

Tulsi Hubbard

Alan Lowenthal

MS

Sgt. D. Bue

Chris

Hyl D. 585

Kathy Costa

David N. Cicilline

Loreta Sanchez

Sam Lam

Ming Hoang

Ann M. Hunter

James K. Baker

Boyd J. Zorn

Neil Cahall

Norm Bittner

Charles D. Engel

XXXXXXXXXX

Adam Schuff

Rosah DeLauro

John Longstaff

Madeline J. Boudello

Eligio L. Luzzo

John W. Bunge

2013.03.20 Tuition Assistance letter to Secretary Hagel signatories

Rep. Spencer Bachus	Rep. Pete P. Gallego	Rep. Mark Pocan
Rep. Ron Barber	Rep. Raul M. Grijalva	Rep. Ted Poe
Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis	Rep. Denny Heck	Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II
Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	Rep. Rush Holt	Rep. Charles B. Rangel
Rep. John R. Carter	Rep. Daniel T. Kildee	Rep. Bobby Rush
Rep. Kathy Castor	Rep. Ann M. Kuster	Rep. Loretta Sanchez
Rep. David Cicilline	Rep. David Loesback	Rep. Adam B. Schiff
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.	Rep. Alan Lowenthal	Rep. Robert C. Scott
Rep. Elijah E. Cummings	Rep. Ed Markey	Rep. Carol Shea-Porter
Rep. Peter A. DeFazio	Rep. Jim Matheson	Rep. Eric Swalwell
Rep. Suzan K. DelBene	Rep. Betty McCollum	Rep. Mark Takano
Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro	Rep. James P. McGovern	Rep. Mike Thompson
Rep. John D. Dingell	Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton	Rep. Niki Tsongas
Rep. Lloyd Doggett	Rep. Beto O'Rourke	Rep. Juan Vargas
Rep. Sam Farr	Rep. Scott Peters	Rep. Maxine Waters
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard		

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2013

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

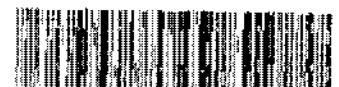
Dear Secretary Hagel,

We write to oppose any continuation of the Department of Defense's (DoD) business relationship with Rosoboronexport, Russia's primary arms exporter and an enabler of the ongoing mass atrocities in Syria. In January, Section 1277 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13 NDAA; P.L. 112-239), which expressly prohibits the use of funds to enter into any contracts or agreements with Rosoboronexport, was enacted into law. Further, during consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved an amendment prohibiting further contracts with Rosoboronexport by a vote of 407-5. We urge you to uphold this law and clear expression of Congressional intent by ensuring that any further DoD procurement of helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces is not conducted through Rosoboronexport.

Russia continues to transfer weapons through Rosoboronexport to the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria. Since the Syrian uprising began, Russia has continued to serve as the Assad regime's chief supplier of weapons, enabling the mass murder of Syrian citizens at the hands of their own government. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, approximately 70,000 Syrians have been killed since the Syrian conflict began two years ago. Despite the ongoing atrocities, Russia's special envoy to the Middle East, Mikhail Bogdanov, announced on February 13 that Russia would continue to supply weapons to Assad's regime. In addition, Rosoboronexport Director Anatoly Isaikin told reporters that "in the absence of sanctions, we are continuing to fulfill our contract obligations." As you know, it is Russia's veto power as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council that has blocked the imposition of international sanctions on the Syrian regime to this point.

Last summer, DoD notified Congress of plans to exercise an option in an existing contract to purchase additional Mi-17s from Rosoboronexport – plans that Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and human rights groups opposed. Despite these clear objections, DOD proceeded, and in response Congress enacted Section 1277 of the FY13 NDAA.

Despite this new law, we learned that the Army intends to enter into a new contract with Rosoboronexport in the coming weeks to procure 20 additional helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces. This plan runs in direct contravention to both the spirit of the FY13 NDAA and the clear legislative intent of Congress – to ban further business dealings with



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Rosoboronexport. In our view, any attempt by DoD to utilize prior-year funds would constitute a direct subversion of existing law.


The United States Government has imposed punishing sanctions on Syria and invested precious diplomatic resources to end the conflict there. The NDAA provision is intended to bolster U.S. policy and ensure that U.S. contracts with Syria's primary arms dealer do not undermine it. In order to make certain that U.S. policy on Syria is clear, consistent, and effective, we strongly urge you to certify that no new contracts are concluded or options acted upon between DoD and Rosoboronexport. Moreover, we urge you to hold an open competition for any further purchases of helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces.

Accordingly, we request that your Department prepare a detailed briefing focusing on the following questions and present it to us before the Army takes any action on the pending contract.

- What steps has DoD taken to ensure compliance with Section 1277 of the FY13 NDAA and to consider alternative suppliers of helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces?
- Section 1277 requires DoD, in order to exercise its waiver authority, to certify to Congress that conducting further business with Rosoboronexport is "in the national security interests of the United States." What is the national security justification of continuing business with Rosoboronexport? Relatedly, last year, DoD notified Congress of plans to purchase 33 Mi-17s from Rosoboronexport for the Afghan National Security Forces. What is the national security justification for the *additional* 20 helicopters this year?
- The Government Accountability Office and the Defense Contract Audit Agency are undertaking a Congressionally mandated examination of the Army's existing contract with Rosoboronexport. How is DoD planning to address and incorporate the review's findings into its practices and protocols?
- What steps is DoD taking to ensure that it does not support – financially or otherwise – enablers of mass atrocities?

Thank you for your serious attention to this request. We appreciate your prompt response.

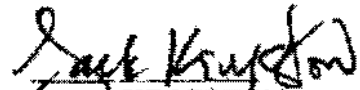
Sincerely,


ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress


KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress




KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress



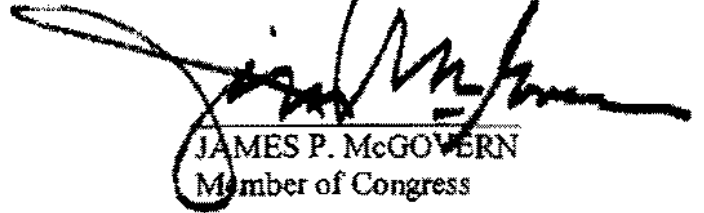
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress



FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our strong support for Army Network Modernization. Army Network Modernization programs will provide our soldiers with modern, capable and flexible communications – specifically the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) and Handheld, Manpack, Small Form Fit (HMS) radio. A soldier's communications gear can be just as important as body armor and rifles in combat, providing the situational awareness necessary to increase combat effectiveness, reduce civilian casualties and prevent friendly-fire tragedies.

During Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, the pace of each conflict outran our force's ability to communicate. Even today, many troops still operate on analog radio technology from the early 1980s. At home, people have access to broadband Internet through mobile devices. In their cars and on the move, they can access GPS and maps, data and voice anytime, anywhere. This is not so for most deployed soldiers. WIN-T and HMS are the answer to this problem.

While we do not know what the next conflict or humanitarian mission will be, we do know that our soldiers will need flexible and effective communications gear. WIN-T and HMS are successful technology and acquisition stories. HMS, for example, has two qualified vendors, building an open-architecture radio using only government-owned waveforms. The dual manufacturing strategy of having two vendors produce identical radios during the initial stages of full-rate production ensures that competition and flexibility are built into the program and maximizes the long-term affordability benefits. This strategy further allows the Army to leverage the significant investment it has already made in open, non-proprietary waveforms, thus ensuring capability for soldiers and value for taxpayers for years to come.

We understand the significant pressure being placed on the budget of the U.S. Army. Nonetheless, WIN-T and HMS cannot sustain additional cuts – including cuts from reprogramming. As Army Chief of Staff General Raymond T. Odierno made clear on August 7, 2012, "... The network remains [the Army's] number one modernization priority ... giving our commanders and soldiers vastly increased ability to communicate and share information on the battlefield ... while on the move and in the midst of ongoing operations."

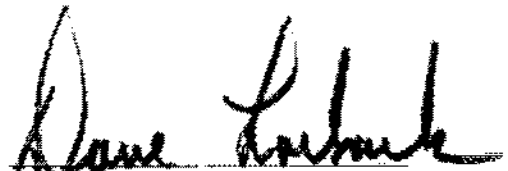
We urge you to ensure that these programs remain on track to meet the Army Network Modernization acquisition strategy and provide these critical capabilities to our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

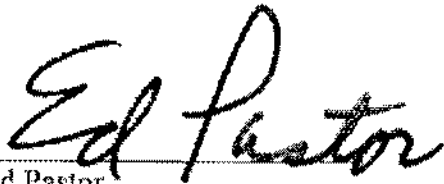




K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



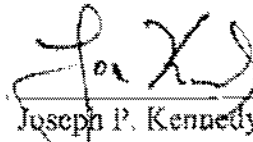
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



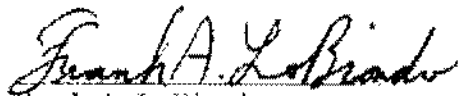
Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



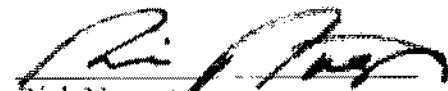
Trent Franks
Member of Congress



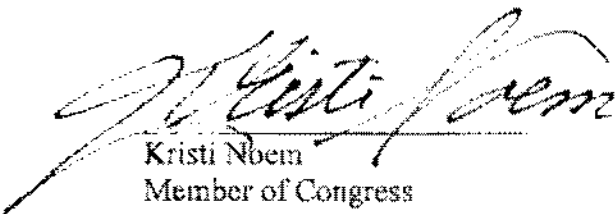
Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



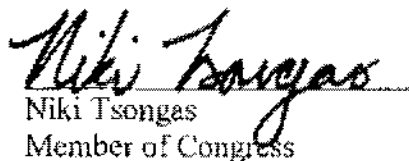
Rich Nugent
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



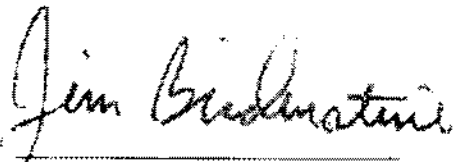
Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



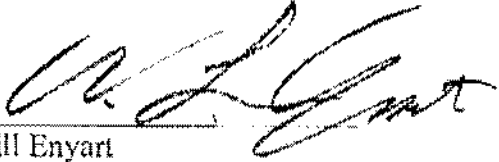
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



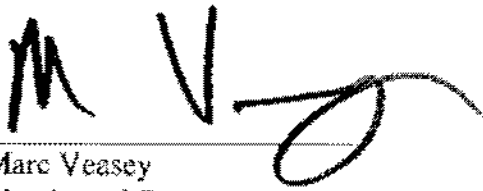
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Bill Enyart
Member of Congress



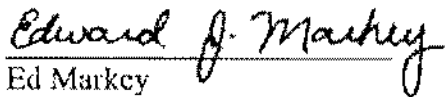
Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



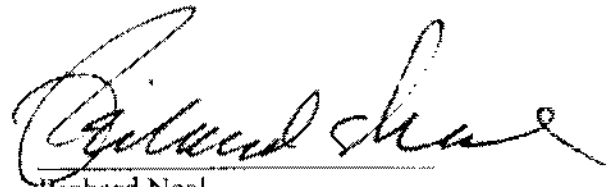
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



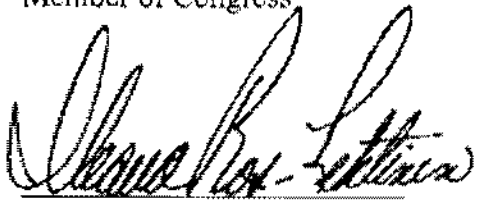
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



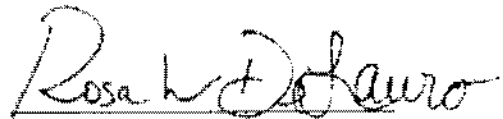
Ed Markey
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lhetinen
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



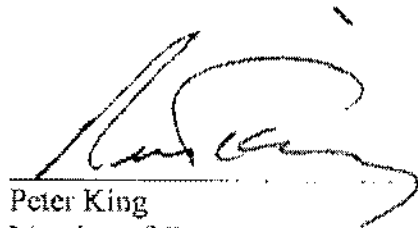
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



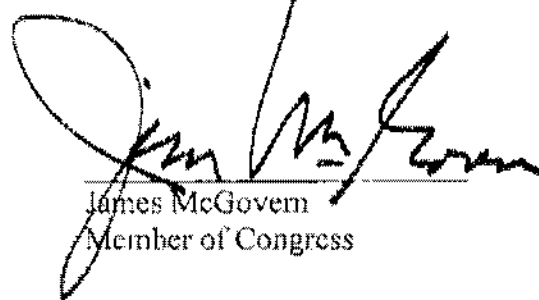
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



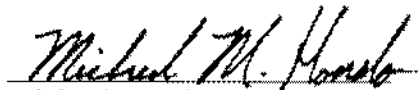
James McGovern
Member of Congress



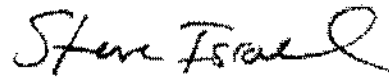
Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



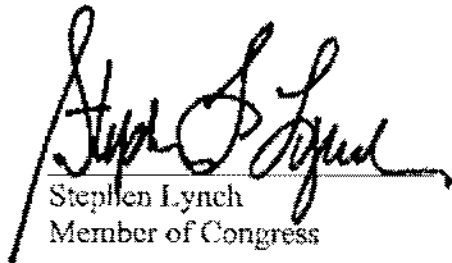
Gary Miller
Member of Congress



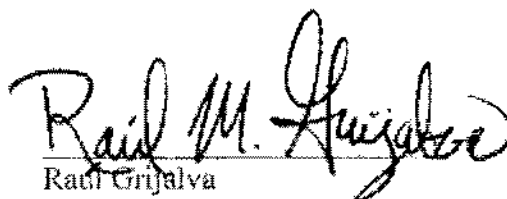
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



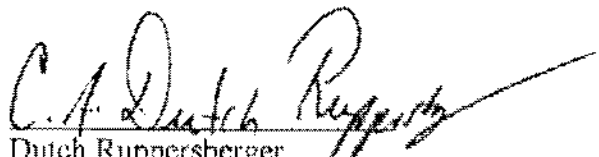
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



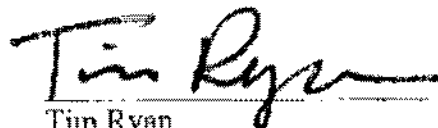
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



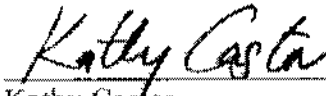
Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



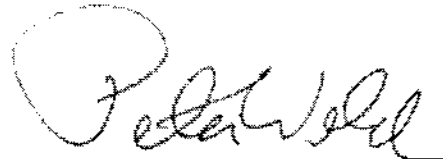
Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



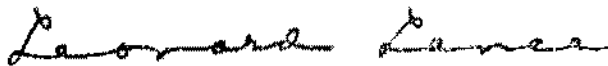
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



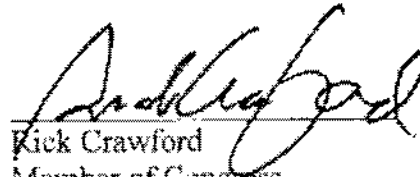
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



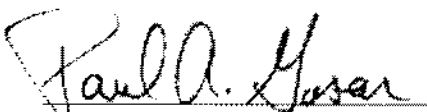
Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



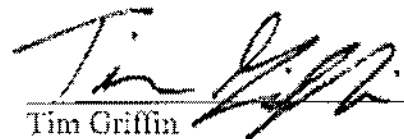
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

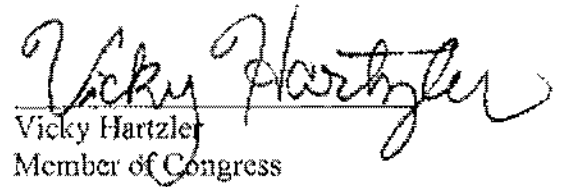


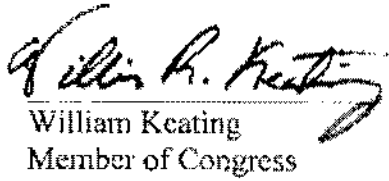
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress

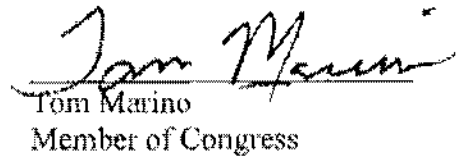


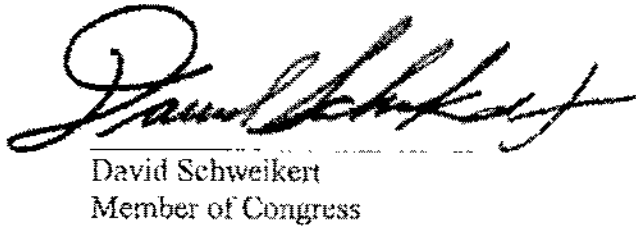
Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

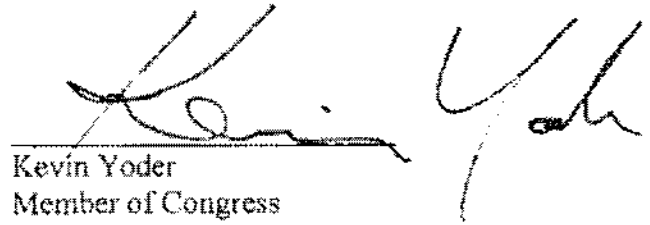

Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

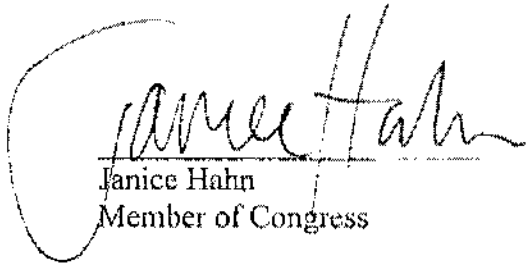

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

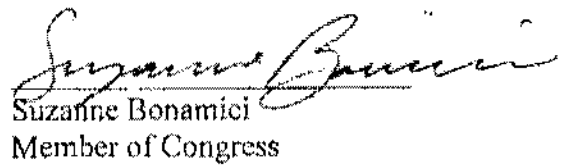

William Keating
Member of Congress

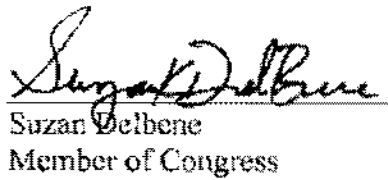

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

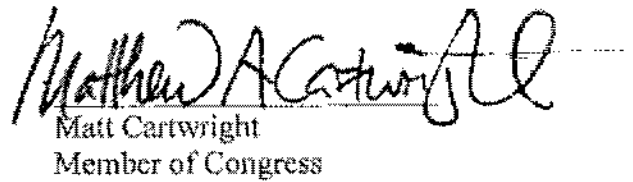

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

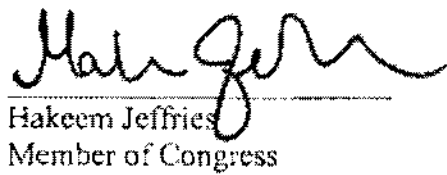

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

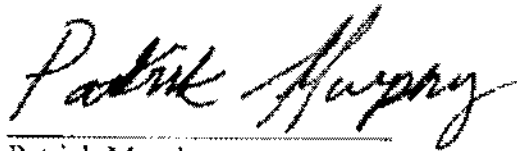

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

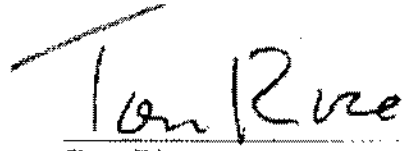

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



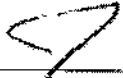
Tom Rice
Member of Congress



David Joyce
Member of Congress



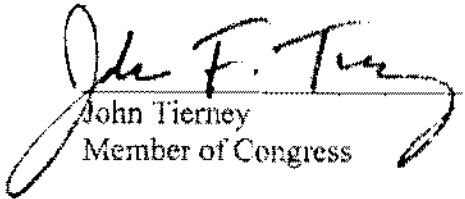
Ann Kuster
Member of Congress



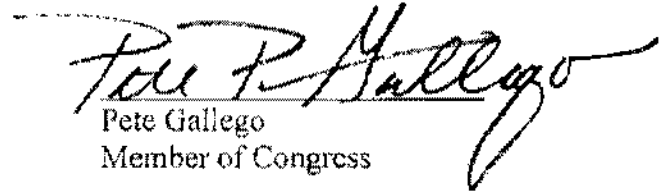
John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



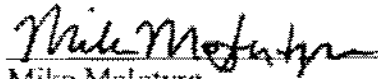
John Tierney
Member of Congress



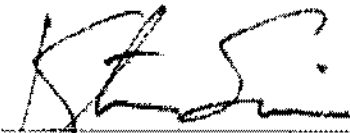
Pete Gallego
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Krystian Sinema
Member of Congress